

BOND UPDATE #53

03.27.20

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

1. As we all know (and we are all now living), Governor Inslee issued a *Stay Home--Stay Healthy* Order on Monday, March 23, "prohibiting all people in Washington State from leaving their homes or participating in social, spiritual and recreational gatherings of any kind regardless of the number of participants, and all non-essential businesses in Washington State from conducting business." The order goes on to identify the specific kinds of essential activities permitted to continue under this proclamation. According to guidance published on March 24 by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal regarding school construction projects, "neither the [Governor's] proclamation nor the list of essential functions would preclude [us] from continuing [our] construction projects at this time." Along with several other Washington superintendents whose districts are currently engaged with such construction projects, I sent a letter to both Governor Inslee and Superintendent Reykdal on March 25 letting them know that our school district "strongly believes that the K12 construction activities performed by our construction industry partners clearly fall under the definition of essential services," and requesting that "the general contractors who work with our school districts in our ESD Region make every reasonable effort to continue making uninterrupted progress on the construction projects that are helping us deliver critical infrastructure to our school district, our citizens, and our students." The Governor has subsequently allowed that school construction work may continue at the discretion of the school district as long as workers meet COVID-19 health, safety, and social distancing norms.
2. Although actual construction is not yet underway in Ferndale, we are continuing to work closely with our partners at Cornerstone Construction through the design phase of the Ferndale High School project.
3. The Value Engineering (VE) process has continued to move forward this week. Representatives from the School District, Dykeman Architects, Cornerstone Construction, and Construction Services Group held a very productive (virtual) meeting to begin to discuss each of the items on the list. The next step will involve the design team's making recommendations about which of the suggested changes should be brought forward into the next phase of the design. Ultimately, the complete list of VE items, along with cost estimates and the design team's recommendations about each, will be consolidated into one comprehensive report that will be presented to the District.

4. In addition to reviewing the Value Engineering items, Dykeman Architects have been developing spatial test fits for CTE classrooms and shops, the student commons, and the learning commons (previously known as the library). The purpose of the spatial test fits is to determine whether the allotted space for each of these functions will accommodate all of the necessary equipment, furniture, and people who need to operate within them.
5. The March Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) meeting, which was scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, was canceled by the School Board in keeping with the Governor's prohibition on such gatherings. The District has committed to continue to supply members of the BOC with written documentation of the work that is occurring this month and to update and/or consult with the BOC chair(s) via telephone as necessary.
6. Dykeman Architects have created several renderings based on the Schematic Design to help us begin to envision what our new high school is going to look like. I am sharing these renderings with you below, but I do so with the caveat that they are still only "drafts" at this point. They do not, for instance, represent the actual finishes or color schemes we will have outside or inside our new school, since decisions about color schemes and finishes have not yet been made. They do, however, give an exciting glimpse of what we have to look forward to!





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

Linda