

Key Communicator



February Bond Update

February 1, 2008

Susan Cousins, BVSD

Bond Communications Specialist



Construction begins for three projects this month

After months of planning and anticipation, Centaurus High, Lafayette Elementary and Manhattan Middle will break ground on their bond projects this month. Ground breaking ceremonies are being planned for each project.

The \$ 5.6 million Centaurus High project includes a 5400-square foot, 2-story addition as well as renovations to teachers' offices, special education classrooms and art rooms. The administrative offices will also be expanded and renovated. Other bond work at the school will include IT infrastructure upgrades, additional tennis courts, a new field house, resurfacing of the running track, upgrades to building systems such as HVAC and electrical wiring, as well as interior finishes upgrades.

Manhattan Middle School will receive renovations to its administrative offices, IMC, band room and auditorium including increased seating and a new sound system. The school will also get a new science wing and special education spaces. Other bond work at the school will include IT infrastructure upgrades, replacement of outdoor basketball courts and upgrades to building systems such as the PA and electrical service distribution. The budget for the project is \$10.4 million.

The \$3 million Lafayette Elementary project includes some specific renovations and new construction. In addition to finish upgrades and internal and external systems improvements, the school will receive a small group instructional space/multi-purpose room; a 4800-square foot addition with four new classrooms; additional office space and renovation of existing office space. Other bond work at the school will include IT infrastructure and playground upgrades.

Complete project descriptions can be found at
<http://bvsd.org/C14/2006%20Bond%20Project/Lists/Pages/Schools.aspx>.

[Send us your feedback on this article](#)

BVSD names Eldorado K-8 Principal André Lanier new executive director of institutional equity

Eldorado K-8 Principal André Lanier's selection as the Boulder Valley School District's new executive director of institutional equity was unanimously approved January 22 by the Boulder Valley Board of Education. Dr. Lanier will assume his new superintendent's cabinet level position at the end of this school year when BVSD's current district equity director, Pam Duran, retires on June 30. BVSD will launch a search process shortly for a new Eldorado K-8 principal for the 2008-2009 school year.

After an exhaustive search and significant community input in the selection process, BVSD Superintendent Chris King was pleased to submit Dr. Lanier's name to the Board for approval. In so doing, Dr. King commended retiring longtime and highly regarded BVSD Director of Equity Pam Duran. He praised Ms. Duran's work as "groundbreaking" and said that she will be missed. Dr. King stated that he is likewise confident in the insight, leadership and compassion that Dr. Lanier brings to this position and the promise that it holds for BVSD equity-based efforts to close the achievement gap.

"I am honored to be named the new Executive Director of Institutional Equity. I look forward to working with a visionary leadership team which is determined to make sure that every child is successful," stated Dr. Lanier.

Dr. Lanier moved to Colorado in 1985 after six years as a social studies teacher in the Kent Public School District in Ohio. From 1985 until 2001, he was with the Cherry Creek School District first as a social studies teacher, then as a high school dean of students, an assistant high school principal, and a middle school principal. In 2001, Dr. Lanier joined the Douglas County School District as a middle school principal and later as a human resources recruiter.

In 2005, Dr. Lanier came to BVSD as principal of the Eldorado K-8 School in Superior. Among his accomplishments in the area of equity while at Eldorado, Dr. Lanier cited the institution of English as a Second Language Math Nights, service as an equity leader during district leadership equity retreats, providing Spanish translators for Eldorado K-8 after-school activities and his hiring and retention of high quality staff of color.

Dr. Lanier earned his bachelor's degree from Kent State University in 1979, his master's degree in Urban Studies/Public Administration from the University of Akron in 1984 and his doctorate in Education Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Denver in 1991. He earned his principal certification from the University of Denver in 1993.

Dr. Lanier is married to his wife, Lola, a computer software engineer. Together, they have a son, André, and a daughter, Alaynah.

[Send us your feedback on this article](#)

City of Lafayette named one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance

by **Briggs Gamblin**, BVSD Communications Director and
Alexandra Lynch, Lafayette Public Information Officer

America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest alliance dedicated to children and youth, announced nationally on January 24 that the City of Lafayette was named to its 2008 list of the "100 Best Communities for Young People." The annual *100 Best* competition recognizes the 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. More than 300 communities in all 50 states applied for the honor. The 100 winning communities span 31 states. Lafayette was the only Colorado city designated for 2008.

On January 24, the Centaurus High School gymnasium was the sight of a rally hosted by Centaurus High School Principal Rhonda Haniford and emceed by Lafayette Mayor Chris

Cameron as Lafayette came together and celebrated its national recognition. Boulder Valley Board of Education Members Jean Paxton and Jim Reed represented their colleagues. Representing BVSD Superintendent Chris King and BVSD administration was Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership Deirdre Pilch. Dr. Pilch is a past principal at Centaurus and assisted Mayor Cameron in putting the city's application together. Event speakers included Centaurus Head Girl Kayla Luhrs and Head Boy Dave Dishman who fired up the more than 500 enthusiastic students, staff, city officials, parents and community members in attendance.

Lafayette was designated a 2008 *100 Best* community winner because of its continuous work to refine and improve the community in ways that nurture its young people. For example, Project YES promotes academic success and civic leadership of youth through service learning in addition to providing an outlet for young people already on "the right track." To appeal to a large Latino youth population and all youth in general, the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee and the Latino Advisory Board were created to raise community awareness of critical topics related to Lafayette's young people.

"The prosperity of every community and this country depends on how well we care for our children and youth," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, president and CEO, America's Promise Alliance, "Although no place is perfect, when we have communities that make young people a priority and are working to make sure they stay in school and have all the resources necessary to lead healthy, productive lives, we must recognize them and by extension inspire other cities and towns to follow their lead."

"I am thrilled and honored that we have earned this recognition," said Mayor Cameron. "As a parent and a member of this wonderful community, I am even more proud and excited about the hard work and the caring commitment to young people and their future that this award represents."

The *100 Best* competition was first held in 2005. This year's winners were selected by a distinguished panel that included civic, business and nonprofit leaders such as: Gayle Manchin, first lady of West Virginia, United Way President Brian Gallagher, former Mayor of Denver Wellington Webb, Thomas Donohue, president and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Carol Coletta, president and CEO, CEOs for Cities, Christine James-Brown, president and CEO, the Child Welfare League of America, and Dr. Suzanne Morse, executive director of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change.

All communities that completed entries in the *100 Best* competition were required to submit detailed information to the Alliance on existing community programs and initiatives that help

deliver the Five Promises—resources identified by America’s Promise as being critical to the development of healthy, successful children: caring adults; safe places; healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others; to their young people. Applicants were also asked to describe how different sectors of their community come together to deliver the Five Promises and specific efforts and programs developed to ensure that their young people graduate from high school prepared for college and/or the workforce.

For more details about the *100 Best* competition and to see a complete list of the 2008 winners, please visit www.americaspromise.org.

#

[Send us your feedback on this article](#)