

BOND UPDATE #81

10.16.20

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

1. Now that we have been issued the Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) for the new Ferndale High School project, we have satisfied all of the requirements for the next step in the State Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) funding process (sometimes referred to as "state matching dollars"). This will allow us to submit the D-5 application, bringing us one step closer to getting final approval for the funding. This is a big deal, because we anticipate we will receive close to \$20 million from the state to support our FHS project.
2. Due to the size of the Ferndale High School project, the constraints of the site, and the requirement that school must remain in session during construction, we have determined that we will need to complete the project in several phases. The project team has been evaluating the phases proposed by Cornerstone Construction, especially in terms of their impacts on students and staff. At this point in time, we are anticipating five phases of construction, beginning in May 2021 and ending in September 2023 -- which puts us right on schedule with the timeline we published at the outset of the project. Details about the five phases will be shared with the public as soon as we are able to work out more specifics.
3. I have included below an October 9, 2020 photo report showing near completion of the secure vestibules at Central Elementary, Skyline Elementary, and Vista Middle School. These were paid for with the \$1 million of bond funds designated for safety and security projects.
4. The next Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 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.
5. In February 2019, voters approved a \$112 million **bond** that made possible the bond projects we have been reporting on in these Friday updates for the past 81 weeks. On November 3, 2020, the Ferndale School District is asking voters to approve a replacement **levy**. A question that has been raised several times is this: Why do we need to pass a levy when we just passed a big bond measure less than two years ago? The answer is that bonds and levies pay for very different aspects of education. A bond is like a mortgage on a house. All of the money comes up front to finance a major construction or renovation project, and it is paid back by taxpayers over a number of years. Levies, on the other hand, supply dollars to support the ongoing operation of a school district, bridging the gap between what the state pays

and what the local community needs to educate its children. Almost every district in Washington relies on local levies, which extend for a finite number of months. When levies expire, they have to be renewed or the funding ends. Ferndale's current levy will expire on December 31, 2020. If the replacement levy on the November 3 ballot passes, it will begin providing funding to the school district -- *at a lower rate* -- on January 1, 2021. Here is a video explaining [the difference between a levy and a bond](#).

As always, please reach out to me or one of my colleagues if you have questions.

Linda

Secure Vestibules Improvement Project

Date: October 9, 2020



Central ES: The new entry vestibule is now complete.



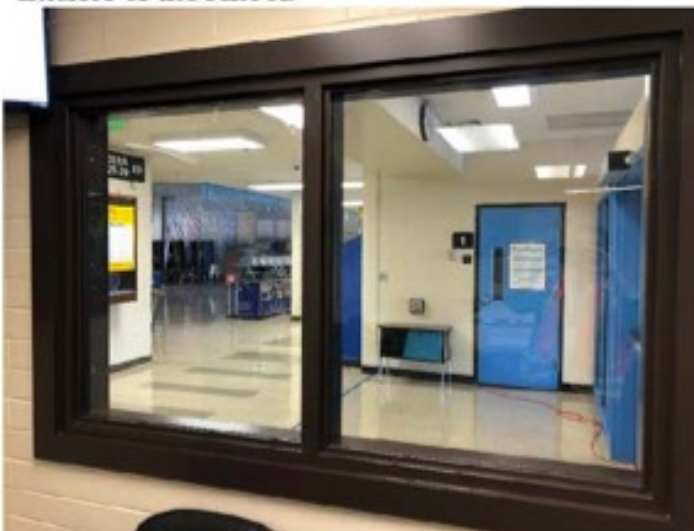
Central ES: Visitors will need to be buzzed in and enter the office through this new door from the vestibule.



Central ES: A view of the new vestibule from the interior of the school.



Skyline ES: A view of the new entry canopy at the secured vestibule entrance.



Vista MS: A view from the office through the new window into the hallway and cafeteria.



Vista MS: The new entry vestibule that directs all visitors into the office.