

BOND UPDATE #36

11.08.19

Here's what's been going on during the past week:

1. Now that Cornerstone (our contractors) are up to speed with project information, they are working hard to refine anticipated site costs. Once a solid estimate of site costs has been developed, the master budget will be updated to reflect these costs. We know that there are many difficult issues involved with the high school site, including poor soils, high groundwater levels, and extensive underground utilities. The more information we can gather now, the more we will be able to reduce the risk of surprises during construction. This is important, because surprises can be both costly and time-consuming.
2. Our architects and contractors are working on several site concepts that show where the new building could be located. These options have been developed with input from the Design Advisory Committee, as well as District staff and students. The next step will be to evaluate the pros and cons of each scenario. Ideally, we would like to site the building where it will be most cost effective, while also supporting our high school programs. Primary input for this evaluation will come from the structural and geotechnical engineers who will look at the soil conditions and determine how well they will support the building's foundations.
3. District staff are collaborating with City of Ferndale staff to determine the extent of off-site improvements that will be required when we build the new high school facility. Additionally, we are hoping to be able to convert some unused rights-of-way (located on the campus) to easements, thereby allowing easier development of the site.
4. On Thursday evening, November 7, over 40 CTE staff and community advisors came together for the fall CTE Advisory Board Meeting. A major part of the agenda of this year's meeting focused on reviewing progress to date on planning for the new high school building and providing input on how it can best support the future of CTE programs. Divided into pathway groups, advisors and teachers engaged in robust conversations about how to support and strengthen CTE in a new facility. Tim Jewett of Dykeman Architects was on hand to answer questions and listen to discussions. CTE Director Edwin Elefson collected written notes from each group, which he will collate and pass along to the design team.

If you have questions or comments about anything in this update, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Linda