

Status Report # 1 – July 23, 2009

George Herbert Walker Bush Elementary School

In May 2008 voters in Dallas I.S.D. approved a \$1.35 billion bond program to build 15 new schools, construct additions to 12 existing campuses and make other District facility renovations. A new elementary school for Addison was part of this bond package.



A Bit of Background

Over the past 15 years Addison staff and City Councils have worked closely with elected officials and senior management of the Dallas Independent School District with a singular goal in mind – a new elementary school to serve students in Addison.

“Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore Tom Braun and Councilmember Bianca R. Noble are serving as the City Council’s “education liaisons” on this project and all matters related to education, in general, that impact Addison,” explained Mayor Joe Chow. “They’ve devoted countless hours to working with Dallas I.S.D. staff and architects in planning for the new school.” Councilmember Kimberly Lay and former Councilmember Greg Hirsch were instrumental early on in getting us where we are today in the project.

Dallas I.S.D. District 1 Board Trustee Dr. Edwin Flores or Dallas I.S.D. staff members have made presentations about school plans to three Addison Town Hall meetings over the past two years. On July 15, 2009, more than 125 residents met at the Addison Athletic Club to learn more about plans for the new school.

“We were excited to have such a large turn out,” Mayor Pro Tempore Braun said. “This meeting was a continuation of the dialogue with residents and Dallas I.S.D. begun more than two years ago but there’s still a lot more work to do before construction starts in January 2010. We plan to use this website to keep everyone updated as things progress.”



About the School

Our new school will serve pre-kindergarten through 5th grade and will be built at the intersection of Brookhaven Club Dr. and Spring Valley. The actual site is 8.5 acres at the southeast corner of Dallas I.S.D.'s property at Loos Field. The new school will be adjacent to the existing Greenhill School campus and along Addison's expanded trail system so children in Les Lacs and Midway Meadows neighborhoods can walk or bike to school.

The campus, with a ground floor building footprint of 60,000 square feet and a second floor of 30,000 square feet will include a library, gymnasium, auditorium, art and music classrooms. Some non-traditional features of the campus include an environmentally "sustainable" design with an artistic flare for the building. The design will incorporate energy efficient building materials as well geo-thermal technology to heat and cool the facility. In addition, preliminary plans call for the campus to have an outdoor learning center and an art courtyard. Conserving water will be a consideration in selecting plant materials for landscaping.

Scheduled to open with the start of school in 2011, the name of the new school, "George Herbert Walker Bush Elementary", offers an opportunity to tie in the former president's naval aviator background to Addison Airport's Cavanaugh Flight Museum and make our country's warbird history come alive again at the new elementary school.



School Staffing and Management

The new school will be part of Dallas I.S.D.'s Northwest Elementary Learning Community headed by Executive Director Ivonne Durant who will be responsible for staffing and overseeing the school. At the July 15 meeting she explained that community input will be sought in selecting the school's principal and certain aspects of curriculum enhancements through the Site Based Management Team of school administrators, parents and community leaders.