

BOND UPDATE #15

06.07.19

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

1. The most exciting news of the week is that we received our credit rating from Moody's, and we have been upgraded from Aa3 to Aa2. Two weeks ago in this Update, I shared that Mark Deebach and I, with help from our financial advisors from DA Davison and K&L Gates, had submitted a report and participated in an interview with two rating analysts from Moody's Investors Services. On June 6, we learned that the results of our efforts were very positive. Our financial consultant from DA Davidson told us we "are in rare company being upgraded," so we are feeling good. While a better credit rating does not generate additional money for the District, it is a huge benefit to the community because it translates into lower bond interest rates. Saving money for taxpayers without sacrificing the quality of our educational system is always a good thing.
2. Now that the District has its new and improved credit rating, Mark Deebach and I have scheduled a date to go to the Seattle offices of our financial consultant, DA Davidson, to sell the first batch of bonds -- which we have been authorized to do by the School Board. The date for the bond sale is June 19, and our plan is to sell \$41.6 million worth. The amount and timing of this sale is being carefully orchestrated by our financial advisors to take the best advantage of the market and to ensure the best possible tax situation for Ferndale citizens. NOTE: Once this first batch of bonds are sold, we will actually have bond funds to begin spending. Up until this point, money from the passage of the bond has only been a concept.
3. This past week, we have put the finishing touches on the agenda for our Community Town Hall event on Tuesday, June 11, 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Ferndale High School Cafeteria. We will be introducing the architects, laying out the steps in our visioning and design process, explaining the Design Advisory Committee, and inviting all stakeholders to share their ideas about the new high school facility. The entire community, including students, is invited. You can find additional details about the Town Hall [here](#).
4. On Thursday June 6 the District's traffic consultant, Transpo Group, collected traffic counts during the morning arrival and afternoon departure at each of the Ferndale High School driveways. They also observed traffic flows and collected counts of current on-site parking and off-site parking at three neighboring churches.
5. The application for people who are interested in applying to be part of the Design Advisory Committee (DAC) has been on the website for about ten days, and we have already received six completed applications. We will have application forms available at the Town Hall on June 11. They can also be accessed [here](#). All applications are due by July 31; members of the Committee will be selected by August 5; the first DAC meeting will occur on August 13; and DAC members will

participate in an all-day tour of recently built high schools in our region on August 27.

6. With the help of our CSG Project Managers, Tex Ladish and Heidi Hansen, we are continuing to work on our 20-page CPARB (Capital Projects Advisory Review Board) application, which is due on June 20. Completing the CPARB is the next step in seeking approval to pursue a GC/CM (General Contractor/Construction Manager) process in building the new Ferndale High School. This past week, Dykeman Architects provided us with a DRAFT site plan to be included in the CPARB application packet. Although we anticipate the Site Plan may be modified in light of input from the consultants who are investigating the site, the members of the Design Advisory Committee, staff who will occupy the building, and other community stakeholders, a draft site plan is required at this time to proceed with the GC/CM process.
7. We are very pleased to announce that Dykeman Architects have agreed to provide us with an additional architect to coordinate the Critical Maintenance Projects and Security Upgrades in our other schools across the District. As I mentioned in last week's Update, we are trying to expedite this process so that we can complete some of the work during the coming summer (2019). To this end, we will be meeting with the Dykeman architect soon.

If you have questions or comments about any of this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Linda