

# Executive Summary

## Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

### December 11, 2012

## Myers Middle School Construction Team Partnership

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#### **Board Goal: In pursuit of excellence, the Board will...**

- *develop and maintain a culture where learning is our first priority*
- *prepare students to be successful in a global society*
- *encourage community partnerships to achieve success for all students*
- *be environmentally responsible and aggressively pursue energy efficiency and conservation principles*

#### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform board members about the partnership efforts of the Myers Middle School construction team members. Leaders from DISD, VLK Architects, Balfour Beatty Construction, and RWB Consulting have teamed together in order to create a unique learning experience for fifth grade students who will attend Myers MS next year. It is our vision that by including students in the construction team meetings, they will learn about math, science, and technology applications found in construction careers. Additionally, they will participate in the construction planning process, tour the construction site, and identify examples of the sustainability and conservation features that are an important part of school design.

#### **Objectives**

- Expose fifth grade students to STEM related careers in architecture, engineering, technology and construction
- Create opportunities for math and science concept application in an authentic setting
- Increase students' ownership of, and pride in, their new middle school

#### **Operational Impact**

This project has no financial impact on DISD as Balfour Beatty has underwritten the costs of transportation and all of the materials have been created by project team members.

#### **Results**

The first meeting involved students from Stephens Elementary and was a huge success. These students took advantage of the opportunity to interact with their new principal and the construction team by asking a number of important questions. They also committed to share their positive experiences with their classmates.

Future meetings are scheduled monthly for students from the other feeder schools and then a final meeting for all of the school teams is planned. Based on the feedback already shared, the Stephens students valued the opportunity to work closely with their new principal as they participated in the construction meeting and toured their new school.

It is our belief that this effort can be replicated with future construction projects and that it effectively includes students in the school planning process and provides them access to professionals in the construction, engineering, and technology fields.

The next phase of this partnership is dedicated to structuring mentorships and internships for our high school students so that they will be better prepared for careers or further study in these areas.