

BOND UPDATE #96

02.19.21

Here's what's going on with our bond projects:

1. On February 16, the City's EAGLE Board held the public meeting to review the high school project. EAGLE Board members were very supportive of the project's meeting the EAGLE Platinum criteria (**E**nvironmental Efficiency, **A**dvanced Technologies, **G**reater Good, **L**ow Impact Development, and **E**conomic Development). They demonstrated their support by allowing for some creative interpretations of the EAGLE requirements, which are primarily designed for commercial projects. We are expecting the Board's final decision soon, but we anticipate no issues with meeting Platinum level standards.
2. We have continued to see a high level of subcontractor interest in bidding the packages that have been advertised by Cornerstone. Bids will be opened next week on February 23 and 24 at 2:00 via Zoom. Results of the bids will be formally announced once we have a chance to verify them.
3. Cornerstone anticipates mobilizing their on-site job trailers during the last two weeks of March. We are excited to see the first real presence of construction activity on the high school campus!
4. Actual construction is still planned to begin the first week of May with demolition of the grandstands and clearing of the football field, although it is possible the demolition of the grandstand could happen earlier, if we are able to coordinate permits with the City.
5. On February 17, a Ferndale group that included a high school teacher, a counselor, a building administrator, our chief architect, our CSG project managers, and several members of the FHS Executive Steering Committee (including me) toured the recently completed Stanwood High School. We visited the school a year ago when it was still under construction. In December 2020, they moved in to a completed facility (although they have still had very few students using the campus for in-person learning). The tour allowed us to see finishes, color choices, and furniture, along with hearing from the Stanwood team about their decision-making processes. For instance, they told us about hosting a "furniture rodeo," where manufacturers set up displays of different chairs, desks, cabinets, and cafeteria tables and invited staff, students, and community members in to try them out and vote on their choices. This is something we plan to do as well. All in all, the fieldtrip proved to be very instructive.
6. On February 18, we used our Every Thursday Facebook Live program to share plans for the new Ferndale High School facility. Panelists included Jeremy Vincent (FHS Principal), Mark Deebach (Assistant Superintendent), Sam Comer

(Cornerstone General Contractor), Riley Cornelsen (Bond Oversight Committee Co-Chair), Anya Milton (Bond Oversight Committee Co-Chair), and me. The content included site plans, floor plans, artists' renderings, the phasing plan, and our timeline for construction and occupancy. A recorded version of the program is posted on the District's Facebook page.

7. On February 16, the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) held its monthly meeting. I will include an overview of that meeting in my next update.
8. I reported last week that we would be opening bids from contractors who want to do the HVAC work on four of our schools on February 18. That date got pushed back to February 26.
9. Our CSG (Construction Management Group) Project Manager, Tex Ladish, submitted an updated report on the status of our bond funded critical maintenance and security projects, which I have included below:

Bond Maintenance Projects IN PROGRESS OR PLANNED

- **Hot Water Tank Replacements – Summer 2021:** The remaining districtwide hot water tank installation projects are expected to be completed by the District Maintenance Department in the summer of 2021.
- **Roofing Projects at Central Elementary and Custer Elementary – Summer 2021:** Purchase orders have been issued and the contracts are expected to be signed next week. Roofing work at both schools is scheduled for the summer of 2021.
- **Masonry Repairs at Custer Elementary and Skyline Elementary – Summer 2021:** The estimate for masonry restoration at Custer is due next week. The estimate for Skyline has just been received. These projects are planned for the summer of 2021.
- **Security Fence at North Bellingham Learning Center – Summer 2021:** This remaining fencing project is planned for the summer of 2021.
- **Safety and Security Upgrades at Beach Elementary – Summer 2021:** This remaining safety and security project is planned for the summer of 2021.
- **Exterior Lighting Upgrades – Summer 2021:** Some exterior LED lighting upgrades have been completed, and the remaining upgrades are planned for the summer of 2021.
- **Direct Digital Controls – Fall 2021:** The Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for the DDC HVAC control system upgrade work at Skyline Elementary, Custer Elementary, North Bellingham Learning Center, and Mountain View. The RFP advertisement has been published in the *Bellingham Herald*. On February 10, we hosted a site walk for interested contractors. Proposals were due to the district on February 18.
- **Other HVAC Controls – 2022:** HVAC control upgrades for Central Elementary, Eagleridge Elementary, Cascadia Elementary, and Horizon Middle School are planned for 2022.

Bond Maintenance, Safety and Security Projects COMPLETED

- **Security Fencing at Horizon Middle School, Eagleridge Elementary, and Skyline Elementary:** Seven-foot high chain link security fencing installation is now complete at all three schools. Swing gates and rolling gates have been installed.
- **Roofing at Vista Middle School:** Roofing repairs and upgrades at Vista Middle School are complete.
- **Fire Alarm Panels at Eagleridge Elementary, Central Elementary, and Horizon Middle School:** New fire alarm panels have been installed at all three schools and have received final inspections.
- **Heat Valves for Vista Middle:** Approximately 76 heat valves were replaced at Vista by the district maintenance staff and that work is complete.
- **Secure Vestibules, Access Control, and Security Cameras:** The vestibule construction and safety and security improvements are now complete on all eight projects. Improvements and upgrades were made at Cascadia Elementary, Central Elementary, Custer Elementary, Eagleridge Elementary, Horizon Middle School, Skyline Elementary, Vista Middle School, and the District Office. Project scopes of work varied. They included secured vestibules, installation of electronic access control, security cameras, and buzz-in entry systems. At each school, all exterior doors are now locked once school starts and visitors request entry at the front door by pushing the entry intercom button. Office staff have a large screen video view and intercom to talk with the visitor before buzzing open the exterior doors. In the entry vestibule, the second set of doors is also locked so visitors continue into the office to be checked in before proceeding into the school.

If you have questions or comments about any of the content of this update, please feel free to reach out to me or one of my colleagues.

Linda