

**Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC) Board Meeting & Westbury Super Neighborhood  
#37 Monthly Meeting Tuesday, Oct 15 2024 10:10 AM**

**Meeting at Shannon Walker Library 11630 Chimney Rock**

**Attendees:** Marcie Jones, Stacy Anderson, Mary McCarthy, Evelyn Olivares, Rolando Martinez, Eileen Hairel, Crystal Peel, Andrew Burks, Thyra Burks, Meiah Sims, Veronica Hernandez, Brian Pendleton, Becky Edmondson, Marcia Hartman, Lindsey Pollock, Cindy Chapman, Stephen Polnaszek, Leah Wolfthal, Skip Reeder, Kahterine Gould-Marks, Rebecca Dray Ballentine, Susan Shafer, Paul Rivera.

**Call to Order & Welcome @ 10:11 am & Introductions and Visitors, if any:** Meiah Sims and her husband ( Westbury class of 2009) are working with the Westbury HS athletic department. She is the president of the booster club.

**Secretary:** Susan asked that the minutes from September be accepted as presented. Minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Attached. Accepted as presented.

**President:** Several housekeeping items. Talked about the Civic Engagement project. Civic Club is asking for \$500 to encourage people to sign up for the portal. Lindsey moved. Skip seconded. Passed unanimously. Cindy is a newly trained Master Naturalist and participant in the planting of the six bioswales. Houston Wilderness is planting bioswales but had no plan for watering. Cindy moved to pay a \$600.00 stipend for neighbors who water the hundreds of new plants at these 6 sites. Skip seconded. Passed unanimously. Meiah asked for money for a pizza warming oven for fundraising for the Westbury HS Booster Club. (Cost is \$1000. Friends of Westbury High donated \$500.) Cindy moved to donate \$500 for a pizza warmer. Marcia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Becky mentioned importance of neighborhood schools. In the 2007 bond, WHS didn't get a new school but received money for an athletic field. We now have a soccer field after rubble was removed by original contractor.

The Westbury Deck the Halls Parade is returning this year. Security, permit and insurance are confirmed. Working on social media campaign and encouraging block parties. There will be a variety of participants and sponsors. Holding virtual planning meetings. Parade is Dec. 14 at 5:00.

Add Lindsey Pollock to the WAIC board as the WCC representative.

Add Cindy Chapman as a Presidential appointee. Marcia moved to add Cindy to the WAIC board as presidential appointee. Lindsey seconded. Passed unanimously.

Evelyn from Parker EI: Mentioned new principal, Antravian Carter. Heritage program at Parker today.

**Speaker :** Rolando Martinez, HISD Board of Managers. Will discuss board engagement and the upcoming bond. District should have been sharing academic progress for years. This is progress from a board perspective. Grew up in HISD and went to Meyerland. When board of managers asked specific

questions about the vision of parents, it became clear that the community wants an elected board. Slide presentation. Role of the board is to set goals and constraints. Encourages people to pay attention to academic progress. 50% of school board meetings should be dedicated to academic progress. Hispanic students, black students and students with disabilities are still lagging way behind white and Asian students. There are 10 high schools where 0% of graduating class was able to pass SAT or ACT. Incredible growth in pre-K enrollment. Constraints: Superintendent shall not allow the number of D or F campuses to grow or remain the same. Number of campuses rated D/F decreased from 121 to 41 in 2024. Number of A/B rated campuses increased from 93 to 170. In special education, 99.8% of ARDS were completed on time. 12.4% of special ed folders have been reviewed and working toward 20% target by 2028.

Next speaker introduced himself as Paul Rivera with bond planning. He presented slides about bond investments in Westbury. Talked about Fondren Middle School and extensive needs. Not every old building is historic and not every new school isn't historic (because of people who attended and events that happened in these buildings.) Bellaire HS will receive \$140,000 for security. To get a new building, you need pre-construction, which takes 18 months. HISD schools should be designed around programs, not templates. Total 3 years of planning. Cost is \$40-60 million dollars per elementary school. Cindy mentioned how flooding affected enrollment at Anderson. Some schools are located at intersections of freeways and shouldn't be. Some schools are in floodplains and one is in a floodway. Should be in a position where schools are a place of refuge, cooling centers, etc. Part of bond work will be modernizing HVAC to include generators. Resiliency is a big part of the bond plan. Lindsey mentioned that Garden Oaks had a generator but it wasn't used during the last emergency. 2000 HVAC issues since August 12. 50 HVAC breakdowns every single academic day. Every single campus has a plant manager. Paul said that we have the maintenance capacity.

Questions from WAIC included: What plan is in place to oversee expenditures of the bond? What is the oversight? The public has heard that money is being misappropriated and misspent. Rolando said there is a 13 member oversight committee including Chris Brown, former city comptroller. "I came to you all because the responsibility of the board is to come to the community. We are working with community engagement and public relations."

Paul said that bond came about because of huge needs after hottest summer in Houston. There is doubt because of past history, corruption. Bond decisions are not just about buildings but about where schools are located and programs within. The earliest we can return to a fully elected board would be June 2028. Supporters of HISD Magnets members pointed out that community has been decimated in many ways. Many have left for private schools. Community trust building is so broken that for many voters, it is a non-starter. Feels late for parents to trust that the district has the same values as far as taking care of teachers and students. Many of the best teachers are leaving because district is disrespecting and micromanaging teachers. Paul reiterated that HISD cannot advocate for the bond. In 2019, LBB (Legislative Budget Board) said we had 39 schools over capacity. We are down 29,000 students from 2019. Lindsey wondered why bond money was being allocated to co-location sites that will be empty. Paul answered that under state law, if the district wants to sell the land, they have to first offer it to a charter school. Goal is keeping buildings open as long as possible.

Eileen mentioned that 80% of HISD consists of Title 1 students. For these families, HISD is the only choice. Scoring matrix has 70 indicators and is run by an external firm. They did this under the elected board. Priorities are not arbitrary.

Stephen mentioned the poor condition of Shearn Elementary. Paul said this bond will convert 525 temporary classrooms and explained that some things weren't included in order to keep the bond under the taxing threshold.

Brian: Precinct 4 Listening Tour at Alief Neighborhood Center. Oct. 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m. May have some virtual meetings.

**New business:**

November is our annual meeting: Election of officers.

Administrative Cost: To cover the costs of running the business of an SN, a reimbursement form must be completed and submitted with the receipt for reimbursement payment. May 15, 2025 is the deadline for Administrative Cost reimbursement. Total funds available for administrative Cost: Up to \$2,000.

SNGP: The SNGP will cover projects that improve, benefit, or beautify SNs. The SNGP Application is open from October 7 and **due November 29, 2024**. Reminder: Projects can be started only AFTER a notification of application award by the City of Houston has been issued to your organization. The project must be completed with financial supporting documentation submitted by **June 2, 2025**. The complete SNGP application (fillable version) is attached. The SNGP Workshop is available via the link [SN Grants Program 2025 Workshop.pptx](#)

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**Westbury Civic Club Annual Meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.—Westbury Baptist, 10425 Hillcroft, Game Room

**Bioswale Planting:** 5643 Cartagena 10/18 at 9 a.m.

**Voting: Begins October 21**