

Sinclair Elementary



Sinclair Expansion Town Hall 2-8-21 FAQ

- *What will happen with the current outside buildings? Why are we updating the existing temporary buildings? What is the shelf life of the current outside buildings? Can you provide more details as to the scope of work for remediation of the existing T-buildings to bring them up in standards?*

All classroom spaces on our site will be utilized for students. The principal and plant operator will be meeting with district leadership to develop a comprehensive needs assessment and plan of action to improve the overall functionality and aesthetics of our current outdoor buildings. Buildings do not have a set shelf life. If a structure is kept in good condition and approved for classroom use, they may continue to support the students and teachers of our school. Temporary building restoration projects will be shared with the community via SDMC Meetings and PTO Meetings.

- *Are you prioritizing the permit in hand versus the environmental impact?*

All factors and stakeholder input were taken into consideration before a revised plan was decided upon.

- *Please discuss the method for campus enrollment planning. What is HISD's long term plan?*

The school district relies on yearly projections provided by our demographer, as well as the principal, in enrollment planning. Additionally, for campuses who participate in the School Choice (Magnet) programming, students may be admitted who live outside of the attendance zone through those routes. Each of these factors mean that enrollment may not be a fixed increase year after year. Through close communication, the district and campus leadership will continue to monitor enrollment trends at Sinclair Elementary.

- *Please discuss why a community vote was not allowable.*

Our school values the stakeholder input gathered both from parents and community. The input allows us to be mindful of the needs and wishes of our local community. When faced with making a final decision, district leadership reviews community input, along with the needs of the campus to make a decision in the best interest of the campuses students.

- *Is the retention pond no longer planned for this project?*

There will be a retention area. This will not be a pond designed to hold water permanently. The retention area is designed to hold water temporarily and will be a part of this project.

- *How was the Principal's Advisory Committee chosen?*

A Principal's Advisory Committee was formed with a group of teachers, parents, and community members, many of whom had expressed interest in the project-both those in favor and in opposition- directly to the principal. The Principal Advisory Committee members were selected by the principal and represented various stakeholder groups within the campus. All community members, however, were invited to take place in a Town Hall Meeting as well as provide input through a survey.

- *Was the revised plan made by the same group who made the original plan?*

Yes.

- *It sounds like we won't be using all the funds allocated to this project. What will happen to that money? Since the scope was reduced significantly, will this allow for more funds to rehabilitate the old T-buildings?*

Any monies left over will be allocated to landscaping and to address overall functionality and aesthetics of our current outdoor buildings.

- *Is there a new estimated cost for the project? If so, what is that projected cost?*

At this time the project budget has not changed.

- *How will students get back into the building if it is locked?*

Just as our doors are locked both inside the building and with our outside buildings, when students leave for the restroom or other activities, upon return the teacher allows entry to the classroom.

- *Can we identify opportunities for groups such as Cub Scouts/Girl Scouts to support this project?*

Yes, we welcome the community's support as we move forward. Please contact Mr. Mashburn to make arrangements for such support.

- *Please discuss how you ensured all stakeholders were included in the input gathering process.*

All community members were invited to take place in a town hall meeting as well as provide input through a survey. No individuals were excluded from this process.

- *Who is going into the new building? What classes will be in the modular buildings?*

Administration will be working with staff and SDMC to determine who occupies the new space.

- *Why was that decision made with so much push back from the community about the insular/homogenous group of decision makers?*

All community members were invited to take place in a town hall meeting as well as provide input through a survey. No individuals were excluded from this process. In fact, the survey revealed that many community members were in support of the expansion plan as originally presented with 2 modular buildings.

- *Where will our children actually go to school in that ~3-7 year gap between this temporary fix and a permanent building?*

Should there be a bond pass (currently there is no new bond) and should Sinclair be included in that bond, then we will look at options which may include students attending other schools and/or bringing in more modular buildings to house students during construction.

- *Will re-zoning be the only option at this point? When will HISD consider rezoning as an option based on the uptick of new construction in the area and changing demographics?*

At this time, there has not been discussion about adjusting the attendance boundaries of Sinclair ES. We are pleased that the additional capacity will allow for us to serve all of our zoned students.

- *Does this align to the long-term plan for Sinclair's expansion or could this all be in haste in 10 years?*

Should a bond pass (currently there is no new bond) we have been assured that our current project will not exclude Sinclair from consideration on any new bonds in the future.

- *Why not put the newer structure in the place that the current T-buildings are and move the T-buildings to more peripheral positions?*

The cost involved in this would be prohibitive.

- *Why do the buildings NEED to be in the place that the trees are? Why the new structures can't go somewhere else?*

All options were considered along with many variables some of which include, easements, city utilities, underground utilities, permitting restrictions, retaining open play spaces, optimizing space, safety and campus needs.

- *Why are we still keeping the T buildings? Why haven't we had other considerations first rather than pushing as planned?*

This revision to the plan ensures we are able to meet the needs of our campus, while taking into consideration the needs of our community. All classroom spaces on our campus will be utilized for students. Our plant operator and I will be meeting with district leadership to develop a comprehensive needs assessment and plan of action to improve the overall functionality and aesthetics of our current outdoor buildings. Buildings do not have a set shelf life. If a structure is maintained and kept active, they can have long productive lives.

- *Are we going to upgrade the exterior of the old T buildings? Should we send tentative feelers out to HSPVA or University of Houston Art School to help us (free of charge)? What about a greenhouse and an upgrade to our garden on the side of the building?*

Yes, we welcome the community's support as we move forward. Please contact Mr. Mashburn to make arrangements for such support.

- *How can I keep informed of project updates?*

Our website is updated regularly. Please access our website here.

<https://www.houstonisd.org/sinclaires>

- *Are there plans to remove the very large pine tree that is currently in the middle of the existing T-building area?*

Not at this time.

- *Can you confirm there are two bathrooms being added?*

One outdoor restroom will be added that has a girls and boys restrooms. The modular building will also have a restroom.

- *What will the plan be in 2-3 years when we have no space and need more bathrooms again?*

The current expansion project will be able to address campus needs within this timeline.

- *How long will the process take for the community to receive a new building?*

At this time there is no new bond. First there would have to be a bond and then Sinclair would have to be on the list within that new bond to receive a new building. The timeline for such a process cannot be determined at this time.

- *Is the drainage and retention plan approved by Harris County?*

Yes, the current plans have been approved by the city.

- *Can you confirm the scope of the retention pond is the same? Could it support additional build(s)? Why right in the middle of the play space between field and blue top? OR why not make the depression area LARGER entirely and then be able to insert the whole soccer field into it?*

Yes, it is the same and could support the original plan of two buildings. The revised plan meets our needs as a growing school along with the needs of our community. The space the building will occupy with the revised plan is an underutilized space.

- *As far as utilizing space for next school year, will you be forming a committee?*

I will be meeting with the staff and SDMC to make these plans.

- *Can you advise what types of trees will be planted?*

We are in the process of planning for the types of trees.

- *Where does Sinclair feel future fundraising efforts should be focused based on the revised project scope?*

Funds can be directed towards the current outside buildings and towards landscaping.

- *Where will access to the playground be situated given the new security measures?*

This has yet to be determined.

- *How does this plan solve the issue of lunches? How are you remedying this as you take on more students?*

Lunch schedules can be adjusted to accommodate for one additional class per year. We will also consider the use of different tables to maximize our space and ensure a comfortable and safe cafeteria space.