

BOND UPDATE #110

06.04.21

Here's what's been going on with our bond project during the past week:

1. The buried foundation of the old Ferndale High School building that we found last week has now been safely removed, and the ground is being prepared for the new foundation.
2. Work has begun on the new underground stormwater storage system. Eventually, the contractors will bury portions of this system at several locations around the facility. Presently, they are installing the portion that lies under the new football field, which will be located north of the existing gym.
3. The building pad for the new high school continues to get higher as imported soils are placed. Eventually, the floor of the new school will be a couple of feet above the level of the old floor.
4. Presently, Cornerstone is busy preparing for several activities that will begin once school is out for summer. Primarily, they will be installing underground utilities that run through the occupied portion of the campus.
5. Currently, we are waiting for the check to be processed for the FHS building permit. As soon as we get it (perhaps as soon as today), we will deliver it to the City in exchange for the permit that will allow the construction of our new high school facility to begin.
6. The biggest news of the week is that we have made a decision to accept several more building alternates -- those parts of the new facility that we *wanted to include* but we weren't sure we could *afford to include*, so we put them out to bid separately as "alternates." We have carefully scrutinized our budget. We have considered known budget risks, like a potential shift in the grandstand installation sequence, hidden conditions below ground possibly causing soil contamination, and other minor impacts. We have taken into account the high level of quality work and reliability demonstrated to date by the general contractor and the Design Team. Based on all of our analysis, we feel comfortable giving a green light to moving forward with the following "extras" on our new FHS campus:
 - Additive Alternative Horticulture Greenhouse, including the same building controls as the rest of the new facility.
 - Additive Alternate Aquaculture Center, including the same building controls as the rest of the new facility.
 - Additive Alternate Ag Sciences Building, including the same building controls as the rest of the new facility.

We are now confident we can afford these additional aspects of the facility. Furthermore, we believe making such investments now will (1) secure fixed costs and mitigate against price escalation; (2) support our goal of making capital investments when they are affordable; and (3) add significant value to the District's high school campus, which will, in turn, enhance student learning experiences, teacher recruitment and retention, and community engagement for the next 25+ years. This feels like a major win for everyone!

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