

# BOND UPDATE #67

07.10.20

Since Friday, July 3, was a holiday, I did not publish a Bond Update last week. Here's what's been going on during the past two weeks since I last wrote to you:

1. We continued our work on the secure vestibule projects with a biweekly project meeting and also a special technology-focused meeting on the integration of the door access hardware and cameras into the District network. Tiger has begun construction at several of our buildings.
2. We had representatives from KCDA come to the District to assess the needed roof repairs at Vista Middle School and provide a pricing proposal. The cost estimate they gave us looks promising, so we are evaluating whether engaging their services might be our best path forward.
3. We have processed all of the paperwork to begin the fencing projects that were included in the bond package, and we anticipate this work will begin shortly.
4. We are also working on the repaving projects at Vista and Skyline that are largely funded by FEMA. The District was awarded a FEMA grant for repairs caused by winter storm damage two years ago.
5. We held our official pre-application meeting with the City of Ferndale to talk about the new Ferndale High School project. The meeting, which had a very full agenda, was well-attended by both District project team members and City staff. The primary topics for discussion included: (1) the land use/permit process, (2) City design standards, (3) code requirements, and (4) overall schedules. We also reminded the City that the high school project is on a very tight budget, and that the District wants to focus funds on a building that supports a quality educational program. We look forward to a continued partnership with the City as we begin the permitting process later this summer.
6. At their June 30 meeting, the Ferndale School Board received a quarterly report from the Bond Oversight Committee. That report can be accessed in BoardDocs embedded in the June 30 meeting agenda.
7. At their June 30 meeting, the Ferndale School Board officially approved the Educational Specifications for the new Ferndale High School. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) says the purpose of Educational Specifications is to "define and communicate to the architect and engineers the District's goals and requirements for what a given facility should be to accommodate its programs." Dykeman Architects completed the Ed Specs for the new FHS facility with input from District staff, students, and the Ferndale community. The School

Board is required to approve them through a formal motion. The 244-page document can be accessed in BoardDocs embedded in the June 30 meeting agenda.

8. At their June 30 meeting, the Ferndale School Board approved the plan to move two high school programs -- SOAR and the Ferndale Virtual Academy -- from the Performing Arts Center to the current CTE building. In making their decision, the Board considered the following: (1) The change is endorsed by the high school administrators and staff who oversee the two programs, because it will give them more space and also fulfill the needs/desires of some of the students in the programs to be separated from large crowds; (2) The move will provide additional square footage for CTE in both the new building and the Performing Arts Center; (3) Although this idea was not part of the original plan, the Board believes it is prudent leadership to consider creative problem-solving ideas that come up during design development in order to achieve maximum value with available resources; (4) Our project managers have discovered that continuing to use the existing CTE building to house students will *not* jeopardize our eligibility for state matching funds either now or in the future; (5) While the existing CTE building is not an appropriate space for CTE programs, which require significantly more equipment, power, and ventilation than a generic classroom, there are spaces in the existing CTE building that can be made appropriate for the programs under consideration; (6) With some relatively minor cosmetic improvements (beyond the improvements we need to make any way to keep CTE students in the building for another 2-3 years), we can bring four of the classrooms up to a standard equitable with classrooms in Vista, Custer, and Central; and (7) Leaving the existing CTE building standing, as opposed to tearing it down, will also save dollars that can be put into the new facility.
9. The Dykeman Architect team continues to finalize the design development drawings, with the final package expected to be complete by the end of July 2020. In order to reach this stage of design development, the architects have spent many hours with staff to understand fully the needs of their educational programs.
10. Upgrades to the Performing Arts Center (PAC) are included as part of Cornerstone's construction efforts. Engineers have been visiting the PAC to gain a better understanding of existing conditions so they can more precisely define the scope of work. The budget and list of potential PAC improvements were originally outlined in the Bond Task Force Final Recommendation Report back in March 2018. The team is currently evaluating the proposed scope of items against the available budget of \$2.0 million.
11. We know at this time that the Ferndale High School project will go to bid with several add alternates. Depending on the price of the base bid, we hope to be able to add one or all of the following four alternates back into the project: (1) an auxiliary gym, (2) a new aquaculture building, (3) a new greenhouse, and/or (4) a new agricultural science building.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments about any of this.

Linda