



2018 COM Bond Advisory Committee *Meeting #2 Minutes*

The College of the Mainland 2018 Bond Advisory Committee met Tuesday, May 8, 2018, to discuss the long range master plan and make decisions that will positively impact the college and the community. Below are details regarding what was discussed:

- Welcome from Dr. Warren Nichols, President of College of the Mainland (COM)

Snapshot - New COM Academic Master Plan

- Dr. James Templer, Dean of Instruction, was tasked with putting together an Academic Master Plan (AMP) for COM. Employees provided input on what should be included in the AMP.
- Templer said he and faculty started by looking at COM goals for student success, employees and facilities, and at what the college was currently doing. The AMP, although a fluid plan, is aligned with COM's three goals.
- Secondly, an environmental scan was taken into consideration. The data indicated our community's needs. And, lastly, input was sought from community members and area school districts. The question was what do you want us to do?
- All the information gathered was analyzed and formulated into an AMP. The AMP was given to architects and said this is what we need to teach. We now determine what facilities we need to support the AMP.

Program Overview - Nursing

- Dr. Amanda Ordonez, director of nursing, gave a presentation on the current state of the nursing program and what is needed to make the program more competitive. The current enrollment is capped because of lack of adequate space and equipment. There are 208 students. Needed is more classroom space, lab space and clinical space.
- A new building equipped with hospital beds and scenarios to simulate a real medical facility is needed such as a nurses' station, medication room, psychiatric day room and hospital rooms as well as auditorium-style classrooms, office space for skilled personnel, study rooms and a student lounge.
- COM students have a high pass rate of state licensing exam and 97 percent of students with an associate of nursing degree get jobs within 12 months while 90 percent of vocational nurses get jobs within six months. The average pay for registered nurses is \$70,000 a year and \$45,000 a year for vocational nurses.

Program Overview - Industrial Careers

- Cindy Lewis, director of the Gulf Coast Safety Institute who also oversees the Process Technology program, gave an update on the popular program which trains students to work as operators in area industrial plants. Lewis commented that the petrochemical industry is booming in the Gulf Coast with expansions planned or on-going.
- PTEC students are able to earn well-paying jobs after obtaining training in PTEC, safety and welding.





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- Although a successful program, the PTEC program is using a glycol separation unit that is 17 years old. For comparison, Lewis asked those in attendance how many were driving a 17-year-old car. The unit is strategically run in order to keep it operational. A new unit and new software is needed for the program.
- Only 18 students can take the class at one time due to space limitations and safety concerns.
- San Jacinto College and Brazosport College have invested in facilities at their respective colleges.
- Programs needed to fulfill workforce demand are in instrumentation, analyzer and electrical. These programs are not being offered due to lack of space.

Program Overview - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)

- Herman Trivilino, a physics professor, spoke about the need to offer a two-year engineering degree to cover all engineering disciplines: chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical. College of the Mainland does not currently offer such a program because of a lack of facilities.
- COM does offer the math and science courses that are an integral part of an engineering degree, but to support an engineering program additional facilities are needed so those course offerings can be expanded.
- New courses needed to fulfil an engineering program include:
 - Introduction to Engineering I and II
 - Engineering Graphics I and II
 - Plane Surveying
 - Engineering Mechanics – Statics
 - Engineering Mechanics – Dynamics
 - Programming for Engineers
 - Electrical Circuits and corresponding Laboratory
 - Introduction to Digital Systems and corresponding Laboratory
 - Fundamentals of Circuit Analysis and corresponding Laboratory
 - Engineering Economics
 - Mechanics of Materials
 - Elementary Chemical Engineering
 - Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics
- Jobs available with a two-year engineering degree vary in pay from about \$49,000 to \$70,000 a year. COM needs space for classrooms with technology.

Program Overview - Allied Health

- Christina Bergvall, Director of Continuing Education Allied Health, provided information on programs currently offered as non-credit such as certified nurse aide, dental assistant, EKG technician among others and credited programs like health information management, medical assistant and pharmacy technician.
- Future credit programs include dental hygienist, respiratory therapist and surgical technologist among others. These programs cannot be offered due to lack of space and equipment.





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Questions and Answers

After the academic program presentations, the meeting was opened up for questions.

- Herman Trivilino and Cindy Lewis commented that COM PTEC students to take physics and that the students are getting well-paying jobs.
- COM Trustee commented that his son and grandson are both operators and earn between \$120,000 and \$140,000 a year.
- Jack Cross said he worked for 35 years at Monsanto and he wasn't making that kind of money as a chief foreman. He said Monsanto used to train their employees. He wanted to know if local industry was paying their fair share since the PTEC students are coming to them well trained.
- Cindy Lewis said COM has a good advisory council made of up industry representatives. A couple of companies give money to COM pretty regularly. Another company donates money so students can get tutors.
- COM students recently competed in a troubleshooting competition but the expense of traveling to Louisiana for a national competition was not in the budget so a company stepped in right away and paid for it.
- Dr. Nichols said brochures have been created to let industry know how to better assist the college. He said industry has been very helpful to Brazosport College and San Jacinto College but not as much here. But, it's OK because COM hasn't reached out to the plants to ask for specific things.
- Just like COM has not asked the community for a bond.
- The plants, he said, are willing and ready to help us; they just need us to ask for the right projects. We certainly have things that we're working on.
- Jack Cross sad the plants take advantage of a tax loophole while homeowners pay 100 percent of their property valuation.
- Chuck Doyle said the college should dig deep and analyze the type of jobs that COM students are getting and retaining. He would like to see COM provide more information on demographics.
- Dee Ann Haney said COM should include success stories on social media from people who did get those jobs and are doing well.
- Nichols explained that the taxing district includes Texas City, Santa Fe, Hitchcock and Dickinson. Those are the people who are paying the ad valorem taxes. Friendswood, League City, Kemah and Webster are part of our service area. There is nothing in the bond that we are asking for that will be spent outside the main campus. Every dollar given to us by the voters will go to the main campus. Nothing goes to outside.
- Service area can vote to be part of college district; in the meantime, they have to pay a higher tuition rate for services. That's 300 to 500 students per semester. If we don't provide them with dual credit, they'll go elsewhere to get it. That means we lose that tuition revenue and we lose those prospective students. It is in our best interest. We don't own buildings there. All the revenue we're getting there, is offsetting costs for the main campus. If we turn those students away, we'll lose them. There is a lot of need but people within our taxing district we are not using our tax dollars to pay those people's education.
- Don Gartman re-emphasized that building outside the taxing district are leased and revenue producers.
- Dr. Nichols updated the group saying the college currently has two leased facilities. The facilities are paid through funds paid by dual credit students. The Odyssey Academy is selling the building that COM has leased so the college had to find some facility in which to offer dual credit and make money for the college. An ideal location would be one that is close enough for them to get to and from school.
- Bill McGarvey asked if offering services outside the taxing district is an issue.





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- Jack Cross said prior Board of Trustees did not have a handle on the North Galveston County college offerings. "It was finally cleared up. Nothing is taking place there."
- Chuck Doyle said most taxpayers are not worried about operational issues but rather bond issue money. They want to know what the money will be used for: Why do you need it and what are you going to spend it on?
- Dr. Nichols said getting a bond passed to improve the college and be able to offer more programs, like Allied Health, will help make our communities sound. If we want COM students to stay in the area to live and thrive, then we need these programs. We need to have the services here so people don't drive to Houston. We need to make sure our students stay here.
- If we don't get the bond, we won't have these programs. It's what these programs can give to our students and our communities. This is the fundamental reason.
- Bill McGarvey said the AMP is an excellent point to tell people that you've done the work. Take it to the school districts so that they are behind it. We are all on the same pathway
- Dr. Nichols said the college and school districts are working on pathways. COM is making sure the courses offered in high schools are on the same pathways that are offered at COM. School districts have verbally supported the bond as well.
- Ralph Holm asked if there will be a place for supporters to donate money toward the bond campaign.

Campaign Program

- Ryan Gregory with EdVote reminded the committee that the prospective bond election is still six months away. A comprehensive plan is being put into place. Once the bond is called, employees and staff cannot work to advocate the bond. It's critical that we develop the right message now. We need to get that message into the houses of voters. It's good to ask questions. Good to ask questions about any concerns. The message is about the college. Will be going to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation in June. The current plan is for trustees to make a bond decision at its July board meeting.
- At the next meeting on May 22, there will be a campus tour offered so people can see the real conditions of these facilities.
- Ivan Langford asked what is being done to make the group more diverse. He asked for a show of hands for people from Dickinson, Hitchcock and Santa Fe?
- An architect from PBK will be at next meeting to present the long-range facilities plan.
- Bill McGarvey asked why the board would wait a month before calling an election. He viewed it as a lost month. Gregory said the month would allow the trustees to review all material for consideration.
- Dr. Nichols said the board will have a workshop later this month. He said it would be entirely up to the board to call for a vote. They have the option to do that on June 25.
- Bill McGarvey said it took TCISD trustees three days to call for a bond election. The group called a special meeting.
- Gregory said there will be two campaigns running simultaneously to permeate the central campus, on social media and direct mail. Concurrently, a PAC will be organized and have its first meeting. At the first meeting, we will submit records to the Texas Elections Commission.
- There is a comprehensive website @ www.COMPASS2025.com.
- The PAC also will also have a website. Jack Cross said everyone in attendance will vote for the bond. TCISD did a great job. He suggested taking groups and giving them a tour. Tell people how it's going to benefit them and their families. If you consider this, it would make great sense.





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- Gregory said it will identify groups and associations that will allow us to tell our story. That's all going to be part of those items once the bond is called. There will be targeted advertising on both sides.
- There will be a huge registration push to vote early for employees and students. Also, parents in the four school districts that will benefit directly from COM. Fundraising will help pay for that advertising.
- Sharon Edmonds said she helped with a bond issue for Dickinson ISD and they had open houses that were every effective in order to target parents.
- Gregory said the website will have a Q&A page as well as fact vs. fiction.
- Dr. Nichols said this the first time he has worked on a bond. He said employees would be willing to give campus tours. He is encouraging tours for parents of students. People want to know that we're going to take care of their kids. We can give tours to any and all. He said Dr. Cavness spoke to numerous groups and he wants to do the same thing.

Thank you to everyone who attended. Please make plans to attend our next meeting at College of the Mainland on Tuesday, May 22 at 6 p.m. that will include campus tours.

