

BOND UPDATE #55

04.10.20

We don't have a whole lot of new information to report this week, other than the fact that we are continuing to refine and finalize the design for the new high school.

1. We are nearing another milestone with the Ferndale High School project with completion of the Schematic Design Cost Estimates. We actually have three different sets of cost estimates – one from our GCCM Contractor (Cornerstone) and two from independent cost estimators on the Design Team. Having two cost estimators from the design side is not a common practice. However, we decided it was necessary to engage a local cost estimator who was familiar with the unique market conditions in Whatcom County. The next step will be to reconcile the three cost estimates with the goal of arriving at one final comprehensive cost estimate.
2. As part of the process of making sure that “one final comprehensive cost estimate” for the new high school aligns with our budget, we are continuing the process of looking very hard at the cost-savings recommendations made by our Value Engineering (VE) team. During a Zoom meeting this afternoon with representatives from the District, Construction Services Group, Dykeman Architects, and Cornerstone Construction, we continued to explore and evaluate options for cutting costs without compromising the functionality of the new high school facility. We heard our community tell us they want a high school that offers the biggest possible bang for their taxpayer dollars, and we are committed to delivering on that request.

I hope you are all healthy and safe. As always, reach out if you have questions or comments.

Linda