

BOND UPDATE #113

06.25.21

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

1. The members of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 22. I will include a summary of the minutes in one of my next updates.
2. I do want to highlight one significant outcome of this week's BOC meeting. Anya Milton, -- who was among the creators of the oversight concept, who has always been a staunch supporter of both the school district and the community, and who has led the BOC since its inception in early 2019 -- officially stepped down from her role as Co-Chair of the Bond Oversight Committee at the June 22 meeting. Although she has taken on other responsibilities in the community that prevent her from continuing her leadership of the BOC, she is proud of the work they have accomplished and she remains committed to the process. On behalf of the Ferndale School District and the Board of Directors, I want to thank Anya for her incredible service and guidance. She has played key roles in supporting the passage of the bond and subsequently ensuring that all of our bond projects are delivered on time, on budget, and as promised. Anya's Co-Chair, Riley Cornelson, will continue to lead the Oversight Committee until a new member/leader has been identified to take Anya's place.
3. One of the remaining safety projects included in the 2019 bond calls for installing fencing around the North Bellingham campus, which is currently the home of our Jump Start Kindergarten and Developmental Pre-School programs. This past week, we finalized a contract with Northwest Fence to complete the security fencing work at North Bellingham this summer.
4. One of the remaining critical maintenance projects included in the 2019 bond calls for repairing the cladding on Custer Elementary School. This past week, we put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this cladding repair project, with bids being due on July 8. Since I had to look up the meaning of "cladding," I am guessing it might be a new term for some of you readers as well. From my Google search, I learned that "cladding refers to the components that are attached to the main structure of a building to form non-structural, external surfaces that play an important role in a building's structure. Made of materials such as wood, metal, brick, vinyl, or composite, cladding is often assembled in panels that are attached to the structural frame of a building. Some cladding systems include additional components, such as windows, doors, gutters, roof lights, and vents. The main use of cladding is to protect the building from external conditions such as the weather. In addition, cladding provides privacy and security, acts as a noise insulation, and prevents the spread of fire." *Who knew?*

5. On the Ferndale High School campus, work on Geopier installation has continued. A second Geopier drill rig was brought out to the site this week to increase the rate of installation dramatically. All totaled, our new building will be supported by 1,760 Geopiers. To date, over 400 of them have been installed. I have included a photograph below.
6. Foundation construction began at FHS this week and will be ongoing for the next few months.
7. The excavation for the stormwater detention system north of the existing gym continues to get larger and deeper.
8. The installation of new domestic water and sanitary sewer lines are ongoing and are making progress around the site of the new building. Tie-ins to the main lines in Golden Eagle Drive will be completed over the summer while the students are gone.
9. Structural steel is currently in fabrication and will start showing up in the fall. This will allow the actual framework of the new building to begin to take shape.
10. We also spent time this past week verifying design details related to access on the new FHS campus by emergency vehicles and other service providers (like waste and garbage collection trucks).
11. The subcontractors working on the FHS project at this time include: (1) Geopier Northwest, Inc. (installing the system of geopiers to support the new building); (2) Pelico Construction, Inc. (doing the dirt work); (3) Cowden Gravel and Readymix (supplying the dumptrucks); and (4) Milne Electric (doing the electrical work). Those of us who work in education are getting an education about how many partners it takes to accomplish a major construction project like ours. (If I left any subcontractors off my list this week, I apologize. I will add them next week.)
12. I mentioned in my last update that Principal Vincent and members of the Design Team were meeting with CTE teachers to get their input about the three building alternates we've determined we can afford to incorporate into the new facility -- a Horticulture Greenhouse, Aquaculture Center, and Ag Sciences Lab. In addition, our general contractor and architect (Cornerstone and Dykeman) have done some value engineering on the three structures to explore ways to bring the costs down, and Mr. Vincent has met again with three CTE teachers -- Kristine Anderson, Nicole Perry, and Tony Toretta -- to continue to refine the design details for these three facilities, which will be part of the new campus we are calling our "CTE Village."

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

