

# BOND UPDATE #111

06.11.21

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

1. The volume of truck traffic onto the Ferndale High School campus, through the new railroad access road, has definitely increased during the past few weeks. The trucks have been hauling away "spoils," which is a term used to refer to the dirt that isn't appropriate for supporting the new building, and hauling in the construction soil needed to mitigate the high water table on the site. Preparing the earth in this way is a necessary prerequisite to installing the Geopiers that will support the new structure.
2. Speaking of Geopiers, the installation process began this week. Geopiers are like stilts that the new building will rest on. They transfer the weight of the building to more stable, stronger soils deeper in the earth. If you are interested in learning more about Geopiers, (as the students in Mark Schneider's CTE class did this past week) check out the video at this link: <https://youtu.be/4hp-Aeayq24>
3. Work is continuing on the new underground stormwater storage system that will be located north of the existing gym. This week, contractors have been working on step one of this process, which is to install a groundwater drain system to keep the excavation dry during construction.
4. Contractors are poised to begin installation of utilities for the new building once students have vacated the campus for Summer Break. Leading the way will be our new water main, which will be followed by natural gas, sewer, electricity, and data and communication lines.
5. Concrete formwork was delivered to the site this week, which will allow contractors to start work on our new building's foundation. This represents a major project milestone.
6. Another major milestone that occurred this week is the issuance of our full building permit by the City of Ferndale. (Woohoo!) This gives the green light for construction of most of our new facility.
7. Now that we have moved into the construction phase of the Ferndale High School project, we realize regular communication and collaboration with the City of Ferndale is going to become even more important than ever. We appreciate the City's strong support so far. To facilitate our partnership going forward, City Manager Jori Burnett has agreed to schedule regular, frequent meetings between key players from the City, the District, and the Construction Team.

8. As I reported last week, we have determined we can afford to include several of the building alternates in the CTE area of the new high school, specifically the Horticulture Greenhouse, Aquaculture Center, and Ag Sciences Building. As part of the process of moving forward with these alternates, Principal Jeremy Vincent, Assistant Principal Eric Tripp, and members of the Design Team have scheduled another round of meetings with impacted CTE teachers aimed at getting their input about details related to their spaces.
9. Speaking of Assistant Principal Eric Tripp, he will be taking over as the lead building-based administrator on the FHS construction project once Principal Vincent takes his leave on June 30 for a new position in Spokane. Jeremy's replacement as principal, Rav Dhillon, will have a full plate with all of the other aspects of running a large comprehensive high school. So Eric, who also oversees athletics and activities, will be our "construction guy" through the remainder of the project. As part of his transition process, Jeremy has been bringing Eric up to speed on all of the decisions made during the design phase.
10. On Wednesday of this past week (June 9), Cornerstone's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Vicki Puckett, was once again on the FHS campus, this time to lead a conversation with a group of teachers and administrators about the ways Cornerstone can support student learning during the construction process. Vicki explained that Cornerstone's mission is to "leave more than buildings in the communities where they work." They also want to leave "a lasting footprint," and they want to expose students to the wide variety of family-wage careers included in the construction trades. Part of the way Cornerstone does this is by developing collaborative learning projects with the high school instructional staff. For instance, representative contractors from the trades can give job talks in classrooms. Landscape architects can work with students in the FHS Landscaping class to share their decision-making processes and involve them in some of the actual installations. Math teachers can work with engineers and carpenters to develop real-world problems that become an ongoing part of their curriculum. Likewise, Science teachers can access data related to local soil conditions, water tables, and so on to create relevant experiments. The list of possible connections is extensive, varied, and exciting.
11. We are pleased to announce that one Ferndale High School student who is part of our Transitions program (for students 18-21) has been hired as a Cornerstone employee. Ms. Puckett is currently working through the onboarding process with him and his teacher.

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