

# BOND UPDATE #126

09.24.21

This Bond Update -- #126 -- will be my last. As I think you know, I am retiring from my position as Superintendent of the Ferndale School District on September 30, 2021 -- after 12 years and 3 months in this current role and 47 total years as a public school educator. I have loved so many things about the time I have spent in Ferndale, but one of the greatest highlights will always be the passage of the Capital Projects Bond in February 2019

Since the day after the bond passed, we have been working hard to deliver to you a new high school on time, on budget, and as planned. Part of our commitment from the start was to be as transparent as possible in the process. To that end, the School Board commissioned an independent Bond Oversight Committee to review all of our work. In addition, I started writing these weekly Bond Updates. In the first one, which I published on February 22, 2019, I wrote:

*Today is the day our bond election will be officially certified as a victory. As of the last update from the auditor's office (which was posted at 4:25 pm yesterday), the approval percentage had climbed to **62.04%** with a total of 9,797 votes cast -- beautiful numbers that are going to change our district and community in significant ways. Thank you so much to every one of you who helped to achieve this success.*

*I want to make sure [everyone] is kept in the loop as we move forward. [Therefore], we will be creating a webpage with more in-depth information and hosting a variety of meetings. I also plan to send you weekly updates like this one.*

Although I am taking my leave from the school district this month, these Bond Updates will continue. Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services, Mark Deebach, is taking over as Interim Superintendent beginning October 1, 2021, and will hold the position through June 1, 2022, at which time the School Board expects to have a new permanent superintendent in place. Starting next Friday (October 1, 2021), the weekly Bond Updates will be coming out of Mark's office.

It has been a great honor to serve this community and especially to have had the chance to be part of designing its new high school. I will watch with great interest as the process continues to its completion, looking forward to the day when I can visit the finished school and see Ferndale students, staff, and community members taking advantage of all it will have to offer.

With that, here is what has been going on with our bond projects during this past week:

1. Mark and I toured the new high school construction site on Tuesday (September 21) with members of the Cornerstone team -- and it is amazing! With the floor slabs

poured, I was able to visualize more clearly the orientation, size, and shape of the new building. It's beginning to feel like a real school -- *we even walked the hallways* -- and it is going to be all up from here, *literally*. A load of steel beams had already arrived when we were there last Tuesday, and the Cornerstone site superintendent told us the first of them -- the ones that will hold up the second story of the classroom wing -- are scheduled for installation beginning next Monday (September 27). To give us an idea of the immensity of these beams, he shared that they are each about 25 feet long and weigh 125 pounds per linear foot. Our high school is going to be a very sturdy building!

2. Among the reasons Mark and I visited the site last week was to look at samples of several different grinds on the concrete floors that will run throughout most of the building. Depending on the depth of the grind, more or less of the coarse aggregate within the concrete mix becomes exposed. After examining the samples, Mark and I decided our preference would be to stick with the less deep grind, which results in more of a cream and salt and pepper finish, rather than a pebbly one. We made this decision because (1) it is the finish called out in the architect's educational specifications; (2) it is less expensive than the other finish, which is created by a deeper grind; and (3) the effect it creates is less "busy," which we liked, especially in a space as large as the Commons. The contractors wanted to be sure we knew that any concrete floor will naturally end up with micro-cracks running through it, and that these cracks will be a little more visible with a shallower grind. We said we were okay with a natural look.
3. That same evening (September 21), Mark shared the information about the various finishing options for the concrete floors, along with our preference, with the members of the Bond Oversight Committee. They agreed with our choice to go with the salt and pepper finish, so we are moving ahead with the less deep grind that is called out in the Ed Specs.
4. Speaking of the new Ferndale High School project, construction work is continuing according to plan. This is a summary of what's happening now:
  - a. Dampproofing and foundation drains are being installed around the perimeter of the areas where foundations have been completed. This process will follow the foundation as it is being constructed.
  - b. Most of the floor slabs in the academic wing and common areas have been completed. This week the remaining corridor floor slabs were poured.
  - c. Underground plumbing and electrical work continues in the kitchen, locker room, and main utility rooms. This work is anticipated to be complete by the end of the month, allowing for backfill and slab preparation to begin during the first two weeks in October.

- d. Gravel backfill is being placed in the new gym area, which will allow it to be prepared for its new floor slab.
  - e. As all of this suggests, we will soon have floor slabs completed in most of the building, with the exception of the CTE wing, which will be completed later in the project.
  - f. As I mentioned above, we received our first steel delivery this week. When the crane starts erecting that steel next week, we will see our new building taking shape. This is a very exciting time in the project!
4. Compliments of Cornerstone General Contractors, I have included several photos from the FHS construction site at the end of this week's update.
5. During this week's Every Thursday Facebook Live program (September 23), we unveiled the updated Ferndale High School logo and color palette, which was developed by a committee of current and past Ferndale students, staff, coaches, and advisors, working with professional graphic designers from Dykeman Architects. I am inserting one of several versions of the new logo here:



You can view a recorded version of the Facebook Live program at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/FerndaleSchools/videos/928296741122303>. You will be able to see all of the versions of the updated colors and logo on our website soon.

6. With the help of our CSG (Construction Services Group) Project Managers, we are in the process of finalizing our application to the State for construction project matching dollars. We have not been eligible to receive those funds until we had all of our local funds "in the bank," which occurred with the completion of our third and final bond sale earlier this month. The State match for Ferndale High School will amount to approximately \$20 million.
7. In addition to the matching dollars for the construction of the new building, we learned this week that we will be receiving a grant of approximately \$90,000 from the

State to be used for artwork in the new facility. Like most grants, this one has some strings attached, which we will be working to unravel during the next few months.

8. The members of the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) held their September meeting on September 21. You can look for a summary of the topics discussed at that meeting in a future Bond Update. Information about the BOC and its meetings can also be found at this link: <https://www.weareferndale.org/committee/>.
9. The Bond Oversight Committee will be delivering its next quarterly report to the School Board on September 28. Once completed, the report will also be posted on the District website, which can be accessed at this link (scroll down to the bottom half of the page): <https://www.weareferndale.org/committee/>. You can attend the September 28 School Board meeting in person in the Vista Library at 7:00 pm. (Please note that masks will be required.) Or you can watch the School Board meeting virtually via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83886691040>.

If you have questions or comments about any of the content of this update, please feel free to reach out to Mark Deebach at [mark.deebach@ferndalesd.org](mailto:mark.deebach@ferndalesd.org).

Thank you again for allowing me to be part of this amazing project!

All my best,

Linda Quinn

Soon-to-be-retired Superintendent of the Ferndale School District (2009-2021)



