

Delano Public Schools Building Projects

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What changes are being made to the football stadium besides the turf and the visitor's bleachers?** *The football stadium is part of the entire campus grounds improvement project that includes turfing both the football stadium and the soccer fields. Both of these fields will be transformed into multi-purpose fields for PhyEd, all field athletics and youth programs. In addition to the visitor bleachers, stadium lights, a new track and two additional tennis courts.*

2. **Why did the district have so much discussion about the location of the new building? Wasn't the location decided before approval of the bond referendum?** *The location of the new school was not decided prior to the bond referendum. The Core Campus committee spent extensive time discussing the location of the new school in order to create the best campus approach, including traffic flow, safety and security, adjacent field and play areas, storm water management, utility location and other critical issues. After weighing all options the building location was determined to be best located in the northwest area of the campus.*

3. **What is the tentative schedule for each of the building projects?** *The addition to the Elementary School is scheduled to be completed by December of 2016. The Community Ed. building project is scheduled to be completed by February of 2017. The campus/turf fields project is scheduled to be completed by July of 2017. The new intermediate school/locker room project is projected to begin in November of 2016 with a completion date of May 2018. The secondary building project is projected to begin in December of 2016 with a completion date of August of 2018.*

4. **Why are we putting operable glass walls in the intermediate school when we spent money during the middle school remodel to take operable walls out?** *The design for the new school is very different than what was renovated in the middle school. The original design for the middle school was an "open plan" with movable walls that allowed for teachers or the building to rearrange their spaces as they wanted. The problem was that it very rarely happened if ever, the layouts required students to walk through other rooms to get from area to area, and the walls themselves were not of a very high quality for that time, and favored the ability to move over functional issues like acoustics. The design of the new school arranges classrooms into clusters with adjacent learning spaces for direct instructional support. The operable walls, which are of a much better quality for both acoustics and visibility, allow for rooms to expand into common areas increasing functionality as opposed to sacrificing it. The concepts are very different, and the current design will provide for necessary space to meet students of all educational needs.*

5. **Who was involved in the design sessions?** *The design process for all of the projects involved a number of different shareholders. In the initial design phases each project had a Core Planning Group of 25-30 members including Teachers, Community Members and District Administration who established the criteria for the projects and determined adjacencies and building layout. As design advanced the Architects met with User Groups for each space*

comprised of 3-5 people each who gave detail for each area (including things such as equipment layout, storage requirements, power and data, etc.). The end result are buildings designed specifically to meet the needs of the Delano community.

6. **What is the current financial projection for the referendum projects? Are things on budget?** All of the major work for the projects has now been bid. The High School addition and renovation was the last significant remaining work to bid and those bids were received on November 22. We are very happy to report that the projects are on budget, and we have been able to provide all of the scope defined during the referendum. We are maintaining a contingency fund to assist with unforeseen conditions as they arise during construction (which is typical for this type of work). We will continue to track project costs as they develop. Our consultants review all pricing to ensure fair costs and we review all work with our Project Oversight Committee every other week.

7. **What is going to happen to the high school student parking across from the elementary school?** A temporary parking lot has been established for student parking during the school day. This gravel parking lot is located behind the ice arena.

8. **I heard the gym size at the new intermediate school is too small? Is the gym size going to be increased?** In addition to working through items related to impact and coordination of construction on day-to-day activities, the District is monitoring the budget related to construction and school priorities. The highest priority item identified during design was the size of the gymnasium at the new Intermediate School. The gym as designed was sized to meet the Design Guidelines of the MN Department of Education for the age of students in the building. One of the additional guidelines considered was SHAPE America (Society of Health and Physical Educators), which is the curriculum utilized by our Physical Education instructors. These guidelines called for slightly larger gym sizes than originally bid. The District's design team has worked with the contractor to determine costs to increase the size of the gym to meet these standards and these costs are within the budget and these changes will be made.

There are other items that will continue to be explored according to established priorities to address needs as the work continues. The goal of the Project Oversight Committee (POC) will continue to ensure the projects remain within the budgets and the District is prepared for the future.

This list of "Frequently Asked Questions" will be added to as questions arise. As building projects progress, please check this link for additional answers to questions. If you have a question that we can answer, please email buildingprojects@delanoschools.org.