

## Metamorphosis: Growth and Facilities

The Board of Trustees honored two long-time Katy educators with school names. Retired teacher and principal Ursula Stephens was selected as the namesake for Elementary 28, while the School of Choice was officially renamed in honor of Mayde Creek High School legend Martha Raines.

For the first-time ever, the district used a dedicated e-mail box and a link on the Katy website to gather suggestions for school names. A community-wide call for nominations in December garnered 180 responses with 49 suggestions, which were considered for Elementary #28 and filed for future consideration.

Weight rooms at Beck, Katy and McDonald Jr. Highs and weight room improvements at Memorial Parkway Jr. High were funded by the 2002 bond authorization.

It took Katy ISD 77 years to enroll its first 25,000 students (1919-1996) and 11 years to enroll the next 25,000 (1997-2007). It will take only 6 years to enroll the next 25,000+ (2008-2013).



*In August 2006, Katy ISD opened the doors of its 27th elementary school, named after retired long-time administrator Mike Griffin. In the tradition of living namesakes before him, Mr. Griffin made the rounds of classrooms on the first day of school.*



### Bond aid

A 97-member bond committee spent more than 25 hours in meetings during the summer to create a \$269,472,225 bond package that was presented to voters on the general election ballot in November. The group, which represented a wide cross-section of the Katy community, aimed to design a plan that would fund capital projects through 2009, while creating capacity for future bond sales within a 40-cent debt service tax rate.

The plan, which was presented to the Board of Trustees in late August, earmarked nearly half (46.5%) of the bond package for additions and improvements at existing facilities. Those included expansion of Miller Career and Technical Center and the Opportunity Awareness Center/School of Choice, a new natatorium at Mayde Creek High School, as well as above-ceiling mechanical/electrical/plumbing improvements, carpet replacement, brickwork, restroom refinishing, air conditioning and other needs, a visitor screening system, security cameras and technology projects. The package also funded 3 new elementary schools, 2 new junior highs, design for another elementary (to be included in the next bond package), plus buses, portable buildings and land for 8 schools. 35,938 voters approved the authorization by a margin of 53.46% to 46.54%.

### Laying foundations

A successful November bond election paved the way for construction to begin on four schools — elementaries 30 and 31 and junior highs 11 and 12 — scheduled to open in the fall of 2008. Two schools will be located in the north part of the district: Elementary 30 adjacent to Morton Ranch Junior High and High School, and Junior High 11 near the intersection of Clay and Greenhouse Roads. The other two are in the south: Elementary 31 in the Seven Meadows subdivision and Junior High 12 in WoodCreek Reserve.

The Board's decision to utilize modified repeats of current school designs allowed the district to complete design documents and commence construction in spring 2007, while significantly reducing architect's fees for the new projects. Funds for the design of Junior High 11 came from the 2002 bond authorization, with the remaining cost of the four schools paid from the 2006 package.

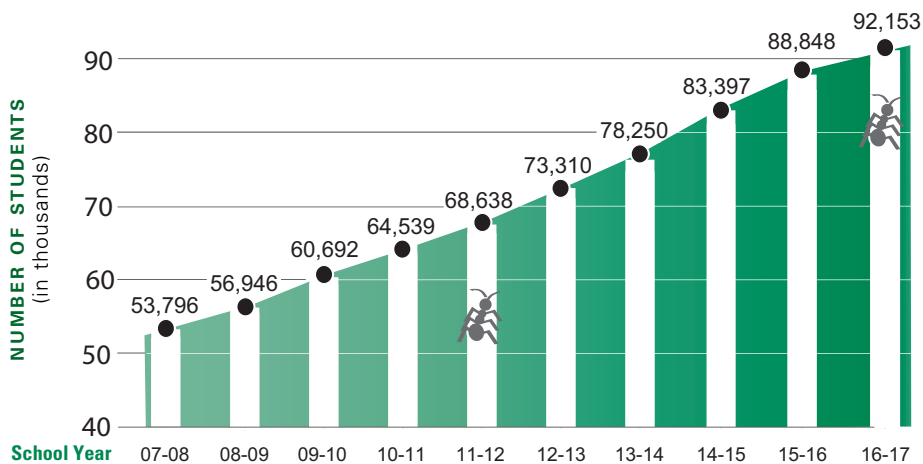
### Population shift

After a round of meetings and public hearings in late fall, two community committees forwarded recommendations for the zoning of new elementary schools to the Board of Trustees in December. The plan for Elementary #28 (Stephens) included moving one Land Use Zone (LUZ) each from McRoberts, Franz and Mayde Creek, and shifting one LUZ from McRoberts to Franz. The WoodCreek rezoning moved three zones (two without current students) from Katy, one from Rylander and five others from Kilpatrick. LUZ 74B, which had no current students, was assigned to Griffin Elementary.

### Road warriors

Katy ISD trustees adopted a resolution urging Fort Bend County to include key road projects in Fort Bend County/Katy ISD area in a mobility bond referendum presented to county voters in the spring. The resolution expressed a concern that, other than the Westpark Tollway, there had been "no significant major thoroughfare upgrades" in the area. They urged the county to revise its project ranking formula to incorporate future growth estimates rather than current population. Projections indicate that within the next 10 years, the southwest/Fort Bend sector of the district will grow by 20,000 students, 22,000 additional homes, 16 new schools and a stadium and a transportation facility.

## Growth Projections



## Quick start

With nearly half of the 2006 bond allocations destined for existing schools, a planning marathon by facilities department staff and schools ensured that millions of dollars in projects were moving forward by summer:

- construction of the Morton Ranch 9th Grade Center
- improvements at Bear Creek Elementary
- secure storefront entrances at Cimarron, Nottingham Country and Winborn Elementaries
- career and technical education labs at Katy, McDonald and Beck Jr. Highs
- chiller replacement at McDonald Jr. High
- emergency generator replacement at Nottingham Country Elementary
- track renovations at Taylor, Katy, Mayde Creek and Cinco Ranch High Schools
- hot water heater replacement in the athletic area at Mayde Creek High School
- roof replacement at Memorial Parkway Jr. High
- waterproofing at Mayde Creek High School
- carpet replacement at Fielder, Hayes and Memorial Parkway Elementaries
- exterior door replacement at Golbow, Pattison, Mayde Creek High School
- restroom floor and wall finish replacement at Cimarron, Fielder, Hayes and Memorial Parkway Elementaries
- design for expansion and renovations at the East Transportation Center
- design for expansion and renovations at Miller Career and Technology Center
- design for expansion and renovations at the Opportunity Awareness Center/Raines High School
- design for the natatorium at Mayde Creek High School
- design for additions and renovations at Mayde Creek and Sundown Elementaries

## Concrete kudos

The construction of Seven Lakes High School brought Katy ISD a 2006 Texas Association of School Boards-Texas Association of School Administrators School Architecture Award. Seven Lakes received awards for architectural excellence with distinction in the areas of value, design and planning process. The awards recognize energy efficiency; environmental solutions; life-cycle cost efficiency; cost per square foot; flexibility; adaptability and expandability; creative use of materials; community use of space; site development; and teacher, student, parent, and community input. Seven Lakes is the third school built on a basic plan first developed for Cinco Ranch High School.

*In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Katy ISD Custodial Rodeo, 11 teams proved that all work and a little play makes buildings sparkle. Contestants applied skills, techniques and equipment they use daily to outshine their competitors in 5 games — the buffer race, peanut push, pad toss, toilet tissue toss and soaked sponge relay. On rodeo day, the maintenance and operations department served a barbeque lunch to all 400-plus custodians, substitute custodians and guests who came to cheer. Back at home it's seldom fun and games. Katy ISD's evening custodians each clean an average of 28,000 square feet or the equivalent of 14 2,000-square-foot homes every work day.*



Katy ISD is projected to build out with approximately **100,000 students and 69 campuses** (9 high schools, 16 junior highs and 43 elementary schools).

Katy ISD has a **high percentage of homes with school-aged children**, resulting in a higher ratio of school-age children per home. Many growing districts in the Houston area have a student density ratio around 0.5 – 0.7.

**Two in five families (39.9%)** move to Katy ISD **from within the Houston area**. Out-of-state newcomers account for about one in four (26.8%).

Currently Katy ISD maintains 57 facilities with **more than 9 million square feet** – equal to five and a half Katy Mills Malls — and more than 1500 acres of developed property — as much as 1,165 football fields.

19 of Katy's 43 regular campuses were **built within the last ten years**. The rest date back as far as the 1950s.