

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE # 11

Several months have passed since my last construction update and lots of activities have been going on around the school district.

The baseball and softball complex were finished in mid-February and turned over to the District for use during the past season. Each complex celebrated with a “first pitch ceremony” to mark the use of the new facilities; many commented that the facilities were beyond their expectation! Both baseball and softball finished their first year in their new facility by earning a spot in the playoffs and hosted for the first time, in a long time, a bi-district playoff game at home! A special congratulation to Cameron Havelka who was the first Warrior to hit a homerun over the monster 16-foot outfield fence!



Of course the “crown jewel” of our construction projects has to be the new Performing Arts Center (PAC) at the high school. This facility is about 85% complete with a scheduled completion date of mid-June 2014. The contractors are completing work on the exterior of the building and if you get a chance you need to drive by at night to see the LED lighting that runs the length of the main canopy of the building; with the addition of the new Tuloso Midway High School and Performing Arts Center back lighted letters, the entrance will be pretty impressive and certainly a unique feature to this building. Inside, the front gallery area is almost finished including the installation of a large fire rated control door that will separate the PAC area from the High School Commons when needed. In the seating area the speakers, acoustical clouds and wall panels have all been put in place and the seats have arrived for

installation. Currently, subcontractors are working on the finishes, riggings, lighting and sound booth. The dressing rooms are 100% done that include restrooms, shower and millwork (this includes mirror, lighting and cabinetry). There is lots to do over the next month to finish up in this area but each day another detail is done and we are one more day to completion. Outside, the contractor is starting to clean up the work site and placing concrete site-work (sidewalks and stairs) and other landscape and irrigation work. Our goal is to have a grand-opening ceremony in mid-August to officially open up this new facility!



Someone asked me if I would be glad when these construction projects were done and of course I said yes; however, as I explained we still have several more projects that we have been planning and working on for months that will soon be getting off the drawing board and into production over the next months and year!

Another part of the bond project was the construction of a new ag-barn and facility. The District is finalizing the purchase of the property to locate this new ag-barn and has selected an architect (VLK/CLK) for this project. Over the past months we have

been working with the architects, our ag-teachers and other stakeholders to put our ideas into plans for this facility. The board of trustees has approved the schematic design for this new barn and the architect is completing their construction documents. This new facility is over 17,000 square foot and is designed to house more than 100 student animal projects. We are currently on schedule to put these drawings out for bid and to break ground on this project later in the fall.



In addition, we have been working on planning for two FEMA Domes (one for the High School and one for the Intermediate School). The 20,000 SF High School Dome will serve as safe room during a declared FEMA emergency as well as a multi-purpose athletic facility for the High School, including restrooms, concession, and dressing rooms for baseball and softball as well as an unobstructed space in the interior of the building that will be used as a multi-purpose indoor workout area for our various sports and other activities. The bids for the high school dome have been received and are under evaluation to select the rankings of the best valued contractor for this project. We are currently in discussions with FEMA to finalize the funding reimbursement.

The 12,000 SF Intermediate Dome will also serve as safe room during a declared FEMA emergency and be used as a gymnasium that will be tied-in to a new sixteen classroom addition. The board of trustees has approved the schematic design for this project and over the past couple of months we have been meeting with teachers

from the Intermediate School to get input on the layout of the classrooms and technology and furniture needs. The architects for this project are Gignac and PBK and they are finalizing documents in order to go out for bids later in the summer. One aspect to this project will be a significant re-design on the front parking lot and student drop off to the building in order to better streamline student drop off and pickup.

Another project that is scheduled to start May 2014 is a landscaping project at the entrance of the high school Natatorium and around the front of the high school. This project also includes the cleaning, repointing of mortar, replacement of broken brick and graffiti sealer around the exterior of the high school building that was not addressed in the exterior wall remediation project last year and the construction of two metal storage buildings at the stadium and softball field. The project was awarded to Barcom Construction and is scheduled be completed the end of the summer.

Included with the projects above is our Security Intrusion and Video Camera Project for the High School and Primary facilities which was awarded to 911 Security Cameras, Inc.. The scope of work includes access control with proximity cards on exterior doors, interior and exterior security surveillance and specified security alarm system. Work will begin in June at the High School and later in the summer at the Primary School. The other campuses will be part of the second phase of this project.

Not part of the bond issue is the replacement of the bleachers at the Middle School Gymnasium. The old bleachers have already been demolished and removed and new bleachers similar to the ones in the high school have been installed. These bleachers do not add capacity but rather add better handicap accessibility and isles with handrails. These bleachers are also motorized for easy deployment for games and other activities using the gymnasium.



I know my brief update does not do justice to the amount of planning that has been going on over the past years and months. At least weekly, we are meeting with our

architects to get input and review plans. Things are starting to take shape throughout the District and as we approach the fall months more projects will start coming on line. Lots more to do! Aren't we fortunate to live in TM where our community has allowed us to do all this work to provide our students with some of the best teaching facilities in South Texas! Please contact me with any questions and concerns you might have regarding any of these projects at (361) 903-6422.

Sincerely,



Assistant Superintendent for School Operation Services

### ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS

