



## **Fern Ridge School District Capital Bond Projects Update – December 2024**

Dear Fern Ridge Community,

As we approach the holiday season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the progress we've made together. The passion, positivity, and dedication of the entire Fern Ridge School District team, from students and staff to parents and community members, has been truly inspiring. We should all take a moment to celebrate how far we've come in the last year as we work toward transforming our schools and creating spaces where our students and educators can thrive.

It's been an exciting time as we progress through the design and planning stages to begin planning of actual construction on several projects funded by the capital bond. The hard work of many stakeholders is paying off, and we're on track for a bright and promising future. As we prepare for the holidays, it's also a great time to recharge and reflect on the progress we've made—and look ahead to the exciting milestones in the year to come.

*\*\*\*Following is a snapshot of where we stand with key projects throughout the district:*

# Elmira High School Projects

## 1. Athletics Project

- a. **Meetings Held:** The design team has met multiple times, with five meetings focused on refining design details. These include reviewing options for turf and track materials from various manufacturers.
- b. **Next Steps:** The schematic design has been completed, and estimates are due by December 16, 2024. A value engineering session will follow. The next major meeting with the larger group will take place on January 7, 2025, to finalize plans.
- c. **Exploration:** We're exploring the possibility of having the track/turf provider manage the entire athletics project package.
- d. **Timeline:** We plan to break ground on April 1, 2025, with an expected completion date of September 1, 2025.
- e. **Additional Scope:** The project will also include the full renovation of the EHS parking lot (excluding the rear lot).

## 2. Science Room Projects

- a. **Meetings Held:** Three design meetings have taken place to lay the groundwork.
- b. **Next Steps:** The schematic design is set to be completed by December 6, 2024, followed by cost estimating.
- c. **Timeline:** The work is expected to begin after school ends in the summer of 2025, with completion targeted for August 2025.

## 3. Restroom Projects

- a. **Current Status:** Construction is nearly complete! We're excited to wrap up this work soon.

## Fern Ridge Middle School Projects

### 1. Outside Projects

- a. **Meetings Held:** The team has had one meeting to start planning.
- b. **Next Steps:** On December 12, the team will meet again to align the project budget and costs with our goals.
- c. **Scope:** This project will include the back play area, courtyard, front covered area, and parking lot adjustments.
- d. **Timeline:** These projects are slated to take place in the summer of 2025.

### 2. Science Room Projects

- a. **Next Steps:** Planning will begin in Spring 2025.
- b. **Timeline:** Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2026.

## Veneta Elementary School Projects

### 1. Inside Work – Gym and Restroom Complex

- a. **Meetings Held:** The design team has held three meetings to discuss the plans.
- b. **Next Steps:** The schematic design set is due by December 6, 2024, with the cost estimating phase to follow.
- c. **Scope:** The work will focus on improvements to the gym and one restroom complex.

### 2. Parking Lot Work Projects

- a. **Timeline:** This project will likely be pushed to Summer 2026.
- b. **Next Steps:** We're exploring options to expand the parking lot by acquiring adjacent property.

## District Mechanical Improvements

1. **Current Work:** Minor mechanical improvements are ongoing.
2. **Meetings Held:** Two design meetings have taken place for Fern Ridge Middle School (FRMS) and Elmira High School (EHS).
3. **Next Steps:** A 50% design development package is expected by December 6, 2024. We are also working to finalize plans due to long lead times for key equipment purchases.
4. **Timeline:** Major mechanical work is likely to take place in the summer of 2026.

## Bond Oversight Committee (BOC)

1. **Meetings Held:** The BOC has met once, and their next meeting will take place on December 10, 2024.
2. **Next Steps:** The committee will review the budget, progress from the past 90 days, assess communications, and ensure the schedule is on track. They will also align on the next meeting date.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone involved for their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to these projects. We've come a long way already, and it's incredibly exciting to see these plans move forward. The projects we're working on together will provide lasting benefits for our students and the entire Fern Ridge community. As we head into the holidays, let's take a moment to celebrate what we've achieved and look forward to even more progress in the new year!

Wishing everyone a restful and joyful holiday season. Here's to an exciting year ahead!

Sincerely,

Gary Carpenter | Superintendent

