

BOND UPDATE #26

08.30.19

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

1. August 24 Ferndale School District staff hosted a booth at the annual Ferndale Street Festival, where they were able to share information with community members about our bond projects and answer any questions. (We have committed to bond-focused community events approximately once per quarter to keep in touch with citizens about how we are fulfilling the promises of the bond. Our first event was a Town Hall in the FHS cafeteria on June 11. The Street Festival was our second event.)
2. August 26 the Design Advisory Committee had its tour day. We met at 8:00 am in front of the gym at FHS and headed out -- four vanloads of us -- to visit three new high schools. We started our tour day at Meridian High School, which has been open for five years and is significantly smaller than the high school we are planning to build. (The student FTE at MHS is under 400.) Our next stop was Sehome High School in Bellingham, which just opened halfway through the 2018-2019 school year. The new Sehome was built for 1200 students and gave us a good look at a big, all-under-one-roof high school facility. Our final stop was Lake Stevens High School, a project that is a combination of renovation and new three-story construction (still very much *under construction*), which is being built to accommodate 1800+ students. In addition to getting a feel for what it will be like to live with high-school-as-construction-site -- we all had to don hard hats and fluorescent jackets before we toured -- Lake Stevens also provided some interesting design perspectives. At each stop on the tour, our Dykeman architects provided forms for notetaking so that all participants got the chance to record the features of the buildings that stood out for them. Their feedback will provide the stimulus for the discussion at our next Design Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting on September 10.
3. The Design Advisory Committee is just one way we intend to gather input about the new Ferndale High School. We are currently planning a "Visioning Week," during which we will host a series of focus-group-style meetings aimed at gathering suggestions from our middle schools, our high school students, staff, and community members. Look for more details about the logistics of these Visioning meetings in our next update.
4. August 30 is the due date for Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from interested GC/CM contractors. Based on the positive turnout at the site walk-through on August 19, we hope to receive several submittals. After reviewing all of the SOQs, we will select the most qualified contractors to be interviewed. Following the interviews, the highest-ranked contractors will be asked to submit proposals that include their fee structures. This three-phased selection process takes some time, but it is designed to result in the selection of the most-qualified GC/CM contractor with the most competitive fee structure. The final contractor selection is scheduled to be approved by the members of the School Board at their October meeting.

If you have questions or comments about anything in this update, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Linda