

BOND UPDATE #48

02.21.20

Here's what's been going on with our bond projects this week:

1. Project Manager Heidi Hansen sent a draft version of the conceptual site plan for the Ferndale High School replacement project to Ferndale City Planner Haylie Miller and requested a pre-application meeting with City officials as soon as they have had time to review the plan. We look forward to working with the City as we develop this exciting project for the Ferndale community.
2. Following our February 13 tour of the new Anacortes High School, we requested a final floor plan and educational specification/program detail for both the CTE and the kitchen service area in the Commons. We believe the information will be very helpful as we now move into the Schematic Design phase of the FHS project.
3. The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) met on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Below is a summary of that meeting:
 - Committee members reviewed and discussed answers to the seven questions they had received since their last meeting in January. [Those questions are available here.](#)
 - Project Manager Heidi Hansen presented a budget update to the Oversight Committee. She explained that the need for additional Geotech and HazMat investigations will result in a shift in some budget categories -- although there will be no impact to the overall project budget nor the contingency fund. Committee members reviewed the cashflow plan. To date, a total of \$1,081,225 of the bond budget has been expended -- \$737,941 for the high school project and the remaining balance for the maintenance and security items included in the bond package.
 - Ms. Hansen reported that the Design Team is continuing to refine the site and floor plan for the high school. Some of concerns the team is working to address are: (1) the prominence of the office location; (2) the length of time it will take students to travel from one area of the campus to another; (3) the need for a protected walkway between the new school and exterior buildings; and (4) various safety and security factors.
 - CSG Representative Tex Ladish reported on the GeoTech work that has been done on the FHS campus. The broad testing has been completed and the geo-engineers are now working in phase two, which includes investigating the subsurfaces that will have a direct impact on supporting the foundation of the school.

- Mark Deebach reported that the Design Team recently toured Anacortes High School and Stanwood High School. The team was excited about what they saw. For example, Anacortes has its woodshop at the front entrance as you enter its plaza. This was purposefully planned to allow the community to see education in action. Mr. Deebach noted that Stanwood High School CTE program is going to be housed in a metal building much like the one we are planning. The consensus of the tour group was that it is a very attractive and functional building.
- A question was raised about the timeline for the educational specification process. Mr. Deebach said the CTE plan and numeric program are currently being refined. He will work on providing an estimate of when the plan will be available to committee members for review.
- Committee members received, reviewed, and gave input to the plans for secure vestibules at all locations. Mr. Ladish said the District will be engaging with local contractors to get more concrete cost estimates for the vestibules. Work on the vestibules is anticipated to begin this summer. The committee was in favor of a “buzz in” system to gain entry into the buildings.
- Riley Cornelsen reported that he and Anya Milton wrote a letter to the editor of *My Ferndale News* describing the work to date of the Bond Oversight Committee, and the letter was published online. He also noted the update of the dashboard on the District website.
- Andrew McLaurin reported the School Board would be considering a new policy regarding sponsorships and donations at its next meeting on February 25. A discussion ensued about a State law that directs how funds are distributed once a District receives them. Mr. Deebach agreed to check with the District's legal counsel about this matter.
- Committee members debriefed their second report to the School Board, which they delivered on January 28. They thought the presentation to the Board went well, but lacked some context. On behalf of the School Board, Mr. McLaurin complimented the Committee for the quality of their first two reports.
- Committee members reviewed an application and spoke to a candidate who applied to serve as an alternate on the Committee. They decided to continue their discussion at the next BOC meeting.
- The next meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee is scheduled for March 24, 6:00 pm, at the District's Mountain View site. More information about the committee may be accessed at this link <https://www.ferndalesd.org/community-oversight-committee>.

4. Tex Ladish put together a photo report of the additional soil investigation work that happened on the FHS campus on Monday, February 17 (a school holiday). [The photos are available here.](#)
5. A question has come up about how the levy failure might impact our bond projects. Levy dollars are used for general operating costs. The loss of those dollars will have a significant impact on the programs and ongoing operation of our school district. However, funds raised through the sale of bonds can only be used for capital projects, as outlined in the bond resolution. In other words, bond dollars cannot be used to backfill for lost levy revenue. The loss of the renewal levy will not significantly impact the bond projects.

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

Linda