

Key Communicator



January Bond Update

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Bond Communications Specialist



Program update

Most of the Phase I bond projects are now entering the final stages of design. More than half of these projects are scheduled to begin construction by March with most of the others scheduled to be underway by summer.

Detailed information about each project can be found on the bond program web site on the "What's happening at schools!" page.

A new way to play

Since last fall, GPD Land Design has been meeting with a team of district staff from all areas (special education, physical education, early childhood education, art education, maintenance, construction, transportation, etc.) to develop playground design guidelines. These design guidelines will be used as a guide for landscape architects when creating all BVSD elementary

and K-8 playground master plans. The draft version of this 62-page document has been issued to BVSD staff for review. GPD Land Design has also created a comprehensive assessment of the existing conditions of each school's playgrounds. Design Advisory Teams (DAT) will use this report of findings in conjunction with the playground design guidelines to develop its playground master plan.

Playground DAT meetings will begin for Ryan Elementary School and Douglass Elementary School this month. These two schools will be the first to use the Playground Design Guidelines to develop their master plans.

Upgrading your ride on the information highway

LAN and VoIP work will be done at the schools in conjunction with other construction. The expected completion date for implementation of LAN upgrades and VoIP has been accelerated so that all schools will receive upgrades by close of 2009. Wireless capability is currently being deployed in all schools and is 37 percent complete.

Following recommendation by the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) the WAN project was split into three components; Engineering, Construction Management, and Construction. Engineering of the WAN began in November and the contract for construction management was recently awarded. We are currently exploring opportunities to partner with local municipalities to share fiber optic resources. A preliminary construction schedule has been developed with construction scheduled to run from spring of 2008 to October of 2009.

Board of Education seeking new oversight committee member

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee member Jim Reed's recent election to the board of education has created a vacancy on the committee since, according to board of education by-laws, he cannot serve both at the same time. To maintain balanced representation on the committee, we are seeking to fill the vacancy with an Erie resident with a student in BVSD schools.

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee provides independent review and monitoring of the bond projects that comprise the 2006 bond issue approved by the voters. Such monitoring and review is intended to provide a high level of accountability and communication on behalf of the Board of Education to the citizens of the Boulder Valley School District.

Interested individuals are required to submit a completed application, a letter of interest and résumé by close of business on Friday, February 21, 2008 to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Chris King, at Boulder Valley School District, PO Box 9011, Boulder, CO, 80301. For more

information, please contact Don Orr, Director of Bond Planning, Engineering and Construction at (303) 447-5062.

More information on the work of the committee as well as the membership application can be found at:

<http://bvsd.org/C14/2006%20Bond%20Project/Lists/Pages/OversightCommittee.aspx>

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Boulder Valley Board of Education Adopts 2008 Legislative Platform

After months of planning and anticipation, Centaurus High, Lafayette Elementary and Manhattan Middle

On Tuesday, January 8, the Boulder Valley Board of Education unanimously adopted its legislative platform for this year's "regular" legislative session which convened the next day, Wednesday, January 9. A "regular session" is limited by the Colorado Constitution to run for no more than 120 calendar days. If an issue of critical state importance arises at any other time the governor may call Colorado's 35 state senators and 65 state representatives into "special session" to address that specific issue or issues.

During the January to May regular session, the annual state budget is debated, amended and ultimately approved. This annual budget bill, containing hundreds of pages and is by far the lengthiest of all the state legislature's bills. It is referred to at the state Capitol and in the media as "The Long Bill." This bill funds the majority of Colorado government operations and provides more than half the funding for Colorado K-12 education with the remainder mostly coming from local property taxes and federal programs. Funds budgeted in the annual Long Bill are appropriated by the funding formulas provided for in the Colorado School Finance Act which can be amended or rewritten by the legislature. Additionally, other non-fiscal policy issues can arise that are of importance to Colorado's 178 public school districts in general and BVSD in particular.

Because of the critical fiscal and policy importance of the legislature's deliberations to BVSD, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, retains a professional lobbyist to represent and advocate for the positions of BVSD at the Capitol. Currently, that lobbyist is Tanya Kelly-Bowers. Tanya brings a strong background in education

and legislative representation to her position. Since 2004, she has been an associate vice president of federal and state government relations for the University of Colorado system. Prior to being named to that position, she has held several other intergovernmental policy positions with the university from 1998. She holds a master's degree in non-profit management from Regis University and has successfully completed the highly-regarded "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The most recent status report from Tanya concerning bills supported or opposed by BVSD based upon the Board of Education's legislative platform (LINK) is as follows. It will be updated on a weekly basis until the legislature adjourns in early May. To read the latest version of any bill, please go the State of Colorado web site (www.coloradogov.com), click on "Colorado Legislature" under "Government Links:" heading. This will take you to the Colorado General Assembly's home page where you can access the latest version of any bill and check its status.

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BVSD Launches IT Performance Audit

In keeping with the Boulder Valley School District's commitment to continuous improvement, the district recently contracted with the Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT) for the development of an Information Technology Performance Audit study. This three-phase study will provide the framework, guidelines, and action plans for harnessing technology to help achieve our school district's vision, mission, and goals. BVSD and CELT staff will work together in this research and planning effort focused on improving student learning through the appropriate instructional and administrative uses of technology. Our collaborative planning effort will also involve the transitioning of existing technology applications in order to create a more comprehensive, seamless and integrated information technology system for the 21st century.

The development of the Information Technology Performance Audit is a three-phase research and planning study. The resulting BVSD IT blueprint will provide a clear direction for the district for the next three years with an annual review and update. Several overlapping research and planning strategies, both qualitative and quantitative, will be used in development of the BVSD Information Technology Performance Audit.

During the next four to five months many of BVSD's staff will be asked to participate in some aspect of this very critical project. Many of us will be asked to participate in focus groups, site visits, and key stakeholder interviews later this school year. A link will be set up on the BVSD web site (www.bvsd.org) so that interested BVSD stakeholders can continuously monitor this very important and timely district initiative.

Our changing society and workplace will require citizens who can take responsibility for their own learning and well-being on a life-long basis. BVSD expects its students to be able to work collaboratively, innovatively, and creatively. Educational reforms that will improve our students' academic achievement will require a widespread, efficient, and cost-effective use of technology so that together we can create new and more contemporary learning environments. The time has come for BVSD to rethink and plan strategically to further enhance the comprehensive use of technology in all facets of its operations.

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