



Center Independent School District

Superintendent, Dr. Brian Morris

May 6, 2021

To the Taxpayers and Citizens of the Center Independent School District:

We want to take this opportunity to inform you that the Center ISD Board of Trustees and Administration have agreed not to build the Multi-Purpose Event Center that encompassed the largest element of our extra-curricular improvements portion of the 2018 Bond Election. This decision was not an easy one to make and has only resulted after extensive internal discussions, and meetings with the architects and the construction company.

When seeking to pass the 2018 Bond Election, the District had been given an initial estimate of \$6.5-\$7 million to construct the Multi-Purpose Event Center facility. However, after the Bond Election passed and when the Multi-Purpose Event Center project was formally designed and then sent out for bid in January 2020, the bid came in with a price tag of about \$9.2 million. The Design Team immediately began working with the architects to determine what cost-saving measures could be employed to bring the facility's cost in line with the initial estimate. Over the last 16 months, we were able to get the price down to \$8.4 million with significant cuts to square footage and amenities; however, the current economic landscape has driven this cost back up to about \$8.9 million. Yes, the price went back up with a smaller building!

In an effort to salvage this project, we met with our Bond Attorney and our District's Financial Advisor to seek input on optional funding mechanisms. As a result of these meetings, we determined that for the District to build the facility as designed, we would have to take on additional debt, over and above the available Bond funds, in the form of a Maintenance Tax Note and a Time Warrant for an estimated combined amount of at least \$2 million.

With the price of steel and other construction materials sky-rocketing, as well as our belief that State funding of the schools will likely be cut as a result of the pandemic's effects on our economy, it is the determination of the Board of Trustees and the Administration that it is not in the best interest of the Center Independent School District and Center ISD taxpayers to not take on the additional debt required to complete the Multi-Purpose Event Center. Many of you will be disappointed with this news, and we fully believe this is a facility that we need. Should construction costs return to normal and should the uncertainty surrounding the funding of schools by the State of Texas be alleviated, we can revisit the construction of the Multi-Purpose Event Center in the future.

We appreciate the support that each of you demonstrated for students when this Bond Election passed in 2018. Unfortunately, no one could have predicted a global pandemic and what that would do to the economy, the availability of State funding, or costs of construction.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Brian Morris, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Center ISD

Matthew Mettauer
Board President
Center ISD



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Superintendent, Dr. Brian Morris

6 de Mayo de 2021

Para los Contribuyentes y Ciudadanos del Distrito Escolar Independiente del Center:

Queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad para informarle que la Mesa Directiva y la Administración de Center ISD han acordado no construir el Eventos de Usos Múltiples que se aprobó originalmente en nuestra elección de bonos de 2018. Esta decisión no fue fácil de tomar y solo ha sucedido después de extensas conversaciones, reuniones con arquitectos y la empresa constructora.

Cuando se aprobó el bono, el distrito recibió un estimado de \$6.5 a \$7 millones para construir esta instalación. Cuando llegaron las ofertas inicialmente, en enero de 2020, la instalación tenía un precio de alrededor de \$9.2 millones. El equipo de diseño comenzó a trabajar con los arquitectos para valorar el ingeniero del proyecto. Durante los últimos 16 meses, solo hemos podido reducir el precio a \$ 8.4 millones. Nuestro último precio con, como resultado de la ingeniería de valor adicional, fue de \$8.9 millones. (Sí, el precio volvió a subir con un edificio más pequeño).

Nos hemos reunido con nuestro Abogado de Fianzas y el Asesor Financiero de nuestro distrito. Hemos determinado que para construir la instalación que diseñamos originalmente, tendríamos que asumir una deuda adicional, además del bono. Hemos considerado una nota de impuestos de mantenimiento de \$1 millón y una orden de tiempo de \$1 millón. Con el aumento vertiginoso del acero y otros materiales de construcción, junto con la pandemia y la economía actual, la junta y la administración creen que detener este proyecto es lo mejor para los contribuyentes del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Center y del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Center.

Sabemos que muchos de ustedes se sentirán decepcionados con esta noticia y creemos plenamente que esta es una instalación que necesitamos. Potencialmente, podemos ver algo en el futuro, en caso de que los costos de construcción vuelvan a bajar.

Agradecemos su apoyo a los estudiantes cuando se aprobó este bono en 2018. Sin embargo, nadie podría haber proyectado una pandemia global y lo que eso le haría a nuestra economía, los precios de la construcción o la fuerza laboral. Si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en contactarnos.

Atentamente,

Brian Morris, Ed.D.
Superintendente
Center ISD

Matthew Mettauert
Presidente de la Mesa Directiva
Center ISD