

BOND

UPDATE #5

03.22.19

Dear School District Staff,

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

1. We are calling our current phase “pre-design.” Part of our work during this phase is to gather input. Last week we shared our public input tool ThoughtExchange. We encourage all Ferndale School District residents to take advantage of this tool and to answer the question, “What is most important to you as we move forward with the bond projects?” As a reminder, ThoughtExchange can be accessed here: bit.ly/FSDEXchange.
2. In addition to the input we receive through ThoughtExchange, we are meeting with and/or taking input from many sources. For example, Andover Academy Alumni Ms. Amy Nylén has arranged a meeting with leadership of that school for the purpose of discussing school design. That meeting is an example of the type of early design research we are currently doing.
3. The School Board met with the Bond Oversight Committee on Wednesday, March 20, to clarify their roles and finalize their operating procedures. School Board President Kevin Erickson said it well, “We did good work last night. The next few years will be a true partnership and, as with all great partnerships, it takes effort to get the details lined up at the beginning. The District looks forward to and welcomes this group – they have an important role to play in the success of our Bond projects and we are grateful.” A link to a media release about our meeting: <https://www.ferndalesd.org/news/1656340/ferndale-school-board-and-bond-oversight-committee-discuss-next-steps>.
4. Our HR Department has published a posting inviting interested candidates from both inside and outside the district to apply for the assistant principal position at FHS, who will assist with the extra work

that comes with the bond process. We plan to have the new assistant principal hired by early May.

5. The members of the Bond Executive Steering Committee -- Mark Deebach, Scott Brittain, Jeremy Vincent, and Linda Quinn, along with Communications Coordinator Erin Vincent as an ex officio member -- have begun meeting on a weekly basis.
6. We entered into a conversation initiated by the City about the possibility of repurposing Old Main as a new City Hall. This idea is still in very early stages. The City Council has to decide whether it is even feasible to renovate the building for this alternative purpose before any further discussion with the District can take place.
7. A group that included District Office staff and community members toured Anacortes High School this week as part of the pre-design research process.
8. Since our bond passed, I have sent weekly bond updates to our Ferndale School District staff. Last week, we expanded the audience for these updates and began sending to external stakeholders in a simple newsletter format which will give everyone the ability to “opt-in” and share the email if they so desire. To sign up to get those emails, click here: <http://eepurl.com/gkTrWv>. We have also posted all updates to our Ferndale School District website. My past updates can be found here: <https://www.ferndalesd.org/business-support-services/bond-2018>.
9. The district has advertised for Architectural and Engineering Services to oversee the design work for the new Ferndale high School facility. A mandatory site visit is scheduled for Friday, April 5, for all interested firms. Failure to attend this walk-through will eliminate firms from award consideration. The requirement to participate ensures that all those who submit qualifications have been onsite and have a true understanding of our needs. For more information and to view that RFQ, please see: https://campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/1530651/06c11be8-7bab-11e7-bf32-124f7febbf4a/1903465/a4daddc2-4a8c-11e9-9e13-0afd4d0582bc/file/New%20Ferndale%20HS%20-%20AE%20Solicitation_3.19.19_FINAL.pdf.

10. Staff from Construction Services Group -- our project managers -- will join the Ferndale School District Bond Steering Committee for its weekly meeting on Monday, March 25, 11:00 am, to discuss project timelines and next steps. As is my practice, I will share information from that meeting in next week's update.
11. We continue to visit staff in each of our school buildings to check in and to get input about bond projects. So far, we have met with staff at FHS, Cascadia, and Vista. Our plan is to meet with every staff before the end of April.