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

1. We have met with the geotechnical and structural engineers to begin evaluation of potential areas to locate the new high school building. Three general areas are being studied: (1) on the practice fields just north of the gym; (2) in the space south and southeast of the track, where existing buildings are located; and (3) on the front (Vista side) parking lot. Many factors will come into play in making the final decision about where to site the building including soil conditions, groundwater levels, and the design of the structure’s foundations. The design team, which now includes our general contractor from Cornerstone, will continue to evaluate options. This decision about where the building will be located is extremely critical, because the amount of money we have to spend on site work, which can be substantial, will determine how much we have left to put into the actual building. Given our relatively tight budget, we are committed to finding the most cost-effective solution.

2. Our Environmental Consultant, EHSI, has finished their sampling efforts on all of the existing high school buildings. With over 2,000 samples collected, this was a significant effort. However, roof sampling has not yet been completed, since EHSI’s roofing sub-contractor was unable to do this work. Sampling of the roof materials will take place as soon as a new roofing contractor who is able to warranty the repairs for the remaining two-year life of the buildings can be found. With the information, we have obtained from EHSI, we now have an estimate of what it will cost to handle any hazardous materials (primarily asbestos-containing materials) properly and safely during demolition of the existing school. EHSI estimates that cost will be around $716,000. Note: Asbestos-containing materials were very common when the original buildings were constructed. Currently, all of these materials are safely contained (inside walls and crawl spaces) and are not an exposure risk to students or staff.

3. As part of the Safety and Security promises included in the bond, our team at Dykeman Architects has developed plans for secure entry vestibules and new access control at Cascadia, Central, Custer, Eagleridge, Skyline, Horizon, Vista, and the Administration Building. Now we are reviewing these plans and the scope of work they entail in relation to cost estimates and available budget.

4. The next meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 pm, in the conference room at the Mt. View Learning Center (5780 Hendrickson Rd). All meetings of the Bond Oversight Committee are open to the public.
5. The next meeting of the Design Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 4:00-6:00 pm, in the cafeteria at Ferndale High School.

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

Linda