

# A G E N D A

## I T E M

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**Subject:** Approve the Order Calling a Bond Election for the purpose of building a new elementary school.

**Rationale:** In May of 2010, an election was called in hopes of building a new elementary school. As the bond did not pass at that time, we are now in even greater need of a new facility to address the overcrowding, not just at the elementary but throughout the District.

The Board began researching different locations over a year ago and a facilities committee was formed in January. With input from the committee, a location was chosen and purchased. Additionally, after much discussion with committee members, it was decided that it would be much more beneficial to the school District to construct a building to house Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. After the initial investment, it will be more efficient to maintain fewer campuses and including 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will alleviate the overcrowding at the junior high.

As was mentioned at several facilities committee meetings, a new elementary school is an absolute necessity. If we do not pass a bond to begin construction, the cost of building will only continue to rise. At the current time, interest rates are excellent for selling bonds and with HB 3, the District would be able to keep tax rates much lower.

The HISD Facilities Committee recommends and supports the construction of a Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade campus to be built off of Hwy 81 near the high school.

Attached is a copy of the Order Calling a Bond Election.

**Recommendation:** Approve the Order Calling a Bond Election for the purpose of constructing a new elementary campus.