Recommendation

Consideration and possible approval of a proposed interlocal agreement with Fort Bend County regarding the conveyance of an abandoned cemetery and other District property as described in the proposed agreement for the purposes of preserving the cemetery, creating a memorial park, and educating students and the greater Fort Bend ISD community about the cemetery and the State’s convict leasing program.

Summary

FBISD owns a 65.052-acre tract of real property (recorded in Plat No. 20160271 in the plat records of Fort Bend County) located near the intersection of University Boulevard and Chatham Avenue within the City of Sugar Land, Fort Bend County on which FBISD is developing the James Reese Career Center and Technical Center.

On February 19, 2018, contractors at the construction site of the technical center discovered human bones. Upon further investigation, an abandoned and unknown cemetery containing the remains of 95 individuals was discovered.

FBISD filed a lawsuit in the 434th Judicial District Court of Fort Bend County, Texas seeking removal of the cemetery designation as the District is not legally authorized to own, maintain or operate a cemetery.

On June 7, 2019, House Bill 4179 was signed into law and became effective immediately. It provides Fort Bend County with the legal authority to own, operate, and maintain a cemetery.

Conveyance of the cemetery to the County, as well as the other conveyances detailed in the proposed interlocal agreement will ensure preservation of the cemetery by a governmental entity authorized to own, maintain and operate it, and will permit the creation of a memorial park and access to the park, all of which will serve to educate students and the FBISD community about the cemetery and the State’s convict leasing program.
Recommended by:

Charles E. Dupre  
Superintendent of Schools

Submitted by:

Vincent Harding  
Associate General Counsel