



**TO: SAM DAWSON, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FROM: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: 2011 NEISD Bond Referendum**

**STATUS: APPROVED**

**DATE: October 27, 2011**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Directors of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of commerce adopt the following statement as policy:

**STATEMENT:** The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports the \$399.41 million bond initiative for the North East Independent School District (NEISD). With the continued growth north of loop 1604, the 2011 bond referendum will support the district's increasing enrollment. A new middle school and upgrading current school facilities will account for 78% of the bond expenditures. The remainder will improve technology capabilities, replaces busses and administration of the bond. The use of local businesses and professional firms in the execution of the bond projects is strongly encouraged. It is also recommended that the district provide periodic accountability reports on the bond implementation to the NEISD Facility Study Committee and the community at-large.

**BACKGROUND:** NEISD expects continually growth in their student population the city continues to expand north of the 1604 loop. The district now faces overcrowded, capped schools in newer areas of the district, as well as aging facilities in older parts. In November 2010, NEISD created a Community Planning and Advisory Committee (C-PAC) and held meetings over a 3 ½ Month Period to assess the needs for a Bond Program. On February 28, 2011, The North East ISD Board of Trustees voted to call a \$399.41 million bond election to be placed on the November 8th ballot. The recommended projects are summarized as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget (millions)</b>
Facility Additions and Renovations	\$247
Growth (new middle school)	\$65
Technology	\$64
Bond construction Management	\$14.2
Transportation Buses	\$9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$399.41 million</b>

Under Facility Additions and Renovations, elementary schools will replace all portable buildings and add to the existing school building. In addition, upgrades will occur in music rooms, libraries, computer labs and media centers. Sun shades will be added to playgrounds and the gym floors will be upgraded. A new middle school will be constructed on Bulverde Road. The bond will fund phase 1 of replacing Garner Middle School. It will also replace all portable buildings at all middle schools and add classrooms to existing classrooms. Other improvements include the athletic facilities and fine arts classrooms. At the high schools, the projects for improvement are mostly targeted towards the addition of Science classrooms and the renovation of athletic facilities at Churchill High School, Lee High School, MacArthur High School, and Reagan High School. Other items of the Bond include the replacement of all chalk boards with dry erase whiteboards, replace 100 school buses, and improve the technology infrastructure.

NEISD historically has a proven track record with being fiscally responsible in past bonds. They have been rated "AAA" by Moody's and "AAA" by Standard & Poor's. In addition, NEISD has a solid academic performance.

**Pros:**

1. The passing of the proposed bond would help NEISD manage growth, alleviate facility overcrowding, and maintain neighborhood schools.
2. The ramifications of the proposed bond not passing could adversely impact families, businesses, educators, and the north east sector of the community.
3. NEISD has had reputable debt management in the past.

**Cons:**

1. Due to the current public school finance structure, NEISD has no alternative plan if the 2011 bond fails to pass voter approval.
2. For a \$399.41 million bond proposal, the estimated property tax increase to the average home value in NEISD of \$162,000 would be \$6 per month in 2012 and an additional \$25 per month in 2013.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The Chamber will help support the NEISD Bond Initiative at membership meetings and other public opportunities. The Chamber will communicate this position to the media, the business community and other Chamber members through publication in The Chamber Today, The Advocate, and media releases.