

## **Looking to the Future – Post Election Thoughts**

By David Truitt, Superintendent

I would like to thank everyone who voted, attended a community forum, responded to the online survey, called me, came by to see me, or served on the Strategic Planning Team. Much work went into this Bond proposal, and I cannot thank everyone enough for all their hard work and dedication in striving to get involved, staying informed, and voting.

Of course, I am disappointed with the results. I still believe the community of West can and should do more for our youngest learners. The needs we presented over the last eight months will not change, so we still need to see the vision fulfilled at a future date. Our West Elementary School students and staff deserve the safest and best learning environment possible.

Over the next week, I will be posting a link to an online application where community members can post their thoughts on what we should do differently the next time a Bond is considered. Of course, anyone can call, write, stop by, or email me. I have heard about the high cost of the facility, need for more public forums, timing of the election, need to go ahead and purchase the land, timing of the election and the rise in property taxes, need for a design plan to be finalized, and much more. Now is the time to come together and not continue to be on a “For” or “Against” side of the fence. I told anyone who voted “No” that we would still be friends after the election. I know they love the Trojans and West. The key I kept trying to reinforce was my desire for help in what we could do to turn the vote to a “Yes” the next time around. I am open to any and all suggestions and ideas. A number of folks have already called me offering advice and help. If anyone would still like to tour the West Elementary School, I am open to leading tours. If anyone would like to see the new \$18.2M Clifton Elementary School, I am open to driving a bus over for tours. If anyone would like to see the congestion in our West Elementary School hallways, cafeteria, and classrooms, our teachers are open to the visits.

The day after the Bond Election was a new day. I am resolved to seeing this project through, and I will do my best as the leader of West ISD to come to the table and answer any questions or concerns as we move forward for another possible Bond in the future. I know our Board will hear the pros and cons of calling another Bond for November 2018, May 2019, or another future date. Let’s strive to come together and be in one accord with whichever timeline is selected, concerns are addressed, and a final plan is selected for our Prekindergarten through Grade 5 Trojans. In the meantime, our fabulous staff at West Elementary School will keep the faith and do their best to meet the many needs of our elementary students. The journey did not end on May 5, 2018. Together, we will learn from this step and keep moving forward. After all, we are the community of Grit and Greatness. Let’s keep Rising up! Go Trojans!