

Questions from Campus Expansion Town Hall Meeting 1.19.21

1. Once the “modular buildings” are completed, will the old temporary buildings going to use at all?

Yes, they will continue to be used and we can be creative with their use.

2. What does it take to get a new campus building? Why put on band-aids “temporary fix” instead of a finding a permanent solution “big fix” to the problem? A new building would come as a result of the district having a new bond, which at this time there is not one. In addition to the district having a new bond, Sinclair would then have to be placed on the list to receive a new building and that process involves facilities assessing our school and other school’s needs and then making a determination on which sites would be slated for new construction. If, both things happen, then a new building would be 8-15 years away from our students moving in. Projects of such magnitude require years once actual construction begins. During demo and construction our students would still need to attend school and solutions that have been used to mitigate this include a project similar to what we have proposed now where outside buildings are moved in to house students during the construction process, moving students to other campuses and a combination of temporary buildings and moving students to other campuses. Again, there is no new bond right now which is the first thing that must happen to create a window of opportunity for a new building.
3. What needs to be done in order to get permanent buildings? See question 2.
4. Are the temporary buildings secure? Will they be locked when students are present? Will the fences be locked? Yes, the new outside buildings would be secure and locked as well as the gates.
5. Has the funding needed for expansion been brought to the community? Why haven't we been asked to help out? Community members along with myself spoke at a board meeting in 2019 and the district responded by supporting the installation of 2 outside buildings. Expansion projects run into the millions with new buildings 10's of millions.
6. Why is the district/Superintendent surprised that special education classrooms can't hold 22 kids? Or that a magnet school needs magnet classrooms? I cannot speak for the superintendent, but I can state that if I relayed that Dr. Lathan was surprised that sped classrooms cannot hold 22 students then that was in error on my part. Having “art in a cart” is not an uncommon practice across the district. What I was attempting to relay about my conversation with Dr. Lathan was that I was able to make a clear case for how “art in a cart” although sufficient is not optimal. Dr. Lathan listened and responded quickly and generously by supporting Sinclair with the addition of 2 outside buildings that come fully furnished with new tech and new furniture.
7. Will any of the old temporary buildings be removed? No, not at this time.
8. Is there any reason that this meeting is not being held at a time when most people are off work? Many teachers and staff were present at the meeting and their duty time ends at 3:15. When we schedule meetings we try and accommodate a large audience.
9. Can you pause the cutting of the trees until this can be worked through with community members as well as those that go to school? A pause has been granted for 2 weeks.
10. What is the long-term plan for Sinclair in term of the facility? When will it be completely rebuilt/renovated/ expanded properly? See question 2.
11. How does this mitigate the small cafeteria space for the growing population? there already is not enough space for lunch for the current student population. Whether or not we receive new outside

buildings we will be working creatively with the cafeteria space that we have. We can work out schedules to accommodate for 1 more class in the coming year and then 1 more class the year after and so on.

12. Can we look at that plan again? This is not what was originally communicated. A retention pond on elementary campus seems like a HUGE risk! There will not be a pond installed. It will be a retention area with a gradual slope designed to mitigate drainage problems that we already have. The area is designed to hold water for a very short amount of time. Currently there are multiple areas on site that hold inches of water during heavy rain and part of the design plan is to address this.
13. Is the area being cleared for a retention pond and landscape change? Any landscaping that is disturbed will be replaced.
14. Is the construction already happening? No, we are ready to go but on pause for the moment.
15. Will you sell the lumber? There are no current plans to mill the wood. I mentioned/suggested that the community could look into a project with some of the wood, but community involvement would have to drive this.
16. When are you scheduled to start construction? We are ready to go but highlight now we are on pause for 2 weeks.
17. What is the timeline for these temporary buildings? Right now, we are on pause for 2 weeks. Delay beyond 2 weeks would stretch the project completion past the September of next year.
18. Does the additional retention consider the amount of water that the root system of 23 trees soak up on a daily/weekly basis (100s of gallons!!!) that will no longer be happening? Facilities performed an assessment on this process. I can inquire about specifics.
19. What was the point of the meeting if everything has already been decided before anything was properly communicated to the community and the school? The meeting was in place for the community to be heard which resulted in a pause of the process.
20. Why is the community not good enough for a decent building for teachers and students? This seems like a temporary solution to a permanent problem. See question 2
21. How many elementary schools in HISD have more classrooms in temporary buildings than in their main building? In Sinclair's case, it would be 31 vs. 26. I am unsure of this number and can make an inquiry.
22. Why a big if when the problem is obvious? When I mentioned a "big if" I was referring to the process for Sinclair to receive a new main building. One of the "ifs" entails "if there is a new bond which at the current time there is not. The second "if" is if Sinclair gets placed on a new bond. Again, at the present time there is no new bond.
23. What is the life expectancy/quality of these buildings? I can make an inquiry about this.
24. What is the cost of this expansion? Approximately 3.2 million
25. How is fire and emergency access provided to all the outbuildings that are non-sprinklered and remote from any fire lane? Fire and emergency have access to a key which accesses all outside gates.
26. Does construction services view this as a temporary solution or as a permanent solution? This is a solution to an immediate need for more classrooms to serve a growing enrollment. This project does not prevent Sinclair from being considered for any future projects.
27. Why can't we demolish the dilapidated trailers and build different buildings that will house more classrooms? The buildings are modular/ preconstructed. The footprint of the current outdoor classrooms would allow for approximately the same number of outdoor classrooms as replacement. Replacing older outdoor buildings with newer ones does not solve the immediate need for more classrooms to serve a growing enrollment.

28. Why invest so much of our taxpayer's dollars into a solution that doesn't even completely solve the problems? Additional classrooms do solve the problem of an immediate need for more classrooms to serve a growing enrollment. See question 2 in reference to a new main building.
29. Why are we saying that they are needed? I thought the old ones were unable to be used. There is an immediate need for more classrooms to serve a growing enrollment. The outdoor classrooms we have now are old, in need of repair and perhaps unsightly. We have and will continue to submit and have work orders filled to maintain and upkeep the current structures. It was never stated that they were unsafe or unable to be used.
30. Why is rezoning this increasingly growing area not been brought up? I will have to refer this question to district officials.
31. Wasn't the Stevenson property on TC Jester sold and those students absorbed by Sinclair just a few years ago? I will have to refer this question to district officials.
32. Could rezoning in some ways help build and benefit other neighborhood schools? I will have to refer this question to district officials.
33. What direction is the water going? See plans attached with 2 retention areas indicated in blue.
34. Is there any way to move it to a different location? The entire site was examined for possible locations and the only other area that would, not significantly impact trees and be large enough accommodate the buildings would be the middle of the soccer and baseball field. This would eliminate both fields and significantly impact the existing Spark Park. Drainage, electrical needs and costs, plumbing needs and costs, the distance from main building and aesthetics were also considered.
35. Why not relocate our K playground to the three area and place that other T building in the existing empty hole where the diagonal walkway is to the blue top? Facilities performed a site assessment before presenting any proposals. Drainage in the area next to the bluetop is an issue. Additionally, the size of the structure does not allow for placement in this location. See above response.
36. Why not swap the buildings on the plan by moving those smaller footprint buildings near the trees for after school care and place those larger buildings closer to the main campus so it looks cohesive? Moving buildings is an expensive undertaking and may require the use of multiple pieces of heavy machinery which may require a similar number of trees to be removed. See above response.
37. Why are taxpayers supporting buildings only used for after school care? After school care is only one possible use for outside buildings.
38. The amount of instructional time it takes 3rd grade to get inside the building is already a lot of time that could be used to educate students. Are we sacrificing even more already limited time? The walk from the interior of the main building to the furthest outside building, PE, takes a little less than 2 minutes. The walk from a 3rd grade classroom to the interior of the main building takes a little less than 1.5 minutes.
39. Our students, during the school day, underutilize field spaces. Why not use the free shade we already have? The field spaces are used on a daily basis for both PE and recess. They are also regularly used by the community.
40. Why is the community just not good enough for something decent? The community, including myself spoke at a board meeting asking for help and help has been granted. See response to question 2.
41. When is the go/no-go decision taking place? We are currently working with a 2 week pause.
42. If they're unsightly, what does that say to our students? Replacing the old buildings with new ones does not solve the problem of a growing enrollment and lack of space.

43. What ever happened with the planned murals on these unsightly buildings? **This project was tabled due to the cost.**
44. Can the construction plan be put on hold for about 8 weeks and give the community (parents, teachers) a voice to this process? **At this time, we are working with a hold of 2 weeks.**
45. Can you provide us with photos of what the building will it look like? **Yes. Photos of the buildings will be provided.**
46. Are there images of the outside and inside of these portable buildings that we can look at? As a staff member, we've never seen anything pertaining to the plan. **See response to previous question.**
47. Can you share the sketches of these buildings? **See previous response.**
48. What you are saying is that the solution being proposed are these "modular permanent" building? **This is correct.**
49. How much is one portable/permanent building? **I will have to refer to district officials. Please keep in mind that an installed building is more than just an object cost. Cost includes delivery, installation and site preparation.**
50. Is it possible to see a picture/drawing of how this would all look after completion? **I will inquire about this. Site plans are being made available as well as renderings of the interior of the buildings.**
51. Are there plans for an additional school for this area before all this new construction in the area is completed?
This is a question that I will refer to the district.
52. How much float in time do you have? Is there to pause and not delay? **Float time is limited. Right now, we are working with a 2 week pause.**
53. Will there be a whole lot more workers on campus? Will they be HISD employees, with the requirement for safety in these times of pandemic response? **Some workers will be HISD employees and some will not. All individuals on site will be following current safety protocols.**
54. What materials are being used for the "Modular Building?" **I will make this inquiry on your behalf.**
55. Will students go to the restroom alone? **Yes, just as students are allowed to move throughout the campus now and use the restroom on their own, students will be allowed to use the outdoor restrooms on their own.**

Please explore the links below to view a rendition of a classroom and workroom within the new buildings.

HISD STANDARD CLASSROOM - <https://vr.yulio.com/HrRPQN5wh3>

HISD WOOKROOM 2 - <https://vr.yulio.com/ZnZiR97Fio>