



AISD FUTURE: 2017 BOND NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

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As summer approaches, Austin ISD is proud of this year's significant progress by our school communities and district teams to create the best learning environments possible for all students.

Student success remains the driving force for AISD and our 130 school communities. This spring, we initiated a School Changes process, which includes a Reinvention Roadmap to review and reimagine the use of our campus facilities across Austin to ensure all students learn in high-performing academic environments supported by spaces designed for innovative instruction and engagement.

Thank you to the hundreds of family and community members who joined our School Changes community workshops in April. The conversations with our experts and feedback from our communities will inform our work and help us reinvent the AISD of the future.

If you would like to learn more about the process and next steps, please visit AustinISD.org/SchoolChanges. There is still time for you to share questions or concerns you may have. Please consider using our online community engagement platform, [Thought Exchange](#), which is helping us to gain additional insights throughout the process. You can choose to provide input in both English and Spanish.

The next phase of the evaluation process in the Reinvention Roadmap includes taking a closer look at the groupings of schools we are calling regions. The goal of identifying regions is to create more robust and equitable programming throughout the district. This summer, district teams and community members will come together for a series of visioning workshops that will inform preliminary scenarios, which will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees in the fall.

We welcome you to be engaged throughout this process, which is designed to create a better, stronger AISD for all students. Today and every day, thank you for supporting our students as we create 21st-century learning spaces and reinvent the urban school experience together.

Your #AISDFuture Team

BOND UPDATES

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Since voters approved the bond 18 months ago, AISD has:

- Kicked off all modernization projects in the 2017 bond program
- Held more than 200 Campus Architectural Team and planning team meetings, as well as 50 community meetings (engagement is ongoing) and
- Held six milestone events, including two site dedications and four groundbreaking ceremonies.

District and project team members shared status updates and next steps for their respective modernizations at a series of community meetings, including:

- April 8 – A meeting for neighbors near the new **Rosedale School** to learn more about the re-zoning application the district submitted to the City of Austin
- April 24 – Community meeting to introduce the **New Northeast Middle School**
- April 25 – Principal coffee with the **Hill Elementary School** community
- April 29 – Principal coffee with the **Brentwood Elementary School** community
- May 3 – Coffee chat with **Metz, Sánchez, Zavala** elementary school communities

Four milestone events are scheduled during the coming weeks. We invite the community to join us to celebrate the start of construction for these modernization projects:

- May 21 – **Murchison Middle School** groundbreaking ceremony at 9 a.m.
- May 23 – **Norman Elementary School** groundbreaking ceremony at 9:30 a.m.
- June 4 – **New Blazier Relief School** groundbreaking ceremony at 9 a.m.
- June 6 – **Bowie High School** groundbreaking ceremony at 9 a.m.

Follow the 2017 bond progress at www.AISDFuture.com, which provides information about project-specific meetings and timelines, as well as virtual reality renderings that allow you to tour the modernized schools.



MEET YOUR BOND TEAM

AUSTIN ISD BOND LEADERSHIP

LETI PEÑA-WILK

Principal, Blazier Elementary School



Leti has served as principal of Blazier Elementary School since 2011, and she has been a bilingual educator for more than 20 years. She received a Master's in Multilingual Studies/Bilingual Education degree from The University of Texas at Austin. Born and raised in Austin, Leti is a

proud product of AISD schools. She is the mother of two boys, both of whom attended Blazier Elementary School and are now students at Akins High School.

MARK ROBINSON

Principal, Bowie High School



Mark has led James Bowie High School as principal since 2017. He joined AISD from Lake Travis ISD, and he started his career with Arlington ISD. Mark holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in educational leadership and

policy studies from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is the proud father of two children, one who is in high school and one who has already graduated.

BETH NEWTON

Principal, Murchison Middle School



Beth was named principal of Murchison Middle School in spring 2019. Beth has worked for the district for 18 years and she served as principal of Hill Elementary School for 10 years. She also has been the leader of the Anderson vertical team of principals

for six years. Beth holds a master's degree in educational administration, as well as a bachelor's degree in applied learning from the University of Texas at Austin.

WENDY MILLS

Principal, Norman/Sims Elementary School



Wendy has served as principal of Norman Elementary School since 2017 and was named principal of Norman/Sims in 2018 ahead of the schools combining. She has more than 18 years of experience as an educator, previously serving as

an administrator in Austin, Cedar Hills and Lockhart ISDs. Wendy holds a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The passage of the 2017 Bond allocated \$25 million to modernize an elementary school in the East Austin community. After months of community engagement, the AISD Board of Trustees voted in September 2018 to modernize Sánchez Elementary School. Planning began immediately for the modernization, working toward a scheduled opening date of August 2021.

As part of the modernization process, students and staff from Sánchez will share a campus with Metz Elementary School beginning in fall 2019. Sánchez and Metz will continue to operate as two separate schools, with dedicated space for each community's students and teachers. Some spaces will be shared, including bilingual daycare, the cafeteria, the library, the pre-K play area and the gym.

This model for a temporary move has proven successful for the Barrington and T.A. Brown elementary school communities, where families, teachers and team members have been tremendous in collaborating and supporting one another.

DID YOU KNOW?

While many of the modernization projects included in the 2017 Bond are being delivered with a Construction Management at Risk model (CMAR), several will follow the Design-Build model. Both construction delivery models are highly effective, with different strengths and opportunities for each.

Two of the projects that are moving into the design phase, Rosedale School and the New Northeast Middle School, will be Design-Build projects, which means one organization—the general constructor—is solely responsible for both design and construction of the facility. With the Design-Build method, a single point of contact can improve collaboration among teams and often accelerates project delivery.

The CMAR method, by contrast, provides AISD with flexibility in selecting a contractor based on several qualifications in addition to price, including project-specific expertise. The Construction Manager (CM) also serves as an extension to the AISD team throughout the project, providing feedback earlier in the design process to ensure the highest-quality facility is delivered.

GET INVOLVED

AISD WELCOMES STUDENTS, FAMILIES, TEAM MEMBERS AND THE GREATER AUSTIN COMMUNITY TO BE INFORMED ABOUT AND ENGAGED IN THE BOND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

Learn about districtwide and campus-specific community meetings and sign up for [email](#) notifications by visiting AISDfuture.com.

