

# BOND UPDATE #61

05.22.20

Here's what's been going on this week:

1. This week, Cornerstone, as our GC/CM Contractor, advertised for bids for a pre-engineered metal building (PEMB) contractor. The PEMB contractor will help to finalize the details of the metal buildings and will then manufacture and install them. As a reminder, the CTE and gym portions of the new school will be pre-engineered metal buildings connected seamlessly to the rest of the school. By using PEMB, we are able to save on both schedule and construction costs. Bids are due June 5.
2. After hours and hours of online meetings and information gathering, we have come to the conclusion that GPON (Gigabyte Passive Optical Network) is not the best option for the new high school's technology infrastructure. This means the design will move forward as originally intended, using CAT-6 (copper) wiring instead of fiber. The design team is confident that CAT-6 can be designed in a cost-effective manner that will provide flexibility and support the educational program for several decades. Although GPON provides certain benefits, it is not yet a proven system for the K-12 environment.
3. The Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) for the new high school are being finalized and prepared for adoption by the School Board at their June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Ed Specs were developed by Dykeman Architects and will provide an overall road map for how the new high school is being designed to ensure it will support the District's educational programs. The Ed Specs were developed with input from District staff, students, and community members. We plan to make these available on our website in future weeks.
4. The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) met Tuesday of this week (May 19) via Zoom video conferencing. Here is a summary of the work they accomplished:
  - Committee members reviewed draft plans for the new Ferndale High School, which continue to be refined. They recommended to the administration that additional information be sought in two areas: warranty and maintenance of the membrane roof and the potential of adding an expandable frame for future growth to the CTE/gymnasium area of the building. Also, they suggested factoring in a plan to build concessions underneath the grandstand should funds become available in the future.
  - The Committee received information from Ferndale High School Principal Jeremy Vincent about the *possible* use of the current CTE building to house the Golden Eagle Academy and Ferndale Virtual Academy Programs. This would facilitate the move of the video/web design program from the current CTE building to the

Performing Arts Center where the two academies are currently located. The proposed plan would (1) provide more square footage for CTE programs; (2) allow for the expansion of the two academies; and (3) add one more classroom. This idea will be presented to the School Board at its May 26 meeting. It is currently only being explored. No decision has been made.

- The Committee received a report regarding the safety and security projects that are part of the bond package. Plans have been finalized for the vestibules or security alternatives at each school location and the district office. The projects will go out for bid next Tuesday (May 26). Our plan is to complete this work during the upcoming summer months.
- The Committee reviewed financial documents and bond-related spending for the month of April. Total spending to date equals \$2.203 million.
- Committee members confirmed their next meeting is scheduled for June 23. Agendas and minutes of the committee are available on the district website at <https://www.ferndalesd.org/community-oversight-committee>

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

Linda