



2018 COM Bond Advisory Committee

Meeting #4 Minutes

The Bond Advisory Committee met Tuesday, June 5, 2018, to discuss the long range master plan and will ask you to help College of the Mainland make decisions that will positively impact the college and the community. Below are details regarding what was discussed:

- Meeting began with welcome from Ryan Gregory with PBK.

Community Survey

College of the Mainland President Dr. Warren Nichols gave a presentation on the results of community survey:

- Conducted by Baselice & Associates
- 400 respondents contacted by telephone – land lines and cell
- Margin of error was +4.9 percent
- For name awareness, 80% knew of COM and 48% saw COM in a positive light
- Without any information, recipients were asked if they would support a bond - Result was 45% in favor; 45% against; others undecided
- In a subsequent question, those who classified COM in a positive light also said they would support a bond by a margin of 65% for to 19% against
- After hearing information about COM, 70% said they would support the bond

Overall survey conclusions include:

- Four out of five respondents have a positive impression of COM (80%)
- Two out three say COM is valuable to the community and 60% would strongly consider supporting a bond
- On the initial survey question, 58% were for; 27% against a bond
- Intensity on the initial ballot is tied when asked before respondents expressed positive impression of COM – *this indicates the importance of capitalizing on COM's image and value to the community...* it also shows the election could go either way at this time
- After respondents heard more information about COM, support for the bond increases
- Regression analysis indicates the best messages to communicate

"We are at capacity," Dr. Nichols said.

Dr. Nichols also shared information about corequisite. COM is the only college in Texas to fully implement corequisite, even though it is now required by state law. Corequisite allows students not prepared for college in math and English to take a developmental course and a college level course at the same time.

"The results at College of the Mainland have been outstanding and are being noticed. This program is being implemented across the country and COM is being asked to make presentations at state and national conferences because of our success," he said.

35% of COM's African American students who were part of the corequisite program saw a 35% increase in the number who passed their first college English class, Dr. Nichols said.





“We are 100% student success focused,” Dr. Nichols said. “100% of the funds are devoted to the main campus. This is all about students and all about our community. We have been responsive to the growing regional workforce demands which is an economic engine for our area. We have been fiscally conscientious.”

Proposed 2018 Bond Projects

The proposed projects for the bond include:

New STEAM/Allied Health Building – 160,000 square feet

- Expanding of Nursing Program (BSN)
- New Engineering programs - Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering
- New Surgical Tech Program
- New Imaging Tech Program
- New Dental Hygienist Program
- New Physical Therapy Assistant Program
- Pharmacy Tech Program
- Medical Assistant Program
- Medical Coding Program
- New Communications Program
- Expanded Cyber Security Networking Lab
- Labs and Classrooms to increase prerequisite classes required for expanded Nursing and new Allied Health Programs
- Physics Lab moving out of Math & Science Building (repurpose lab into math classrooms)
- Classrooms, including lecture classrooms
- Student Lounge and Study/Collaboration spaces throughout
- Programs moving from Technical Vocation Building include Graphic Arts Lab, Computer Science Lab, Drafting Lab and Geology Teaching Lab

New Industrial Careers Building – 90,000 square feet

- Expanded Process Technology Program
- New Instrumentation and Electrical Program with labs
- Moving Gulf Coast Safety Institute, OHST and HVAC programs back on campus with growth to eliminate current yearly lease cost
- Campus Data Center relocated from Technical Vocation Building

New Student Success Center – 60,000 square feet

- New layout to consolidate Student Services to create better adjacencies for streamlined process of Admissions, Financial Aid, Help Center, Student Success, College Connections, the Veterans Center, Testing Services, Student Engagement, the Business Office and Dean of Students.
- New layout to bring College Leadership Team together in a collaborative suite
- Bring campus functions (including Board of Trustees meeting room) on campus to eliminate space needed at Appomattox Square
- Bring other functions – Marketing & Public Affairs and Grant Writing – back to campus from Appomattox Square





Physical Plant Expansion

Fine Arts Building Theatre Additions and Renovations

- Medium-sized proscenium theater space for use as a concert hall
- Additional dedicated Academic Theatre classrooms, lighting and sound design lab, scenic storage area, green room, dressing rooms and additional faculty offices

Life Cycle and Technology Upgrades

- Roof, skylight, HVAC and piping replacement at Math and Science Building
- Campus-wide Energy Management System upgrades and replacement of underground data fiber cabling

Demolition

- Police Station
- Administrative and Enrollment Center
- Technical Vocation Building

2018 Bond Financial Implications

Clarence Grier with RBC Capital Markets gave an estimate on the cost impact of the bond. Community member David Floyd asked if the college has taken into account the devaluation of home following Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Grier said the growth among home valuations has been static. He said his office would look at different scenarios (such as if property values decline).

Conclusions and Next Steps

Mr. Gregory said he was very excited about the process. He commended the college Leadership Team for all the hard work it has done, especially in putting students first.

“The modeling of this plan has been around students. Our intent tonight was to get your blessing and then take it to the Board of Trustees later this month.” He encouraged everyone to attend the next meeting on June 19 at the Chamber office and he encouraged everyone to knock on neighbors’ door to get them to vote.

“We don’t just want to win this. We want a resounding yes vote,” he said. “This community wants this college to be successful; to rebuild and grow these programs.”

The response from the community as Dr. Nichols has made presentation has been, “it’s about time. So, buckle up. The next five months is going to be fun,” Gregory said.

The June 19 meeting will be dedicated to organizing various communications efforts for the bond. Community member Jack Cross said the last time COM went out for bond, “It was bad and it almost passed.”

Mr. Floyd said this bond proposal is so much better than the last one. The last one, he said, “had a lot of things they didn’t need. That’s not the case this time. We have good things.” Mr. Floyd recommended the committee make a formal recommendation to the Board of Trustees to call for a November bond election. Community member Thelma Bowie seconded. All were in favor.





COM Trustee Don Gartman said the board is totally supportive of Dr. Nichols and the bond – whatever the final number is. Dr. Nichols said he appreciated the support.

“If we can’t sell you, how can we get the support of the community? Everyone has been very, very kind.” He said comments he has received since arriving on campus more than a year ago is that the college needs some work and improve its image.

Dr. Nichols said COM is well represented in the community with the college being a member of every Chamber and Rotary Club in the area. If he is not in attendance at community meeting, then someone else from the college is there.

“We have had good press. We’re trying to get the word out about all the great stuff we’re doing,” he said.

Houston Community College asked Dr. Nichols talk to their faculty about corequisite. He also has spoken to the American Association of Community Colleges meeting in Dallas and will speak at another AACC conference in Baltimore in late June.

“College of the Mainland has a great team. They are working hard. Their hearts are in the right place. More than anything, you and everyone in the community, I want you to understand that we do everything for our students. If we support our students, they will become productive students and members of our community and taxpayers,” he said.

Community member Jose Boix said one thing that has been missing from College of the Mainland leadership has been trust and confidence. “The trust and confidence is back. One of the issues that made the last bond fail was that we had no trust and confidence on the board.”

Community member Hazel Surratt suggested the college write personal letters to the parents of students within the taxing district to garner their support.

Ms. Bowie said the rallying call should be to put our children first. She also said the focus should not be on every registered voter but rather those the vote regularly.

Mr. Cross suggested including a supplement in the newspaper.

Thank you to everyone who attended. Please make plans to attend our next meeting at the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, June 19 at 6 p.m.

