

BOND UPDATE #99

03.12.21

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

1. Our civil engineer has made some modifications to the design of the stormwater outfalls so that they will avoid discharge within the ordinary high-water mark of Schell Ditch. These revisions mean we will not be required to obtain permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, which will save us both time and money.
2. Bid Set Number 2 (which 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) has now been advertised, and we are seeing a great deal of interest from subcontractors. Bid openings for this set will take place virtually on March 24 and 25.
3. We have received the final lease documents from BNSF (Burlington Northern and Santa Fe) Railway for use of their property as construction access at the southeast corner of the high school campus. The lease of the BSNF property will be administered by Cornerstone and will allow us to maintain a construction entrance separate from all school-related traffic. This is an important aspect of our safety plan for constructing a new school on an occupied site.
4. This week Principal Jeremy Vincent and I met with Vicki Puckett, Cornerstone's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Vicki explained that her role with Cornerstone is twofold: (1) she helps recruit a local, women-owned, and minority-owned workforce for Cornerstone's projects, and (2) she helps owners (in other words, the District) find intersections between the construction project and educational opportunities for students. Regarding the second part of her job, Vicki explained, "We don't want just to build their school. We also want to expose students to the building trades and many of the real-life applications of what they are learning in their classrooms." It was an exciting meeting, during which we talked about a variety of student engagement options. The next step will be for Jeremy to schedule a time for Vicki to meet with Ferndale High School Department Chairs and other building leaders to get more specific about ways we can work together to enhance student learning and excitement about the project.
5. We have scheduled another field trip on Wednesday, March 24, to look at finishes and furniture in recently completed high schools. This time, we will be visiting Bellingham School District's Options High School and Sehome High School.

6. As part of the Critical Maintenance Needs portion of the Bond, we awarded the four-school DDC (Direct Digital Control) upgrade project this week to a local controls contractor out of Bellingham, United Energy Engineers. This project involves upgrading mechanical and ventilation controls from mechanical devices to computer-controlled devices at Custer Elementary School, Mt View School, North Bellingham Learning Center, and Skyline Elementary School. The contractor selection process was based on overall qualifications opposed to just the low bid. Although this approach took a little more time than the conventional bid process, it allowed us to select the “best value” contractor. The upgraded DDC systems will result in increased energy efficiency and provide remote access for District maintenance staff to control the mechanical/ventilation systems in the impacted facilities. (Welcome to our team, United Energy Engineers!)
7. 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