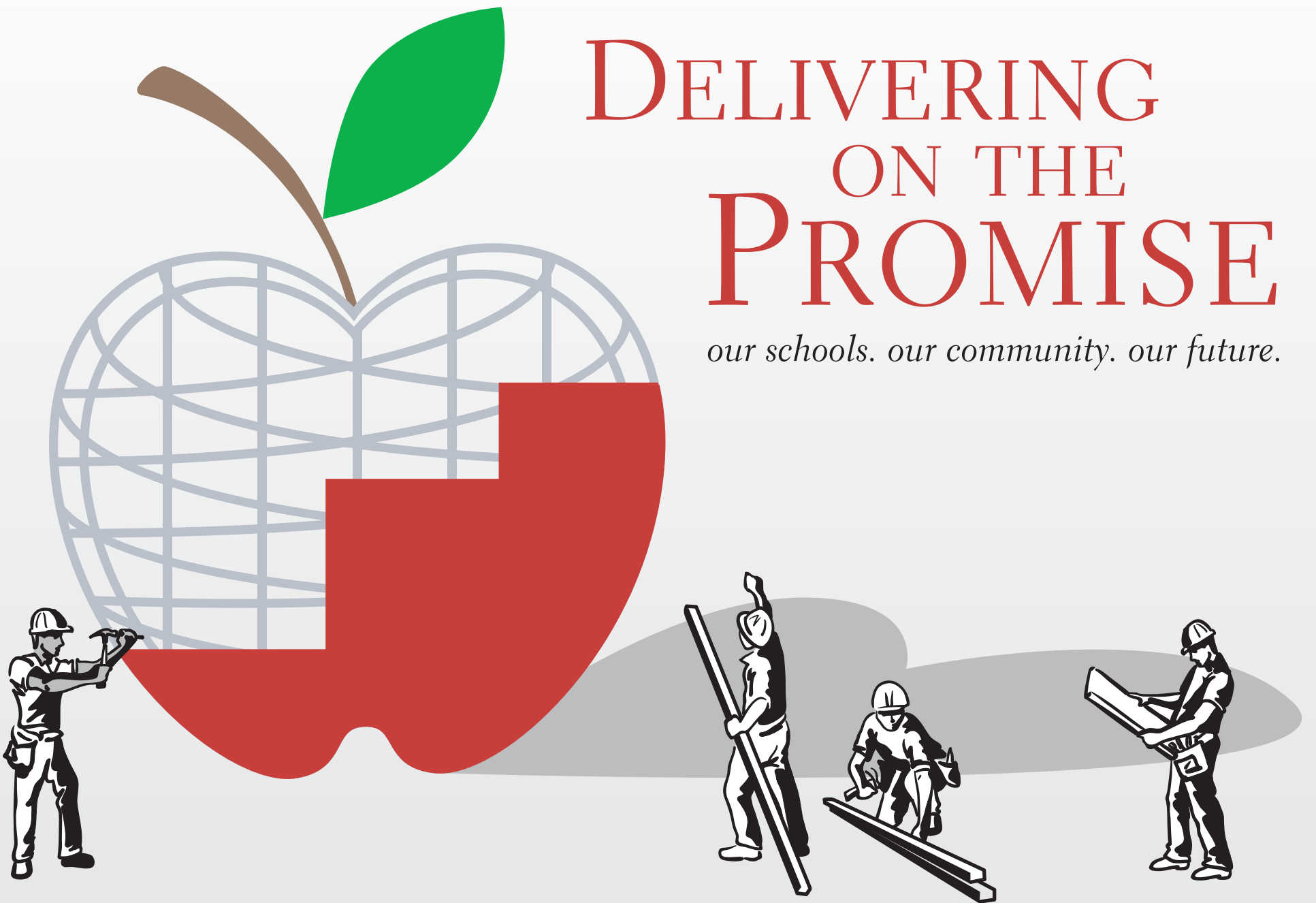


DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE

our schools. our community. our future.



AUSTIN ISD BOND PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

May 2006

Message from the Superintendent

To the reader:

On behalf of all Austin School District personnel, I am pleased to be able to report such important progress toward achieving the community goals of the Apple at Work Bond Program. Within these pages, you'll learn how the Austin School District has organized itself and its work to provide effective management of the 2004 Bond Program's projects and funds, in clear and constant partnership with the community. At the end of the first year of the program, projects are on time, on budget and on track to deliver needed investments for quality education while remaining true to community goals.

This first annual report of the Apple at Work Bond Program is itself an element of one of the program's key commitments to keep the citizens and voters fully informed and able to participate in the implementation of this program that reflects a substantial investment on the part of the Austin School District community. The District stands ready to provide you with more information as needed.

Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent
Austin Independent School District

Nan Clayton Elementary

Letter from the Board President

To all members of the Austin School District community:

On behalf of the Austin School District Board of Trustees, I am happy to provide you with this Annual Report chronicling the first year of The Apple at Work, the implementation of the bond program approved by Austin voters in September 2004.

The Board and District have made a promise to citizens and voters that will be kept. The Board honors the Austin community's commitment to quality and equity in education. The Apple at Work Bond Program was and is designed to invest wisely in every child's future, with important work being done at every single Austin School District campus and facility. The first year has seen major strides as we fulfill that mission, bringing forth dozens of new projects on time and on budget.

At \$519.5 million, the Apple At Work Bond Program is the largest such investment in Austin history, and the Austin School District will not waver from its commitments to the highest levels of fiscal responsibility and public accountability. As the 2004 Bond Program is implemented, a goal is to identify the best ways to meet the District's and the community's expectations, needs and objectives with the most efficient use of our resources.

The Apple at Work is a program that's as ambitious as it is responsible. The first year of the program has seen groundbreakings for two new school campuses, as well as substantial renovations and expansions that will transform existing Austin School District schools into state-of-the-art learning communities. The bond program has given Austin and the District a way to reimagine and reinvent how we approach key challenges in education, and Austin's students and families will be the better for it.

The Apple at Work is setting a new standard for Austin in its goals for sustainability and environmental responsibility, for workplace and community safety and security, and for social and economic equity. It is clear that Austin wants its major public institutions to be role models, creating new ways to blend efficient, responsible and accountable operations with generous and visionary goals for a better community. My fellow Board members and I are proud that the Apple at Work is proving to be just such a model for Austin.

Doyle Valdez
President
Austin School District Board of Trustees



The Apple at Work: An Overview



Austin voters in September 2004 gave their overwhelming approval of a \$519.5 million school Bond Program to alleviate overcrowding, keep up with Austin's growth, and improve the quality, safety and sustainability of Austin School District's campuses and facilities. Every Austin student, family and school will benefit from the investments made under this Bond Program.

While enrollment growth in the Austin School District has been modest in recent years, it has not been evenly distributed throughout the large, urban District, which comprises 230 square miles, 124 campuses and facilities, and over 80,000 students. By the 2008-09 school year, had the 2004 Bond Program not been approved, Austin would have had 40 overcrowded elementary, middle and high school campuses, mostly in the northeast, south and southwest regions of the District. Right now, 97 of School District's 124 facilities are home to more than 600 portable buildings, in which more than 25 percent of Austin students spend all or part of their school day.

More than 40 percent of the funds (\$228.2 million), approved in the 2004 Bond Election are earmarked for new campuses, classrooms and facilities to ensure that Austin students can have an environment that is conducive to learning. At the same time, another 45 percent of the total package (\$233.6 million) is slated to fund renovations to each and every Austin School District campus and facility. These improvements range from investments in technology, to athletics and arts facilities, to environmental health and safety improvements, as well as general repairs and upgrades.

The remainder of the Bond Program includes a \$21 million safety and security effort that will help the Austin School District make sure its students, staff and families are protected. The District is also making a \$13 million investment in modern "green" low-emission school buses that will upgrade the School District bus fleet while helping keep Austin's air cleaner. And the 2004 Bond Program also gives the District an opportunity to refinance old contractual obligations - thus freeing up needed funds to pay for day-to-day operations and maintain educational quality in the face of Austin's and Texas' school funding challenges.

Board of Trustees

Doyle Valdez, President, At-Large Position 8
Ave Wahrmond, Vice President, District 4
Patricia Whiteside, Secretary, District 6
Cheryl Bradley, District 1
Rudy Montoya, Jr., District 2
Johna H. Edwards, District 3
Mark Williams, District 5
Robert Schneider, District 7
John J. Fitzpatrick, At-Large Trustee, Position 9

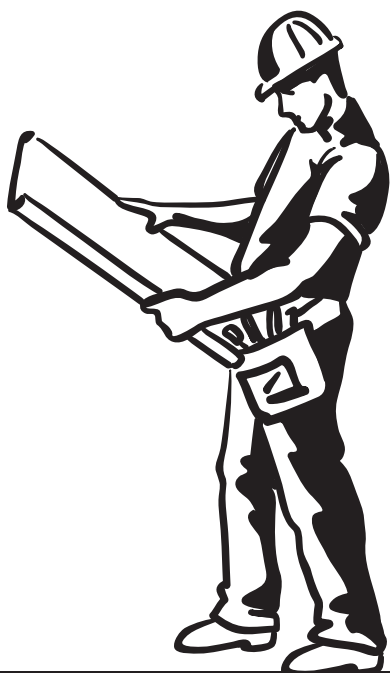
Community Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)

Willis Adams
Mark Boyden
Jimmy Castro
Donetta Goodall *
Staley Gray
Gerald Guerra
Jackie Hawkins
Morris Hoover
Bobby Jenkins *
Steve Kraal
Ana Martinez
Carolyn Merritt
Lori Moya
Mary Ann Neely
Leroy Nellis
Jim Recek
Steve Rogers
Gina Saenz
Vincent Torres *
Gerard Washington
Horace Willis
Peck Young

*Denotes tri-chair

“I think this project is another example of how AISD cares about the children of the district. We are very appreciative of the larger, updated health room, which allows us to better serve the children of St. Elmo.”

Nancy Rash
Registered Nurse
St. Elmo Elementary



The Program In Brief

New schools. All told, the program will create eight new Austin School District campuses: elementary schools in the southwest, south-central, northeast and southeast; middle schools in the northeast and southwest; and two additional "undesigned" elementary schools. Potential locations for these two campuses include sites in the northeast, southeast and southwest, as well as a site in the Mueller redevelopment project in the central city. The bond program also includes funds for land acquisition for some of these campuses; others will be built on land already acquired by or donated to the District.

Additions. Major classroom additions will be built at campuses including Akins, Lanier, LBJ and Travis high schools; Dobie, Kealing and Webb middle schools; and Baranoff, Graham, Houston, Jordan, Kiker, Norman, Palm and Rodriguez elementary schools.

Other facilities. The bond program funds needed improvements at all three Austin School District athletic complexes (Burger Activity Center, House Park and Nelson Field), including replacing the natural turf with a safer synthetic surface. Also, voters approved a measure providing funds for land acquisitions and partial funding for construction of Austin School District's first District wide performing arts center.

Repairs and renovations. Every Austin School District campus and facility will be impacted by the 2004 Bond Program, as the District tackles needs, especially at its older campuses. (More than 75 campuses and facilities in the District are more than 30 years old.) Needs include new roofing and ventilation systems, better site drainage, improved electrical service and lighting, new doors and windows, repaired and replaced classroom furnishings and fixtures, refurbished restrooms and drinking fountains, new water and wastewater lines, renovations to existing playslabs, and renovated and expanded parking areas.

Functional equity. In addition to these renovations and repairs, the bond program also includes \$40 million in investments in "functional equity" - that is, making sure that school spaces are adequate to support the District's educational goals. These projects include, for example, enhancements to the science classrooms at many campuses; renovations to arts classrooms and facilities; library expansions; upgrades to athletic and PE facilities; and improvements to lighting and acoustics in classrooms.

Safety and security. Many of these projects will, of course, help make Austin schools safer and more secure. In addition, and in response to community concerns, the bond program includes a \$21 million investment in security systems to be implemented at every campus, including cameras, card-access readers and alarm systems. The Board of Trustees has directed that this investment be completed by the third year of implementation of the bond program.

Low-emission school buses. Austin School District regularly has to invest in new buses to maintain its transportation fleet. As well, the District has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability. As a major Austin employer and traffic generator, it is doing its part to improve the area's air quality. The bond program will allow the District to upgrade its fleet with new, fuel-efficient and more environment-friendly school buses to meet its transportation needs.

Travis High

CBOC Profile

The Austin School District Board of Trustees has appointed 22 local citizens to the Community Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) to ensure that The Apple at Work Bond Program keeps the promises made to Austin voters and remains true to the community's vision for the District. To learn more about the CBOC, turn to page six of this report.



Financial Statement:

The Apple at Work Bond Program Budget and Spending Plan

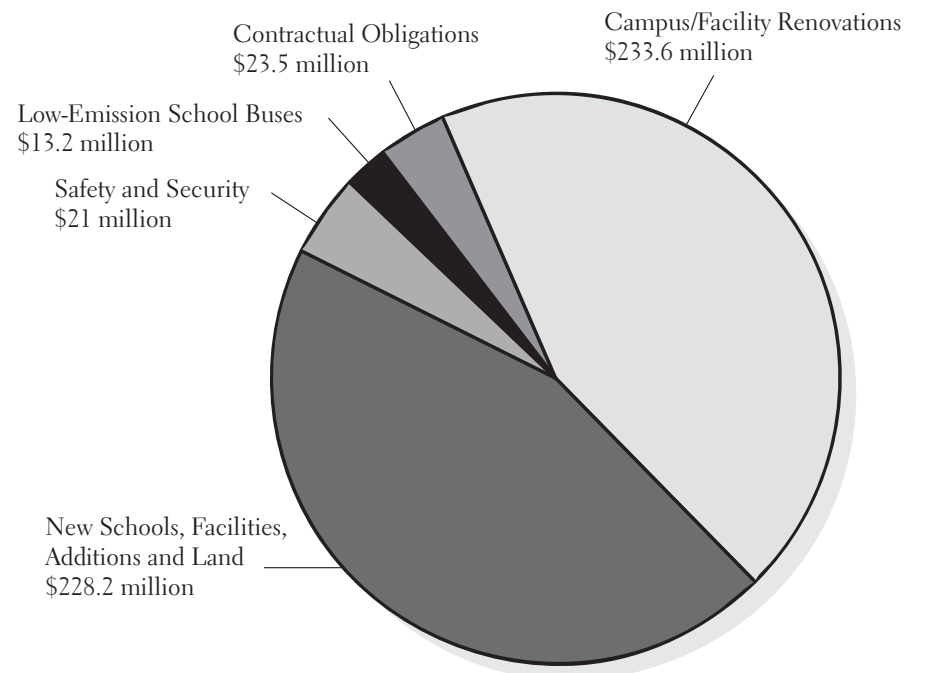
By Category

Campus/Facility Renovations	\$233.6 million
Including technology, athletics, PE and environmental health; investments in both building integrity and functional equity.	
New Schools, Facilities, Additions and Land	\$228.2 million
Six elementary schools and two middle schools; 64 elementary, 16 middle school and 12 high school classrooms; land for one elementary and two middle schools; and partial funding for land and construction of a district-wide performing arts center.	
Safety and Security	\$21.0 million
Security systems to be implemented at every campus.	
Low-Emission School Buses	\$13.2 million
New, cleaner, fuel-efficient vehicles to upgrade the Austin ISD fleet while improving local air quality.	
Contractual Obligations	\$23.5 million
Refinancing existing debt allows for more operations funding for Austin schools.	
TOTAL	\$519.5 million

Fiscal Year 2005: Budget Detail

Blue Book Allocation (pre-election estimate):	\$193,101,714
Original budget:	\$178,627,885
Supplemental funding:	\$4,511,489
Current budget:	\$183,139,374

By Category



Phase 1
accounts for
43% of the
construction
portion of the
2004 Bond
Program

“My children will be able to go to a brand-new school that actually has room for them — and still stay in the neighborhood. I can’t tell you what a big difference that makes for us.”

Karen Coxe
Vice President
Langford Elementary PTA

A Successful Start: Highlights of Year 1

(As of January 15, 2006)

As part of the first year of The Apple at Work Bond Program, projects that constitute either all or part of the work at each of the following campuses and district facilities have been completed.



Elementary Schools

Allan	Casey	Harris	Linder	Patton	Widen
Allison	Cook	Highland Park	Maplewood	Pleasant Hill	Zavala
Barbara Jordan	Cunningham	Houston	Mathews	St. Elmo	
Becker	Davis	Joslin	Norman	Summit	
Blackshear	Dawson	Kiker	Oak Hill	Sunset Valley	
Campbell	Gullett	Kocurek	Palm	Walnut Creek	



Middle Schools

Bailey	Covington	Fulmore	Mendez	Porter
Burnet	Dobie	Kealing	O. Henry	



High Schools

Austin	Crockett	McCallum	LBJ
Bowie	Johnston	Lanier	Reagan



Other facilities

Alternative Learning Center	Carruth Administration Center	Clifton Career Development School	Nelson Field Pleasant Hill Annex	Toney Burger Center
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Projects are currently under construction at the following campuses and facilities:



Elementary Schools

Valdez Perez	Davis	Houston	Pecan Springs	St. Elmo
Nan Clayton	Langford	Oak Springs	Ridgetop	Widen
Blanton	Lee	Odom	Rodriguez	Winn
Brentwood	Kiker	Palm	Sanchez	Zilker



Middle Schools

Bedichek	Fulmore	Martin	Mendez	Paredes	Pearce
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High Schools

Anderson	Johnston	Reagan	Travis
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Other facilities

AISD Service Center	Nelson Field
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Projects are in design or out for bid at the following campuses and facilities:



Elementary Schools

Overton	Baranoff	Brown	Govalle	Pillow
Blazier	Barton Hills	Bryker Woods	Graham	Sims
Allan	Blackshear	Casis	Gullett	Summit
Allison	Brentwood	Cook	Highland Park	Walnut Creek
Andrews	Brooke	Davis	Menchaca	Zavala



Middle Schools

Garcia	Bedichek	Kealing	O. Henry	Webb
Bailey	Dobie	Murchison	Porter	



High Schools

Austin	Bowie	Lanier	LBJ	McCallum	Reagan
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Other facilities

Clifton Career Development School	Professional Development Academy	Toney Burger Center
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Keeping the Promise: Oversight and Accountability

The Apple at Work Bond Program has been crafted from the outset to provide maximum accountability to the community. This will help ensure that the program achieves its ambitious goals to invest wisely in the future of every child in the Austin School District. As the first year of the Apple at Work program is completed, the District's strategy for accountability and oversight has been validated by outside experts as well as by the citizens and families of Austin.

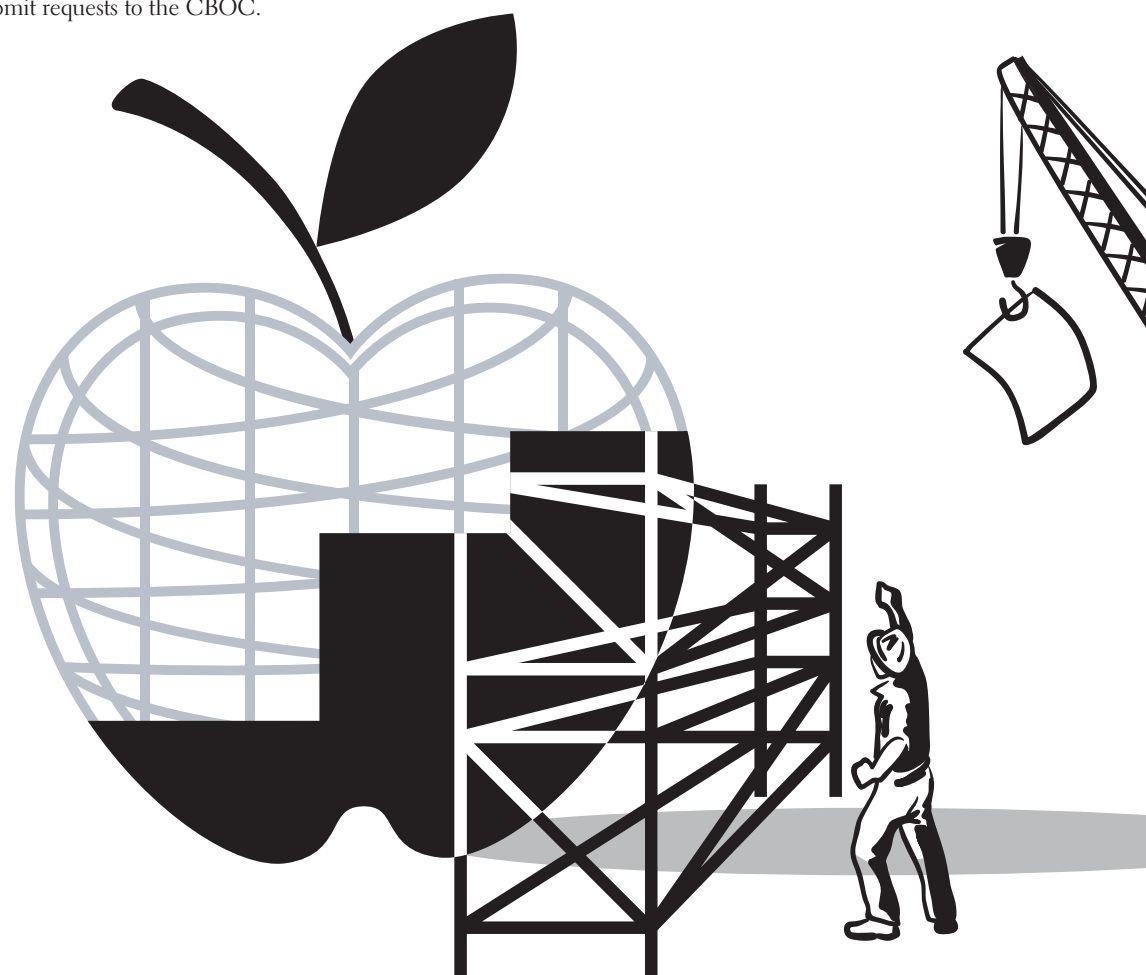
Community Bond Oversight Committee

The Austin School District Board of Trustees has appointed 22 local citizens to the Community Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) to ensure that The Apple at Work Bond Program keeps the promises made to Austin voters and remains true to the community's vision for the District. The committee is led by tri-chairs Donetta Goodall, Bobby Jenkins and Vincent Torres. (See page 2 for a complete list of CBOC members).

The charge of the CBOC includes:

- Provide a report and any recommendations for corrective actions to the Board on the overall implementation of the 2004 Bond and oversight of the remaining projects of the 2002 Health and Safety Bond. The report will be presented orally and/or in writing in February, June, and October of each year. The report should provide feedback and issues related to staff's presentation to the Board on the following topics:
 - Overall economics and budget status;
 - Individual projects: scope, schedule, quality, and economics;
 - Construction management practices;
 - Stakeholder satisfaction;
 - Any proposed substantive changes;
 - Environmental stewardship;
 - HUB utilization;
 - Issues and risks;
 - Communication strategies and methods, and
 - Compliance with values articulated in EL-16, Facilities, 10.a. and 11.
- Maintain a record of work and findings to inform the Board should another bond election be undertaken. Further, the report should provide a public perspective on key decisions and actions that have been taken by staff and the Board since the last report submitted to the Board.
- Monthly, review and evaluate (with the exception of December and July) information from staff on all projects and expenditures of bond funds on the timelines and progress of the 2004 Bond Program;
- Work with staff in assessing key campus stakeholders' levels of satisfaction with the quality of work/rating of customer service.
- Review and evaluate the survey results provided by staff;
- Evaluate any proposed changes to the individual project scope of work to the voter-approved 2004 Bond Program and communicate any noted concerns to the Board;
- Recommend to the Board to conduct public hearings at campuses on substantive proposed changes to the voter-approved bond program prior to Board action.

Check The Apple at Work Web site (www.TheAppleatWork.com) for information on CBOC meetings and how to submit requests to the CBOC.



“The District’s
commitment to clean
energy and Green
Building sets a
wonderful example for
our community —
especially for our
children.”

George Cofer
Executive Director
Hill Country Conservancy

Austin School District: “Well-Positioned” to Deliver

In November 2005, Houston-based Deloitte Consulting presented the results of a review, commissioned by the Board of Trustees, of The Apple at Work Bond Program's organizational structure, management practices, design and construction procedures and communications. This review was intended to ensure that "the investment of Austin taxpayers in the \$519.5 million bond program is effectively managed, and the projects are completed on time and within budget."

The consultants concluded that "the District is well-positioned to implement the program effectively." Among specific the Deloitte findings (quoting from the consultant's report):

"The District has established a team of well-trained and licensed professionals (i.e., professional architects) to manage projects over the duration of the bond program. We believe that adequate resources exist within the [Austin School District] Construction Management Department to provide proper coordination, management and oversight of projects during design and construction phases. Further, the team has access to external professional resources e.g., HVAC technical experts, safety consultant, etc. when special needs arise or additional resources are needed to manage project workloads."

"The District has made significant efforts to provide forums and structures for public input, oversight and accountability. These efforts were initiated through the formation of the 2004 Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC) to provide input and feedback on the needs and plans related to the 2004 program. In addition, other groups and programs ... provide ample opportunities for community-based participation and feedback during the bond program. Finally, the formation and operation of the CBOC further enhances program and individual project accountability to the Austin community."

"The District has designed and implemented operational controls that help ensure that projects and related disbursements are properly planned and executed. Specific features in this area include the development and maintenance of detailed project budgets by project managers, periodic reporting of program and project financial results to the CBOC (and to the Board of Trustees through the CBOC) and multiple approvals of vendor payments by appropriate internal and external personnel."

"The District, in collaboration with the 2004 Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee, performed a reasonable amount of documented planning and cost estimation to establish the scope and total cost of the 2004 Bond Program. Cost estimates included assumptions related to the increased costs of construction that are likely to occur over the duration of the program. In addition, both project and program-wide contingencies were established to provide for appropriate project scope changes, construction bids that exceed established budgets, etc."

The report went on to note that "many facets of the Austin School District bond management program are better designed and implemented than bond programs in other large Texas school Districts that we have observed."



“The District has been completely responsive whenever we’ve had questions or concerns about construction. We couldn’t ask for a better relationship.”

Charlotte Anderson
*LBJ Campus Advisory
Committee*



Staying in Touch with the Community

A key component of The Apple at Work Bond Program is a consistent and far-reaching commitment to inform, and to be informed by, the Austin community about the status and results of the ongoing implementation of the program. Our goal is to ensure the District and the community are in agreement that the:

- The Austin School District is accountable and responsive to the community and its taxpayers and a good steward of public dollars;
- The Austin School District is trusted and recognized for delivering on its promise to the community by successfully executing the bond implementation program;
- The Austin School District's direction and efforts are clearly connected to the vitality of the greater Austin community; and,
- The Austin School District continues to enjoy the community's support for its record of academic achievement.

TheAppleatWork.com and 414-BOND

The comprehensive bond program Web site, TheAppleatWork.com, includes program overviews, budget details, construction progress for all campuses, and virtually all other details of the progress of the bond program. The entire site is also available in Spanish.

Should you have questions or need more information, click the "Contact Us" link on the left side of the page. There, you will find a simple e-mail form that you can use to pose questions to the appropriate school district staffers. A response can be expected within three business days.

Also available is information on the 2004 Bond Program hotline, 512-414-BOND. The hotline allows callers to leave a detailed message, which is then routed to appropriate District officials. You can expect feedback from the hotline within 48 hours. Also, if you would like to stay informed about bond program progress, sign up to receive e-mail updates.

Research

Ongoing research helps the District ensure that its communication efforts are providing the information the community needs and garnering the feedback the community wishes to provide. Focus groups, surveys and one-on-one inter-

views help the Austin School District and its communications partners learn the best ways to respond to the vital concerns of students, families, citizens and community leaders.

Community Outreach

The District and its partners have spent many hours in the community sharing information and answering questions about The Apple At Work Bond Program. Activities have included:

- Briefings before meetings of social and civic clubs and organizations;
- Informal, in-depth roundtable discussions with representatives of the community; and,
- One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders.

Vertical Team Outreach

In addition to the District's broad-based outreach efforts to the whole community, The Apple at Work Bond Program has also been aided by specific efforts focused on each of Austin's 11 high schools and its feeder schools. This allows the Austin School District to highlight issues with and progress on the projects that directly affect those schools and their students, families, friends and staff. These activities include:

- Meetings convening parents and other groups associated with specific schools, creating an opportunity for two-way dialogue about The Apple At Work Bond Program;
- Newsletters with school-specific information tailored to the needs of a particular vertical team; and,
- Fliers sent home with students and e-mail updates to keep each school's community informed about breaking news, construction updates and other timely information about bond projects.

“AISD is to be commended for its commitment to providing the quality educational facilities our children need and managing the bond program in a way that is fiscally responsible and good for local businesses.”

Charles J Barnett
CEO
Seton Family of Hospitals



New School Names

Austin School Trustees have honored five outstanding Austin citizens, bestowing these names on new schools opening in 2006 and 2007 as part of the 2004 Apple at Work Bond Program.

LCPL Nicholas S. Valdez Perez Elementary School, located at 7500 S. Pleasant Valley Road. The school will open in August 2006. Lance Corporal Perez graduated Travis High School in 2003 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in July 2003. He was killed in action while conducting military maneuvers in Iraq's Al Anbar Province in September 2004. He is the first Austinite killed in the Iraqi War.

Nan Clayton Elementary School, located at 7525 La Crosse Avenue. This campus will also open in August 2006. Ms. Clayton served on the AISD Board of Trustees from 1978-92, was the longest-serving Board Member, and only the second woman elected to the Board. She is active in a variety of local and state organizations dedicated to education, civic involvement, and quality of life issues.

Volma Overton Elementary School, located in the Colony Park area. The campus is scheduled to open in 2007. Mr. Overton was a civil rights activist who, as president of the NAACP, led the fight against segregationist practices in Austin. In 1971, he filed a lawsuit to desegregate Austin Schools. He was awarded the 2004 LBJ Award for Leadership in Civil Rights. He died in October 2005.

Gustavo L. "Gus" Garcia Middle School, located at 7414 Johnny Morris Road. This new school also will open in 2007. Mr. Garcia was a member of the AISD Board of Trustees from 1972-1987 and was the first Hispanic elected to the Board. He also served as a member of the Austin City Council and was Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem of Austin from 2001-2003 and 1996-98, respectively. He has served on numerous community boards including the Community Action Network, Greater Austin Chamber, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has earned numerous awards including Humanitarian Award of the Martin Luther King Association and the Businessman of the Year Award of the Texas Association of Mexican American Chamber of Commerce.

John C. Blazier Elementary School, located in the Goodnight Ranch area. This campus opens in 2007 as well. Mr. Blazier founded the Travis Community Education Foundation and contributes significant time to supporting its educational initiatives, including the establishment of the Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Arts at Travis High School. He served as chair of Austin Partners in Education in 2002-2003, implementing a number of initiatives such as seeking logistical technology support for schools from governmental entities and private businesses. He has been awarded the District's Partner of the Year Award and Mentor of the Year Award, as well as the KVUE-TV Five Who Care Award.

The Apple at Work:

Committed to Safety, Sustainability and Equity

The Apple at Work Bond Program aims to make wise investments in every child's future in a way that honors the values of the District and the community. This can be seen in the program's emphasis on the safety and security of both Austin School District's students, families and staff and of the construction workforce that's making the bond program a reality. It can also be seen in The Apple at Work's unique emphasis on sustainability and environmental stewardship, and the District's commitment to community values is underscored by the bond program's consistent and unqualified commitment to the most equitable program possible.

Safety and Security: On the Job and On Campus

The primary mission of the safety component is to see that all projects of the 2004 Bond Program are conducted with the utmost concern for safety. Key program goals are targeted to ensure that all contractors and sub-contractors focus on the safety of our students, staff, teachers and their own employees.

To this end, the Austin School District has engaged safety consultants to monitor and enforce workplace safety. All workers must plan and perform their work in a safe manner, following standard procedures and seeking advice from the consultants if there is any doubt regarding how to proceed. General contractors, in partnership with appropriate staff, must review work plans and project execution to assure that only qualified personnel are assigned and safety procedures are consistently incorporated into every task and project.

The Austin School District safety consultants are also charged with making sure that all bond project employees adhere to all regulatory requirements, specifically the OSHA Act of 1970 - CFR 1926. These risk managers specifically carry out safety audits, risk assessments and attend pre-bid and pre-construction meetings. Contractors are required to conduct criminal background checks for all workers on District construction projects. Workers who have been convicted of crimes of moral turpitude, i.e. theft, sexual offenses, perjury, fraud, etc. are ineligible to work on Austin School District construction projects.

The District views safety as a partnership in prevention, a partnership between those engaged to manage the bond projects and the District's safety consultants.

Respect and Care for the Environment

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are important values to Austin and to the Austin School District. For that reason, the 2004 Bond Program incorporates many projects and elements designed to conserve energy and water, achieve healthy indoor air quality and protect the environment.

In the bond program, the Austin School District has committed \$8-\$10 per square foot of construction costs specifically for environmental and energy-saving measures. To honor this commitment, the District is developing a culture of sustainability and directing its architecture and engineering contractors to conform to the following implementation guidelines:

- All new school buildings and additions will be built to achieve a minimum two-star rating in Austin Energy's Green Building Program. Required features include:
 - Building commissioning;
 - Storm water run-off and water quality control;
 - Roofing to reduce heat island effects;
 - Exceeding energy code by 15 percent;
 - 15 percent water-use reduction;
 - Use of less volatile paints;
 - Storage and collection of recyclables; and
 - Construction waste plan to recycle or salvage 50 percent of construction debris.
- Major renovations and retrofits will incorporate applicable, best-value elements of the Green Building Program, including
 - Ventilation equipment (at least 15 percent more efficient);
 - Increased thermal insulation;
 - Automated temperature and lighting controls;
 - Energy-efficient lighting and daylighting;
 - Low-leakage windows and doors;
 - Low-water-use fixtures; and
 - High-performance roofing replacement strategies.
- Landscaping will incorporate native, low-water-use plants and trees for shading western-and southern facing windows.

In addition, the District is implementing other sustainable measures and working hand-in-hand with Austin Energy to maximize existing efficiency rebates and incentives, modify Green Building Program policy for schools, and develop customized strategies for energy efficiency. Other sustainable strategies in progress include:

- Low-emission bus purchases: 150 buses total (50 already purchased);
- Green Choice Power commitments for approximately 30 percent of District energy requirements;
- District education program through the State Energy Conservation Office; and,
- Development of board policy and formal sustainability commitments.



Boundary Task Force

The Boundary Task Force is charged with assisting the Superintendent: to establish parameters for ideal student assignment configuration that supports student success; and to develop proposals that maximize the utilization of Austin School District facilities. This Task Force will develop a set of ideal boundary parameters to guide this multi-year process and will address the following issues:

- School size recommendations.
- Capacity targets to ensure efficient operation of facilities.
- Specific proposals for use of underutilized facilities.
- Recommended mix of racial-ethnic and socio-economic diversity and proximity of students to their assigned schools.
- Stability targets for the duration of assignments with an eye toward minimizing student movement.
- Distance, travel time and safety of students getting to and from school.
- Tracking from level to level and alignment of feeders.
- Options for transfer, voluntary assignment to specialized programs or magnets.
- Projected growth and the need for future schools.

The Boundary Task Force consists of 14 members comprised of nine core members that are representative of the Austin School District community, who were selected by the members of the Board of Trustees:

Core Members

Sylvia Acevedo
Yolanda BazDresch
David Belknap
Greg Hartman
Walter Hinojosa
Linda Klar
Helen Miller
Steve Manning
Debbie Mincher

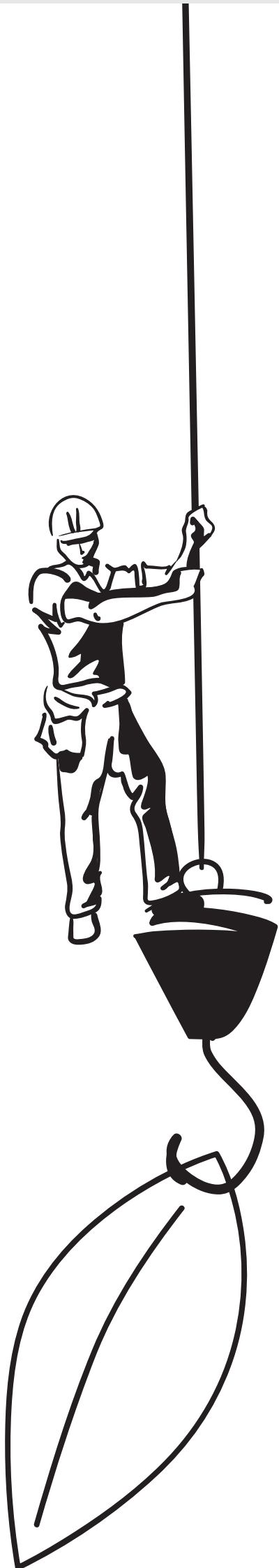
Five durational geographic members, who will serve during the duration of changes directly affecting a specific geographic area, appointed by the Superintendent:

Southeast Elementary School Geographic Members

Sonya Banda
Marvin Crawford
Ramón DeJesús
Joyce Lynch
José Luis Vara

Southwest Elementary School Geographic Members

Stacy Bennett
Ken Manceaux
David Pimentel
Jeff Walker
Marian Wallace



The Apple at Work: Frequently Asked Questions

How did the Austin School District decide what projects would be included in the 2004 Bond Program?

The Austin School District Board of Trustees created a Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee in early 2003 to recommend a program for the September 2004 Bond Election. This committee met 17 times to review and analyze data and input from District campus personnel, administrators, outside experts, students and families, and citizens and taxpayers in the community.

This effort also included four public forums throughout the District and reports from the District's Community Safety Task Force. The Board of Trustees then used the committee's recommendation as the basis for the bond program submitted to voters who overwhelmingly approved it in September 2004.

Top priorities for both the District and the Citizens' Advisory Bond Committee included:

- campus safety and security;
- overcrowding and the need for new schools;
- aging and deteriorating facilities throughout the District; and
- new investments to improve the quality and effectiveness of instruction.

From the beginning, District wide equity - a commitment that every child in the Austin School District would benefit from the bond program - has been a key component of this effort. The bond program includes projects at every single District campus, and was developed with input from every District principal and from campus advisory councils.

After the bond program was approved, how has the District decided which projects are most important? How have they been scheduled and prioritized? If my school's project is at the end of the bond program, will there still be money available?

The Austin School District is planning to complete the bond program over six years. This is largely because trying to do all the work at once would overwhelm the local construction industry and drive up construction costs substantially.

After the voters approved the bond program, the District staff reviewed and prioritized projects based on need, focusing first on safety and security measures and relieving current overcrowding; then on projects that resolved current health and maintenance issues; and then on enhancements that improved instructional effectiveness. The District then scheduled the projects to ensure that work is done during each phase of the bond program in each geographic region of the Austin School District (that is, each of the seven Board of Trustees Districts).

Because the Austin School District has known all along that the bond program would take years to implement, each project was designed, and its budget determined, with inflation and future growth in mind. Also, the bond program includes contingency funds to cover unexpected costs. So far, projects in the first phase of the bond program are comfortably within the resources allocated.

The current Community Bond Oversight Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees after the bond package was approved in September 2004 - is reviewing progress on each project every month. This will help ensure that bond projects stay on time and within budget and that the Austin School District keeps its promise to the voters to deliver the full scope of work for the 2004 Bond Program.

What steps is the District taking to ensure that students, faculty and staff, and project workers are kept safe and secure during construction?

Each contractor working on projects in the bond program must perform criminal background checks on all workers. Any workers with felony convictions for sexual offenses or crimes of moral turpitude (theft, bribery, fraud, perjury,

etc.) are ineligible to work on District bond projects. Records of these background checks must be maintained by the contractor at the worksite. Contractors who fail to meet these requirements can be held in default and forced to stop work.

All contractors, subcontractors and workers are required at all times to wear a visible ID badge with the name of the worker and firm. The Austin School District safety consultant will conduct periodic random checks to monitor compliance with these requirements and to ensure safe working conditions. The safety consultant will take appropriate action to resolve any safety or compliance issues.

As the District builds new schools, how will it decide where my child will go?

The Board of Trustees has created a Boundary Task Force to address this issue; this group began meeting in September. The board has appointed nine core members to this group; as new schools and classroom additions move forward, the Superintendent will appoint additional members from the affected geographic areas.

The task force has discussed boundary changes to accommodate the first two new schools to be built - elementary schools in the southwest (relieving Kiker and Mills) and southeast (relieving Palm and Langford). Public meetings were held in January to discuss the task force's recommendations, with a final report to the Board of Trustees in February and approval of the boundaries for the new schools in early March. This same process will be repeated next fall for the schools scheduled to open in the fall of 2007 - elementary schools in the south-central and northeast areas, and a middle school in the northeast.

How does the District ensure safe worksites?

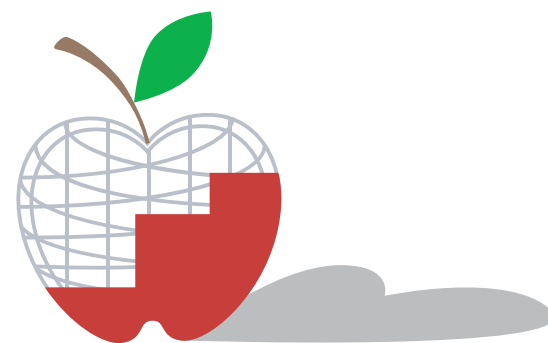
Contractors and subcontractors are required to submit a safety plan before they begin work on campuses. The District has employed safety consultants that review the safety plans and provide instruction and training for contractors and subcontractors as needed. The consultants regularly visit worksites to monitor compliance with effective safety practices. If an issue is discovered, several actions can be taken depending on its severity.

If there is an immediate danger, the safety consultants will remain onsite until the issue is resolved. If it is something that can be improved, but does not constitute an immediate danger, then they will give written directives to contractors/subcontractors for improvements that must be implemented within a specific period of time - usually 24 hours.

Contractors and subcontractors provide records of criminal background checks for all employees onsite. In addition, safety consultants meet with school leaders to ensure the safety of students and school employees.

Where can I find out more information about the bond program?

Visit the Austin School District Bond Program Web site at www.TheAppleatWork.com, or call the bond program hotline at 414-BOND.



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