

BOND UPDATE #100

03.19.21

Before I report on our progress of the past week, I want to take a moment to celebrate this 100th issue of our Weekly Bond Update. Despite a levy failure; budget-induced belt-tightening; heartbreaking reductions in force; a backdrop of divisive politics, protests and riots; raging forest fires that filled our skies with smoke; the worst global pandemic in a century; shutdowns and stay-at-home orders that threatened our economy and nearly every system in our society; and a complete redesign of our educational delivery model, we have managed to keep our bond projects moving forward on budget, on time, and as promised. And we have faithfully reported our progress to you, our stakeholders, every week (except a few holidays).

This 100th edition marks a midpoint for the new Ferndale High School project. Voters passed the bond that made it possible in February 2019, a little over two years ago. The new FHS facility is scheduled to be completed in August 2023, a little over two years from now. According to plan, the design phase is concluding and the construction phase is beginning. We will be breaking ground this spring!

I want to give a shout out to the dedicated team that has made this progress possible -- our Construction Services Group project managers; our Dykeman architects; our Cornerstone contractors; the members of the Bond Oversight Committee; and the other District leaders who serve with me on the Executive Steering Committee, Mark Deebach, Jeremy Vincent, and Jamie Plenkovich. It has definitely been a team effort to get us to this point.

And with that, let me share what's going on with our bond projects:

1. Very soon, staff, students, and community members will begin to see some construction-related activities on the Ferndale High School site. A surveyor will be marking the four corners of the new building this week. Cornerstone is preparing by installing fencing, locating utilities (paint marks on the ground), and doing some minor clearing of brush and trees. They plan to install their office trailers on campus in mid-April, which is also when construction may begin, depending on the timing of permits.
2. We have applied for the demolition permit that will give us permission to take down the current grandstands. Taking down the grandstands will be one of the first steps in the two-plus year phased construction process. (On a nostalgic note, I want to mention that the last ever Golden Eagles football game will be played in the old stadium tomorrow, March 20.)
3. The construction fencing at FHS is going to be so extensive that it will take approximately four days to install. The fencing will be moved for the different phases of construction, always keeping students and staff separate and safe from

construction areas. The first phase of fencing will be installed around the track area, and we expect that to occur soon (possibly during Spring Break). However, the gates will not be locked until construction starts.

4. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23-24, we will be opening subcontractors' bids on our second round of bid packages. As with the initial round, we are seeing a lot of interest in these packages, which bodes well for competitive pricing.
5. Next Tuesday, March 23, the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) will hold its monthly meeting 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.
6. Next Wednesday, March 24, several of us will be taking a field trip to look at finishes and furniture in Bellingham School District's Options High School and Sehome High School, both recently constructed and furnished.
7. On Tuesday, March 30, the Bond Oversight Committee will be making a quarterly report to the Ferndale School Board at their regular business meeting.
8. During the week of April 26-30, we are planning a groundbreaking ceremony with as much fanfare as the pandemic will allow. Watch for more details in the next few weeks.

Thank you, Ferndale voters, for making this work possible. We are committed to delivering a project of which you will be proud.

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