

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Attachment: Information 12

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: 10.27.09

TO: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Bob Golton, Co-CBO and Bond Program Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Project to Install Bleachers at Palo Alto High School

This item was discussed during the October 13, 2009, meeting of the Board of Education. Approval of a bleacher project at the Palo Alto High School football field is being deferred to a future date. This item outlines the recommended process for staff before returning to the Board for approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE
Budget Trends and Infrastructure

BACKGROUND

On December 9, 2008, the Board of Education authorized an agreement with Verde Design Inc. to develop plans and specifications for three athletic field improvement projects at Palo Alto High School. These were the El Camino Field project that is nearing completion, the Multi-Use field that will be bid in spring 2010, and the project to replace the football stadium bleachers. The subject of this Board enclosure is the football stadium bleachers.

The existing home bleachers are wood and metal bleachers that offer poor sight lines and have not been structurally modified since they were built. The existing home bleachers currently seat about 1,300 students, and have no ADA accessible seating.

Verde Design, Inc. developed four concepts for the home side bleacher replacement that provided a range of bleacher capacity and had differing impact on trees and other existing facilities within the stadium. The campus administration had advocated for increased seating capacity to safely accommodate and supervise large crowds during football games, and to allow for holding the student body in one location on campus for student events, safety drills, and assemblies. A recommendation was made to the Board of Education at the October 13, 2009, meeting that would increase the home side bleachers to 1,430 new seats, but would have resulted in the removal of 13 sycamore trees outside the stadium.

The visitor side bleachers have been identified by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) as being out of compliance and put the district on notice that they needed to be brought to code immediately. These bleachers currently accommodate approximately 300 students and Verde designed 378 seats that would comply with code.

After the discussion of this item and input from the community, the Board requested that staff pursue options that would save the 13 sycamore trees. They also requested that staff address the

seating capacity desires of the campus and the importance of existing trees within the football stadium, versus those that are outside the stadium and form transition zones at the stadium boundaries.

PROPOSAL

Based on this direction from the Board, it is proposed that the bleacher replacement project be referred back to the Construction Team and the Palo Alto High School Facilities Steering Committee (Paly FSC).

Options will be developed to expand the studies for the stadium to include architectural services for new buildings, planning around the perimeter of the stadium for access, and the possible relocation of the portable classrooms in the northwest corner of the stadium. The Paly FSC will work with staff to develop an overall plan for the improvements needed for the football stadium.

The Board has approved the DLM sub-consultant, Gates + Associates, who will develop master landscape plans for the two high school campuses. Gates will be working with both the Paly FSC and the newly formed Paly Landscape Sub-Committee. The Landscape Sub-Committee has had one introductory meeting and their next meeting is scheduled for 3:15 p.m. at the Paly Library on November 10, 2009. Gates and Associates will be working with the committees on the overall landscape plan for the campus, as well as the specific plans for all three field projects.

DLM will also utilize Verde Design as a sub-consultant for development of the athletic facilities inside the stadium. Verde Design will be working with Gates and the site committees.

The Paly FSC will then need to prioritize the project within their overall budget, based on the new scope of work and budget, and make a recommendation for this football field project. Staff will then return this item to the Board agenda.

In the interim, staff will rescind the DSA submittal for the bleacher replacement project and will terminate the agreement with Verde Design for design services on this project. Their future work on this project will be done as a sub-consultant to DLM. The District Maintenance Department will modify the existing visitor bleachers to comply with DSA requirements, until a permanent solution is reached as part of the new project.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for discussion and review only. No action is required.