

## **Bayshore Elementary School Questions and Answers**

***Why didn't we repair the old Bayshore Elementary School?*** Superintendent Lloyd Graham, Deputy Superintendent David Drake, and Director of Facilities Mike Clausen were in Bayshore the day after Hurricane Ike to evaluate the situation and see what was needed. A crew of 18 LPISD employees began cleaning up and sanitizing the school the following day, and the district continued remediation efforts with the hope of being able to return students and staff to the facility. Despite their efforts, when additional testing brought up concerns about air quality, structural integrity, and the need for asbestos remediation, coupled with age and elevation, it was determined that we could not return to the building. In fact, areas of the old Bayshore facility were flooded by as much as five inches of water during the rainstorm our area experienced on April 18 and again slightly on April 24. It appears that this interior flooding is being caused by backflow from breaches in the sanitary sewer lines.

***Why isn't the new school being built on the old Bayshore site?*** The new Bayshore Elementary was not rebuilt on the same site due to site elevation, size, and configuration. We also had to consider emergency access to the site. If the April 18 storm had occurred on a school day, and the narrow roads in the neighborhood were flooded, it would have been difficult for responders or parents to get to the campus.

***Why is LPISD building the new school at McCabe Road and Highway 146?*** The goal of the Board and Administration was to again provide a home school for children who live in the Bayshore attendance zone in Shoreacres and southeast La Porte. The Board established the following parameters in selecting a site: east of old Highway 146, west of new Highway 146, south of Fairmont Parkway, and north of Shoreacres Blvd. Several other sites were researched, but each had conditions that made construction of a school impractical. In considering the McCabe Road site, the district went through the due diligence process, which included environmental, traffic, and drainage studies. We also contracted with ABS Consulting to do a Phase I and Phase II environmental risk analysis, which addressed several worst-case scenarios for maximum credible fire, explosion and toxic release, as well as hurricane hazards. This prompted the purchase of the McCabe Road site, and as a condition of the approval, the Board required that we contract with ABS for a Phase II environmental risk analysis. We received a verbal report from ABS earlier this month indicating that there was no reason we should stop construction of the school; a full report by ABS representatives was provided at the April 28 Board meeting. Issues related to environmental and chemical spill concerns were addressed in both analyses. The Phase I and Phase II detailed risk analyses, as well as other information about the school, are available under "Bayshore Elementary Information" on the home page of our web site, [www.lpisd.org](http://www.lpisd.org).

***Why is the district moving so quickly to build the new school?*** The Board and Administration believe that it is important to return Bayshore students to a safe, sustainable, educationally appropriate, and permanent home campus as soon as possible. The district's quick action is not related to state funding or any other issue other than providing an elementary school to children in the Bayshore attendance zone in a timely manner.

***Why should we rebuild Bayshore if the students can be accommodated at other schools?*** First and foremost, the Board and Administration are committed to providing an elementary school for the students of Shoreacres and southeast La Porte. The temporary accommodation of Bayshore students has taken all of our LPISD elementary campuses to near practical capacity and is not a sustainable solution. To permanently move Bayshore students into other schools would require the district to abandon Bayshore's attendance zone and necessitate the redrawing of all elementary attendance zones.

Lastly, the 2005 bond issue included construction of Elementary #8 to accommodate future growth in the district. The increased enrollment and programmatic capacity of the new Bayshore, coupled with the planned additions to other elementary campuses, will, barring any unanticipated growth, preclude the need for Elementary #8.

***What will happen to the old Bayshore? Will the history of Bayshore be preserved?*** The old Bayshore building will be demolished in the coming months. Early on we promised neighbors that the school would not be used as a warehouse or allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. We are very aware of how much Bayshore Elementary has meant to our southeast La Porte and Shoreacres residents; therefore, the cornerstone and bricks from the old Bayshore are being incorporated into the design. Entrances to the foyer and library will be constructed with bricks from the old Bayshore, and the cornerstones for the new and old buildings will have places of honor on either side of the front entry.

***Why is the playground equipment being removed from the old Bayshore campus?*** In preparation for demolition, LPISD will be removing the playground equipment, which is in good condition, and putting it in storage for future use. It has been noted that the Parent-Teacher Organization provided substantial, if not all, funding for the equipment. By policy, practicality, and the law, such donations become property of the school district. It has been suggested that community volunteers remove the equipment so that it can be reinstalled at a Shoreacres park, but the law is specific about the manner in which school district property can be disposed, and it simply cannot be gifted. If, after construction of Bayshore is completed, the equipment is in fact surplus, the district would certainly be willing to work with the City of Shoreacres to see if some type of arrangement could be reached.

***What is the plan for Bayshore students next year?*** Because we want the transition to be as easy as possible for our Bayshore students, they will remain at the same school they attended this year until the new Bayshore opens. For example, Bayshore kindergartners who attended Heritage Elementary School this year will remain there for first grade. We anticipate that students will move to the new Bayshore for the second semester of the 2009-2010 year. If weather or other factors should move forward the date of substantial completion, our plan is to move into the new school as soon as it is practically possible.

Transportation to the new Bayshore will be provided for all students, regardless of whether or not they live within two miles of the school. We are working with the city on the walking trail project with the hope of connecting the school site to Broadway on the north side of McCabe Road, to housing to the north with a walking bridge and trail, and to the Shady River subdivision with a walking trail with access at the pool area. Parents who do not want their child to attend the new Bayshore Elementary may transfer their child to La Porte Elementary School. Transportation will be provided for these students as well.

***Will Bayshore teachers return to the new school?*** Our goal is to keep the Bayshore teachers together when we open the new school.

***Where will the money come from to build the new Bayshore?*** The new Bayshore will be paid for through a combination of FEMA and insurance reimbursements, bond funds allocated for renovations at the old Bayshore, and as needed, bond funds earmarked for the construction of Elementary #8.

The district continues to seek additional sources for funding the new Bayshore. LPISD has submitted project worksheets totaling \$3.6 million in damages (\$3.2 million for Bayshore) to FEMA; some of these are expected to be reimbursed at 90 percent, and others at 75 percent, depending upon the category. In addition, the district submitted the required notice of interest for a Hazardous Mitigation Grant to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and we received word in early March that the project was not eligible. Bond-funded construction of the new Bayshore will not impact the funding for instruction or any potential staff raises.

***What will be the cost of the new Bayshore?*** The preliminary design and development budget was \$21 million. The total budget for delivery of the new Bayshore and demolition of the old building is \$24.340 million and includes \$18.789 million for guaranteed maximum price of construction, plus \$2.639 million for the contract sale price of the property and \$2.912 million for soft costs.

The dollars above the preliminary budget were discussed openly and spent consciously. These dollars are all focused upon safety, storm survivability, community support subsequent to an event such as Ike, and instructional delivery. As opposed to just a carbon copy of our Heritage Elementary plan on a clean site which was already above the flood plain, the new Bayshore building is elevated to 18 feet. Furthermore, the structure was designed for a 140 mph wind load and the roof upgraded to 150 mph. In addition, the walls are hardened, the foundation stiffened, and the windows and other glazing are impact-resistant to 140 mph. A CO<sub>2</sub> sensor monitors and automatically adjusts outside air intake. The new Bayshore also will include perimeter fencing, an access control and intrusion protection system, security surveillance system, deceleration lane on McCabe Road, additional driveways for vehicle stacking at drop-off and pick-up times, and a 600KW emergency generator. Also added were four classrooms and dedicated fourth- and fifth-grade science labs.

UPDATE 5-8-09

***Is there a chance that a sexually oriented business could be located near Bayshore Elementary?*** La Porte ISD does not wish for sexually oriented businesses to be a part of the daily life of our students, by proximity or any kind of other connection. The assertion that a sexually oriented business may be located near Bayshore is unfounded. Nevertheless, after hearing this concern from community members, La Porte ISD investigated the issue to make sure that parents and other citizens have accurate information.

The City of La Porte has very strict ordinances for the location of sexually oriented businesses. Such businesses are only permitted in heavy industrial areas, and the closest area in which these businesses are allowed is miles away from the new Bayshore and outside the school's attendance zone.

It appears that this issue arose when an item dealing with sexually oriented businesses was published on the March 19, 2009, agenda of the La Porte Planning and Zoning Commission meeting (Section 10, under Open Workshops). There were no workshop items related to Bayshore at that meeting,

and this agenda item was in no way connected to Bayshore.