

# BOND UPDATE #98

03.05.21

Here's what's going on with our bond projects:

1. We passed the 48-hour bid protest period without receiving any protests from subcontractors. Cornerstone is working to verify bid details from low bidders and plans to be in a position to award the subcontracts within the next week or so.
2. The bid package for demolition and abatement has now been advertised, with bid opening scheduled for March 9. Interested subcontractors were able to visit the site this week to view the buildings scheduled for demolition.
3. Bid package #2 has also been advertised, with a pre-bid meeting scheduled for March 10. Bids will be opened on March 24 and 25. Bid set #2 includes masonry, seismic upgrades, casework and finish carpentry, metal panels, siding and flashings, thermoplastic membrane roofing, frames, doors and hardware, metal framing and gypsum wall board, acoustical ceilings and treatments, carpet, resilient flooring, wood athletic flooring, tiling, painting, coatings and sealants, food service, athletic field development, and landscape and irrigation.
4. We continue to see a strong interest from bidders, which makes us hopeful that the bids for the upcoming packages will be as favorable as the earlier ones.
5. As of last week's bid opening, we have secured about 60% of the work on the new Ferndale High School project, and we are still within the estimated construction budget -- which is very good news!
6. Site work at the high school is scheduled to begin the first week of May, but we are currently engaged in conversations with the City about the possibility of starting demolition of the existing grandstands as early as April.
7. Knowing the power of relevant, hands-on learning, we recently asked Sam Comer of Cornerstone about opportunities to involve students in the new high school construction project. He introduced Principal Jeremy Vincent and I to Vicki Puckett, Cornerstone's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, so that we could begin a conversation with her about student engagement. Sam explained that "Vicki is a former principal and special educator who helps bridge our two worlds as educators and builders to create real and meaningful student participation in construction projects." Vicki responded, "I am excited to start working with the Ferndale School District, supporting you on this project and also supporting the students. We are recruiting subcontractors locally, as well as hopefully hiring a diverse workforce for your project." Jeremy, Vicki, and I have a meeting scheduled next week.

8. Blaine School District, our neighbor to the north, recently completed a high school construction project that included a new grandstand. Since Blaine ordered its grandstand from the same vendor we were considering, we took a field trip to look at theirs before we made our decision -- and we liked what we saw. Apparently, so did others, since the Blaine grandstand is featured on the cover of Southern Bleacher's new catalog, which is distributed nationwide. Ferndale's stadium will be very similar to Blaine's, which looks like this:



9. At their last meeting on Tuesday, February 15, the members of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) discussed the following topics:
  - a. BOC member Sandi McMillan's appointment to the Local Government Advisory Committee that advises the State Auditor's Office in accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting. (Sandi's accomplishments were featured in the January 27, 2021 issue of *Northern Lights*.)
  - b. Updates to the Ferndale High School project dashboard on the District website.
  - c. Recommendation for amplifying media coverage of our accomplishments as we reach the halfway point of the FHS project and perhaps combining this with a groundbreaking ceremony.
  - d. Recommendation that the District develops a communication plan and/or flow chart to show how documents and information are shared within the design group in order to mitigate against the risk of information getting lost.
  - e. Review of the expenditure summary, which indicates that spending on the new FHS project is increasing and will continue to do so as we enter the next phase of construction.
  - f. Preliminary cash flow plan prepared by Cornerstone.

- g. Anticipated State Match amount for the new FHS project, which appears to be on track with what we anticipated. (State Match disbursements are expected to begin in July of 2021.)
  - h. Creation of a proposal outlining how the District could launch a campaign to solicit corporate funds and sponsorships to support the new FHS project.
  - i. Reports from Construction Services Group project managers on both the new FHS project and security and critical maintenance projects around the District. (The content of these reports has been shared in past Bond Updates.)
  - j. Need for advertising for new alternate members of the BOC.
  - k. The possibility of returning to in-person BOC meetings.
  - l. BOC's next Quarterly Report to the Ferndale School Board on March 30.
10. The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 23, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Interested parties can register in advance for this webinar by accessing the following link: <https://www.ferndalesd.org/community-oversight-committee>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you have questions or comments about any of the content of this update, please feel free to reach out to me or one of my colleagues.

Linda