Here’s what’s been going on during the past week:

1. The Design Advisory Committee (DAC) met for the first time on Tuesday, August 13. Planning Principal Jeremy Vincent commented on how excited he was to start this phase of the work. “It feels like we are finally getting into the creative part of the process where we can start talking about what our new school will look like.” At this first DAC meeting, committee members (1) met our architects and project managers; (2) learned more about the visioning process and their role in it; (3) established group norms; (4) reviewed community input from the June Town Hall and the Thoughtexchange; and began identifying major themes. While the members of the Design Advisory Committee will not be determining the building site or drawing floor plans, they will be setting priorities to guide the design and construction of the new Ferndale High School. The next meeting of DAC will take place on Monday, August 26, when the whole group will spend the entire day touring other recently built high schools to begin to develop a shared knowledge base about what might be possible in Ferndale.

2. Regarding DAC, I want to let you know we will be putting out a press release next week with a complete list of committee members. We are also in the process of building an online depository for all DAC materials -- agendas, PowerPoint presentations, notes, resources, decisions, etc. -- so that all interested community members can access them at any time.

3. We have begun advertising our RFQ (Request For Qualifications) for GC/CM (General Contractor/Construction Manager) services for the new Ferndale High School. That RFQ can be found here. We were pleased to see that the Daily Journal of Commerce featured our project on the front page of the August 8 edition – the first day we began advertising our RFQ. That feature can be found here. (The full story is only available to subscribers.)

4. On Monday, August 19, we will be hosting a mandatory tour of the current FHS campus for any general contractor who is interested in being considered for our project. Attendance at that meeting will give us a good idea of the level of interest. Our goal is to have a general contractor hired by the end of October 2019 so that he or she can participate fully in the GC/CM process.

5. The next meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 6:00 pm, in the Mountain View Campus Conference Room. The BOC is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, so all of their gatherings are announced in advance and open to any community member who wishes to attend as an observer.

6. Because one of the Bond Oversight Committee members is moving away, the Committee is recruiting a new alternate member. All those interested in applying for this position can access an application form at the following link: bit.ly/FSDBOCAplication.
7. The Ferndale School District plans to have a booth at the Ferndale Street Festival on Saturday, August 24, with information available about our bond projects as well as Board members and staff who can answer questions.

If you have questions or comments about anything in this update, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Linda