

BOND UPDATE #91

01.15.21

1. We are continuing to work with the City of Ferndale to ensure the new high school will meet the EAGLE development standards the City has adopted (**E**nvironmental Efficiency, **A**dvanced Technologies, **G**reater Good, **L**ow Impact Development, and **E**conomic Development). Due to the size of the building, we are required to reach the Platinum standard, which is the highest level. The EAGLE Board will hold their final hearing on our project in mid-February.
2. Because of the magnitude and complexity of the new school, we will be constructing and opening it in phases. We are currently coordinating with Cornerstone Construction and the design team to work out the details of each phase, with our focus on making sure the school can continue to operate safely while construction is taking place on site. Once the phases have been finalized, we will be presenting them to the public. We want everyone to know what to expect in each phase, including how they will be able to access and safely navigate the campus.
3. We had a good discussion this week with our electrical engineer, Hargis, about the clocks, bells, and intercom system in the new high school. One of the firms interested in bidding on the system proposed an alternative to the current specifications. After evaluating the proposal, we determined it was not an acceptable alternate. Approved equivalencies are included in the current spec to promote competition between contractors.
4. We had a lengthy meeting this week to talk about the options for improving the ground under the pre-engineered metal building (PEMB) and to make sure the district understood both the risks and benefits of the three approaches that have been proposed. The goal of the meeting was to arrive at a decision on the best path forward so we can incorporate that into our base bid. Taking into consideration the likely differences in the rate of settlement that will be caused by the three-story classroom wing and the PEMB due to weight differentials and variations in foundations, we concluded that we should use the same style of geopiers on the PEMB as we are using on the classroom wing. The piers will be more shallow because the building is considerably lighter, but this approach will minimize the risk of the buildings settling at different rates and prevent many related problems down the road.
5. Several members of the Executive Steering Committee for the new high school project are planning to take a field trip to the new Stanwood High School within the next week or so to look at the furnishings they have recently installed. While pictures are great, they're no substitute for seeing how everything looks in a space, so this is a timely opportunity in an almost neighboring school district.

6. We are still on track to put the high school project out to bid by the end of January or shortly thereafter.
7. The topic of the district's Every Thursday Facebook Live program on February 4 will be the plans for the new Ferndale High School facility. This will give us another opportunity to provide the community with a progress report on the project; share the most up-to-date design documents, site plans, classroom layouts, and artists' renderings; and explain the phasing plan and timeline for construction and occupancy.
8. The next Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 6:00 pm, via Zoom. Interested parties can register in advance for this webinar by accessing the following link: <https://www.ferndalesd.org/community-oversight-committee>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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

Linda