



# 2018 COM Bond Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Minutes

The College of the Mainland 2018 Bond Advisory Committee met Tuesday, April 24, 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:

**Dr. Warren Nichols, President of College of the Mainland**

- Welcomed invited guests and explained the College's steps toward seeking a bond referendum in November 2018. He thanked guests for participating in the process, assuring them their input and help was critical to the college's success.

**Kyle Dickson, Chairman of the COM Board of Trustees**

- Welcomed attendees and said that COM needs to extend programming and facilities due to demand by industry and businesses, as well as enrollment growth. The College is currently renovating the Student Center and creating a conference center.

**Ryan Gregory, The Educated Vote**

- Ryan pointed out the [www.COMPASS2025.com](http://www.COMPASS2025.com) website has pictures and information about the COM master plan. In future meetings current and expanding programs will be discussed. The Bond Advisory Committee charge is to work together to create a bond package that meets the needs of the community. Much of the new programming is driven by industry demands and growth of the healthcare sector. COM demographics were discussed and it was pointed out that much of the population growth is in the north side of the taxing district and along the Interstate 45 corridor.

**Tillie Henson, Archivist**

- Provided a history of the College's bond requests and building programs since inception.

**Dr. Warren Nichols, President of College of the Mainland**

- Gave an overview of college funding, "College Finances 101," outlining the sources of college revenues and how each revenue stream can be utilized.

**Ryan Gregory, The Educated Vote**

- Invited all attendees to get involved. Come and invite others to attend meetings and help put together a recommendation to call a bond. Get engaged in an advocacy group to drive voters to the poll and have a successful bond.





**Bond campaign schedule:**

- Regular Board of Trustees meeting in July to call the bond, if BOT agrees
- Aug. 20 – last day to call a bond for a November election but suggesting pushing up call at the July 18 BOT meeting
- Oct. 22-Nov. 2 – Early Voting
- Campaign messaging: Active social media campaign, newsletters, etc.
- Organize a political debate and educate voters on the need for a bond.
- [www.COMPASS2025.com/signup](http://www.COMPASS2025.com/signup)

**Comments and Questions from community members:**

**Q: Does Master Plan have several layers?**

A. Yes, after the first bond – there could be more bonds every 3-5 years to complete the entire Facilities Master Plan. We must align the Academic Master Plan (AMP) with a Facilities Master Plan. Critical to right size the bond and size and public's appetite.

**Q: The Texas City ISD also is planning a bond referendum which will require a tax increase. How will that affect COM's need and outcome? How do we convert this issue to a positive message about COM's bond?**

A: Let's not let this issue stop our work:

- Stance – Micro targeting voters and the time is now to move forward
- Education is critical to Texas City/La Marque is the message
- Businesses need to help support the bond

**Q: Your plan includes “bonds until I die” approach (playing devil's advocate)**

A: This is our plan to keep up with our growth:

- Long range planning is organic and will shift with the demands and major infrastructure, current and new programs.
- Master Plan is a story in growing the College as it relates to the next 10-15 years.

**Q: You mentioned new programs and local industries; where are they? And clarify position of North Learning Center issues (a thorn).**

A: Comments from the industry, ISD, health, BAHEP industry leaders and economic development – League City and Dickinson (Dr. Nichols)

- I-45 medical facilities need workers in health trades
- Health needs – physical therapy, sleep diagnostics, radiology, sonography, etc.
- Need facilities to create health programs.
- Another area – aerospace for Ellington Field expansion, need engineers, engineer tech (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- ISD – Maritime – needs increased training in order to be marketable in the industry (2+2 type workforce programs)
- Welding expansion
- COM has a robust welding program but needs more space to grow





- North Learning Center – 518 in League City
- North Learning Center is not in taxing district. State law requires we provide them services; however, the students in these areas pay higher tuition so these locations are revenue producing. No taxpayer funds can be used for the building of facilities outside of the taxing district. Any building used outside of the taxing district are leased.
- No campus – leased space only and provide programs
  - Tuition – out of district
  - Generates revenue to cover costs in North Galveston County
- Looking for more space for dual credit for CCISD
- League City wants travel, culinary arts programming
  - We can make additional resources with out of district tuition

**Q: Is COM looking at usage of out of district taxpayer dollars.**

A: COM is also looking at a Dickinson location but has not yet been successful.

**Q: Can the service areas become part of the taxing district?**

A: Yes, they can vote to be part of the district.

**Q. We need more welders and machinists – well-paying jobs. Galveston County is small. Are we competing with two community colleges in Galveston County?**

A: We're always looking at our community college neighbors.

- Same shortages
- Mentioned MOU with Galveston ISD/Ball High School for graphic arts program
- HS welding and tech programs are apprentice level; high school students aren't ready for industry jobs...
- Additional training at community college is needed

### **Suggestions from community members**

- COM students are not given the opportunity to use exotic metals like they share with Texas City ISD.
- COM should not be opposed to getting donations of exotic metals from industry like Texas ISD.
- Consider alumni campaign as an outreach to support bond.
- Dr. Nichols – story about alumni association start up at Tennessee College.
- Best advocates and storytellers.
- Look at building names on campus
- Will take money to name buildings.

