



BGC: Bearcat Growth Committee
February 21, 2019
Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Jim Scott at 6:03 p.m. with 34 members present. Aledo ISD non-committee staff members present were Dr. Susan Bohn, Lynn McKinney, Amber Crissey, Earl Husfeld, Rick Herrin, Tyler Boswell, and Judy Worthington. Aledo ISD Board Member Julie Turner was welcomed. Mrs. James reviewed the BGC website and encouraged all members to visit the site often and share the website through social media to assist with communication to our community. The Community News reporter Bob Buckel was welcomed to the meeting.
2. Mr. Scott discussed the general agreement by committee members at the previous meeting that Aledo ISD needed additional elementary and middle school learning space. He then introduced Superintendent Dr. Bohn to address questions from the last meeting.

Dr. Bohn covered the following information with members:

- Land owned by Aledo ISD
 - Bear Creek land sale announcement, how impact likely several years away
 - AISD's pursuit of land donations/purchase
 - Where to build schools discussion
 - School enrollment size
 - Future attendance zone process
3. Mrs. James introduced Aledo ISD Chief Financial Officer, Earl Husfeld, to share a general overview of school finance and AISD's financial positions. [AISD Financial positions](#)

The presentation of the General Finance information included information on:

- General Fund - day-to-day costs. There are three sources of funding: Local revenues, State revenues and Federal revenues
- Tax Revenues vs. State revenues
- Two parts of tax rate/budget (Maintenance & Operations/Interest & Sinking)
- Historical tax rates for Aledo ISD
- Recapture payments - (Robin Hood)-Chapter 41 payments were reviewed for the district
- Debt service funds reviewed



4. Mrs. James introduced Josh McLaughlin, of BOK Financial Securities, the districts outside financial advisors. Mr. McLaughlin provided information on the following: [AISD Financial overview](#)
 - Since 2006, the District has used various debt management practices to save more than \$35 million in taxpayer dollars
 - The district's debt compared to area districts with similar enrollment/growth
 - Preliminary bond capacity analysis
 - History of bond elections across Texas since 2012

5. Mr. Scott and Mrs. James opened a whole group discussion on:

What are your takeaways from the two financial presentations?

The committee members shared the following:

- Didn't know District had \$34 million in tax payer dollars savings due to debt management
- The actual financial practices of the district do not support past assertions by some that the district poorly manages its finances
- District's great bond rating

What is the one most important thing that the community needs to know?

- The possibility of no tax rate increase
- Fiscal responsibility of the district
- What have we spent bond funds on?
- Bond history in Aledo ISD
- Bond funds can't be used for operating expenditures
- Finance facts provided to community through signage, social media

6. Dr. Bohn was asked to share potential ideas on how the District might address the need for learning spaces at the elementary and middle school levels.
7. Mrs. James reminded the BGC that the next meeting will be held at Walsh Elementary. She also asked if members would be interested in campus tours during the school day to visit learning spaces. Several members expressed interest and a future date for these tours will be provided soon.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.