



2016 BOND

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EPISD 2016 BOND NEWSLETTER

We are building the future **We are EPISD**



BLOG POST: MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT JUAN CABRERA

When the El Paso Independent School District set out to modernize the District as part of the Bond 2016 campaign, much attention was placed on the building construction projects that traditionally make

up school bonds. The District knew, though, that in order to truly bring up to date our schools, we also needed to pay attention to the technology and technology systems that our teachers and students use on a daily basis.

The District has been a leader in instructional technology for many years, and our stance as a premier hub for 21st century teaching and learning relies heavily on our ability to remain connected. To that end, Bond 2016 is slated to invest \$17 million in initiatives that will further cement our role as a District of Innovation.

Chief among our projects, and perhaps the most impactful of all the technology-related offerings from the Bond, is the distribution of Apple MacBook Air laptops to every single middle-school student in EPISD. More than 10,000 laptops were handed out to students as part of this project, and that technology will remain with those students as they move on to high school.

The one-to-one distribution of laptops to middle-school students continues our efforts to provide tools for digital learning to everyone in EPISD.

More than three years ago, EPISD spearheaded the region's

first widespread distribution of laptops to students when every high-school in our district received their own device to use during the day and even take home for homework and research. This was a catalyst project for EPISD because it meant that all students now had access to learning tools 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Why was this important to us? Simply put, because we know that's what is expected of students in a modern global economy.

If we want our graduates to be competitive in jobs, college and the military, they need to be ready to tackle the world as it is today. That means that all of our students must have the digital awareness and knowledge to thrive.

Bond 2016 technology funds won't stop with our students, though.

EPISD has some of the best-trained teachers in the state, and that means our educators must have the tools they need to implement the training they have received. For more than 10 years, the District has handed all teachers laptops to help them plan and teach.

Now, thanks to the taxpayers in the District, we have been able to replace those laptops and provide our teachers with updated technology.

As the District moves forward to implement even more technology upgrades, I want to thank the community on behalf of the Board of Trustees for their continued support and investment in our students. I know that together we will continue to make EPISD a nationally-recognized organization where student achievement is a top priority.

For more information regarding the 2016 Bond please visit our website at WWW.EPISD.ORG/EPISDBOND2016



BOND UPDATES TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY



The modernization of EPISD relies heavily on the upgrade of technology and technology systems that allow students and teachers to tap into the tools they need to be successful. EPISD Bond 2016 will invest nearly \$17 million in these upgrades throughout the District. The funds will be used in four separate improvement areas.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ONE-TO-ONE DEVICE INITIATIVE – Complete

EPISD's implementation of 21st century learning models requires growth in classroom technology. Following the successful distribution of laptops to each high-school student in the District, Bond funds were set aside to expand the one-to-one distribution of Apple laptops to every middle-school student. During the 2017-18 school year, more than 10,000 devices were handed out to students in sixth- through eighth-grade.

Ensuring our students get to their school safely is a priority for EPISD. That's why the EPISD 2016 Bond included a \$8.47M budget to upgrade our school buses to natural gas operating with a three-point safety belt system. EPISD Transportation is currently working on ordering their third shipment of new buses using 2016 Bond funds; this shipment includes two regular-education buses and 17 Special Education Buses.



NEIGHBORHOOD WIFI EXPANSION – Starting in 2019

While all secondary students in EPISD have access to laptops and digital learning content, the District knows that access to the Internet may be limited to instructional buildings for many. EPISD's technology department is working on the plans to expand WiFi signal to many of the neighborhoods that need it the most within our boundaries. EPISD will be working with the City of El Paso to expand the Digital El Paso program into targeted areas of the District, including the Bowie and Jefferson feeder patterns



BOND UPDATES TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY

COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE FOR EPISD POLICE DEPARTMENT - Phase 1

The safety and security of students and employees continues to be a priority for EPISD, and the use of Bond funds to upgrade the EPISD Police radio system will help further improve their services. The EPISD PD communications project consists of replacing all officer, patrol car, consoles and radio repeaters.

EPISD Police Services operates on an aging radio communications system that has to be replaced with a modern platform to ensure effective communications with EPISD police officers out in the field and outside supporting agencies.

The EPISD Police Services communications project consists of three phases to completely replace the system and implement APCO P25 interoperability standards. These standards ensure the ability to communicate with any responding agency no matter what P25 branded equipment is used.

This first phase is to establish a foundation by replacing the aging analog console with a modern radio system consisting of two dispatch consoles and a radio network core. These consoles provide secure encrypted communications between dispatch and the officer in the field. The consoles allow the dispatcher to have full situational awareness of the officer's whereabouts while having the ability to contact any outside agency to assist and coordinate communications.

The radio network core consists of numerous radio services crucial to communications. One of the services available is the ability to utilize existing district Wi-Fi to initiate and receive radio calls on both mobile devices and portable radios, aside from existing radio equipment. This service also allows the ability to place and receive those radios calls over cellular LTE. These abilities ensure that no matter the environment, secure and redundant communications will be available for our officers.

This project falls into alignment with District goals and allows the department to ensure the safety of students, staff and facilities. The communications platform allows for swift and accurate information between first responders and will be the catalyst for saving lives in the event of a catastrophic incident. The system design ensures the smooth day-to-day operations of Police Services by enhancing the existing communications system and establishing a strong platform moving forward.

Completion of this project is scheduled for mid-April 2019.



BOND UPDATES TECHNOLOGY & SAFETY

TEACHER LAPTOP REFRESH – In Progress

Laptops for teachers and librarians have been foundational to EPISD instruction since they first were issued in 2007. Teacher laptops drive classroom instruction, collaborative projects, presentations, grading, and are otherwise used by teachers and librarians to meet administrative requirements. The EPISD Middle School One-to-One Device Initiative has increased the importance of teacher laptops exponentially. Laptops will be rolled out to our teachers in the 2019-20 school year.



SECURE ENTRY SYSTEMS

EPISD schools provide students with safe and secure learning environments that give pupils and their parents peace of mind. To further our efforts in securing our campuses, the District is using Bond funds to install a secure entry point system, Avaya Communication Manager and a communication upgrade for EPISD PD.

A secure entry point is essential to providing the first level of screening and monitoring access to a campus. Along with the secure entry point system, Avaya Communication Manager systems also were installed at all elementary schools in EPISD. The system provides our elementary schools with a single platform to manage and integrate all components to verify, manage, monitor and archive telephone calls, surveillance cameras, access points, public access systems, fire detection and other safety controls in a more effective manner.

The programs allow for:

- * Video surveillance entry phone that is linked to front office work stations and video interception to the EPISD PD
- * Contact locks for doors that can be triggered via access buttons
- * Required ID capture via the Rapture System
- * Initiation of a lockdown/lockout situation via local or remote
- * Automatic notifications via SMS, telephone and PA to proper authorities

For more information regarding all of the 2016 technology programs [CLICK HERE](#).

MEET THE BOND ARCHITECTS

Octavio Cantu, AIA
ERO Architecture

Texas A&M | BA in Environmental Design

Bond Projects: Andress High School

Dr. Joseph E. Torres Elementary (Bradley/ Fannin Consolidation)

How long have you been an architect?

23 years

What is your favorite part of the job?

Creating engaging learning environments for students.

What skill do you think is most important for anyone wanting to pursue this career?

Creativity

When did you know this is what you wanted to do?

I explored many careers, however it was in 9th grade that I decided it had to be Architecture.

What are you most excited about with the Bond projects you are working on?

Creating new types of learning spaces.

What advice do you have for someone wanting to go into this line of work?

Expand beyond the design side of Architecture, gain an understanding of the technical/ engineering side of buildings.



Rendering of Andress High School's New Performing Arts Building

MEET THE PROJECT MANAGERS

The EPISD 2016 Bond Team highlights a different team member in each of our newsletters. The EPISD 2016 Bond Team consists of both EPISD staff and Jacobs/Huitt-Zollars staff, who are working hard to ensure projects are completed in a fiscally responsible and timely manner.



Rogelio Gonzalez
Project Manager; Huitt-Zollars

Rogelio Gonzalez is the Huitt-Zollars Project Manager for the Austin High School and the Coach Wally Hartley PreK-8 (Hughey/Ross Consolidation) projects. Gonzalez is a native of Juárez and a graduate of the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez with eight years of experience as a project manager. He began his career in construction as a draftsman while still enrolled in college, and now enjoys his role as a project manager.

“The project manager makes things happen,” Gonzalez said. “He or she has to know what the big picture looks like and then develops a plan to achieve it.”

Gonzalez said he likes working with other professionals who are impacted by the construction industry. Besides working with architects and engineers, he also interacts with teachers, lawyers and doctors, depending on the type of project he’s overseeing.

As Gonzalez continues his career in project management, he hopes he may eventually progress to become a Program Manager. For now, he enjoys working on every project that comes his way, learning from each new experience.

When he isn’t working towards the successful completion of the Bond projects, Rogelio enjoys going to the movies and spending time with his family in the bustling El Paso-Juárez area. “The Border has the best of both worlds,” he said. “We get to learn and enjoy both cultures making for a remarkable experience.”



Joel Olivas
EPISD Project Manager

Joel Olivas is a project manager for EPISD coordinating the Bond 2016 athletic upgrades for campuses throughout the District. A University of Texas at El Paso alumnus with a degree in civil engineering, Olivas is happy to work toward providing high-quality facilities to students, including upgraded tracks, tennis courts and new turfs for football and soccer.

Olivas said the engineering bug bit him since he was a teenager in high school. He says young students who wish to become engineers should approach the career with a desire to offer solutions to problems. “Anyone wanting to pursue this career should have an open mind,” he said.

Olivas said students interested in civil engineering should focus on material testing courses that provide the knowledge they’ll need in surveying and Geotech services.

He also says students should stay updated on technology. After being in this line of work for 18 years, Olivas says technology has drastically changed the speed in which documents are processed, logged and edited.

In his down time, Olivas loves spending time with his family, especially watching his kids play soccer. His favorite book is “The Shack” by William P. Young, and his favorite vacation spot is Puerto Peñasco, Mexico.

GROUNDBREAKINGS

TORRES ELEMENTARY GROUNDBREAKING

On Dec. 14, EPISD broke ground on the construction of the new Dr. Joseph Torres Elementary School, the Bond 2016 consolidation of Bradley and Fannin elementary schools.

More than 100 Bradley and Fannin students celebrated the start of construction for what will be their new state-of-the-art school. Students were joined by EPISD officials, project management staff and family members of Dr. Joseph E. Torres.

“This is an exciting time in EPISD,” said Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria, EPISD’s Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations. “The work we are doing here at Torres and throughout the District with the Bond 2016 funds will go a long way in making sure that our students have access to world-class facilities and top-notch educational services.”

Construction on Torres Elementary began in December and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2020. The

\$19.2 million construction project includes a 50,000 square foot building addition, which will house pre-kinder and first-grade classrooms, a multipurpose room, a library and administrative offices. The existing Bradley campus will undergo classroom renovations including new ceilings, paint and flooring, as well as the major renovation of the existing library and administrative area to create additional 21st century classrooms.

The project architect for Dr. Torres Elementary is ERO Architects and the General Contractor is Aztec Construction.

The campus is named after local World War II veteran, philanthropist and dentist, Dr. Joseph E. Torres. Dr. Torres was the founder of the local American G.I. Forum and a key contributor to the Legacy of Valor, a non-profit group committed to helping veterans and their families. The colors for the new campus will be royal blue, black and white, and the mascot is the raptors.



GROUNDBREAKINGS

ANDRESS HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING

Andress High School celebrated the start of construction for all Bond 2016 projects at the campus during a Jan. 23 groundbreaking ceremony. Andress music students and student athletes participated in the festivities that marked a nearly \$32-million investment in a new fine arts building and an athletics field house.

"It's a new era at Andress High School," said principal Joseph Manago. "We're excited for the future of our Andress Eagles and we are grateful to the community for the passage of the bond."

The scope of work for the 2016 bond project at Andress includes a performing arts center, equipped with a 500-seat University Interscholastic League theater and classrooms for band, choir, dance, drama and orchestra. Aside from the state-of-the-art performing arts center, a new fieldhouse for the football team will be built, along with renovations to the existing quad area on campus to make it an inviting and collaborative space for students.

Construction is anticipated to begin in February and finish in the fall of 2020.

"I'm excited for the future of fine arts here," Andress junior Omar Ramirez said. "I'm excited for what people will see when they look at Andress."



GROUNDBREAKINGS

DON HASKINS SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING

EPISD celebrated the start of construction of the new Don Haskins PreK-8 School on Feb. 1. The project is the Bond 2016 consolidation of Lincoln Middle with Bond and Roberts elementary schools.

The celebrations honored the school's namesake, famed University of Texas at El Paso basketball coach Don Haskins, and included performances by the UTEP Pep Band and an appearance by the University's mascot, Paydirt Pete.

The \$44-million construction project includes new middle school classrooms, a new gymnasium, new fine arts classrooms, a new library, a new cafeteria and renovations to a portion of the existing Lincoln campus for elementary classrooms. The project architect is GA Architecture and the general contractor is Urban Associates, Inc.

The project began construction in December of 2018 and is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2021.

Over 150 guests and students were in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony.

"We are looking forward to starting our new chapter as Don Haskins School," Lincoln Principal Haidi Appel said. "And I'm also looking forward to our improved facilities and twenty first century learning environments!"

Don Haskins PreK-8 School is named after one of the most well-known names in basketball for both his outstanding record as a coach and his role in helping to end segregation in college sports, Coach Don Haskins. The colors for Haskins PreK-8 School are orange, columbia blue and white.



CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL



CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

CROCKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

**LINCOLN MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

**DON HASKINS
PK-8**

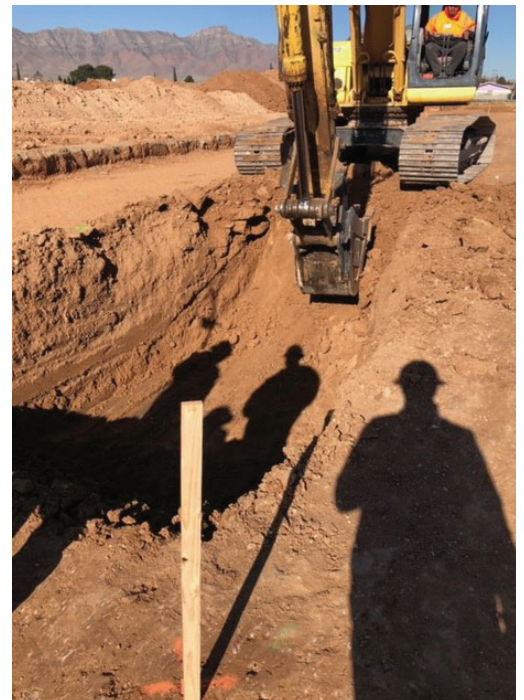


CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS



BRADLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DR. JOSEPH E. TORRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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WWW.EPISD.ORG/EPISDBOND2016

For more information on our 2016 Bond major construction projects, please visit our website. For questions or any other information, email our Bond Outreach Coordinator at mndalbin@episd.org.