

BOND TIMELINE

Upgrading school facilities

By Trish Yerges

The La Grande School District has some exciting facilities projects in the works, all funded through the passage of Bond Measure #31-105 and a matching grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program, totaling \$8.845 million.

As a result, the district has moved forward with two major projects: the replacement of the Annex Building located at the La Grande Middle School, and the relocation of the maintenance, grounds and facilities operation into a newly purchased building better suited for the needs of the department.

“I am very pleased that we are able to keep improving our facilities in support of student, staff, family and community success,” stated Superintendent George Mendoza. “A thriving community has strong schools, health care systems, public safety and businesses. When we can make things better for our community, it is good for our students and our best future as a community.”

Supervising the many details of this two-fold project is Joseph Waite, maintenance and facilities director for the La Grande School District.

Regarding the Annex Building project at the La Grande Middle School, Waite said, “Currently, we have our request for proposals sent out and advertised to the public,” he said, “and we’re looking to hire a design-build contractor, whether that’s a contractor that has both architectural and construction management capabilities or a partnership between two entities.”

Those proposals are due on

August 30, after which the district will evaluate them. Depending on what comes in, Waite said they will interview the top candidates. Then a recommendation will be made to the La Grande School District Board to move forward with the contract. Likely, this will happen at the September board meeting or the September work session later in the month.

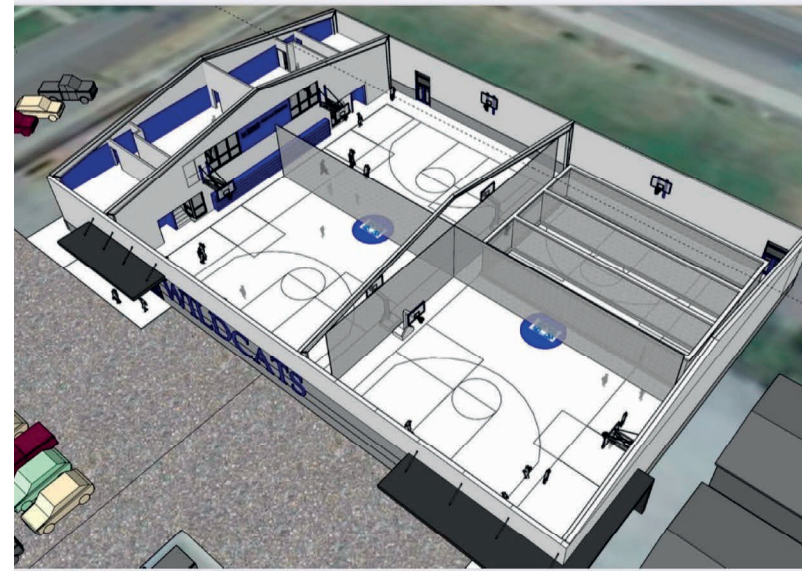
“Once we get the entity under contract, there is a 420-day design and construction timeline to get us a new building,” he said. “Our hope is that, starting this fall, we’ll work through the design phase up until the January-February timeframe. Then at that time, we’ll go out to bid for the construction. We’re looking to get started as early as possible, pending weather. As soon as the Middle School can hold their physical education class outside on a regular basis, then we can start construction.”

The construction site will be located at 1108 Fourth Street at the La Grande Middle School campus.

The conceptual design drawing shows a single story, pre-engineered structure, multi-use facility. It will be utilized for academic classes, including STEM classes, physical education and health classes.

It will also be used for athletics, equipped with two full-sized basketball courts that can be converted into four sport courts. Two drop-down dividers will make the space friendly for softball and baseball pitching and hitting practices. In addition to serving as an athletics area, the space can be used for community events.

The district is very pleased to announce that they have purchased the former La Grande Light Truck building at 1805 Adams Street for \$795,000. Waite said the new site is more of a warehouse facility than the Annex has been because the Annex is an old educational building with classrooms, whereas the new site is more efficient and set up for vehicle maintenance with large bays and many other spaces for development. The newly purchased building will require some renovations to fully meet the district’s needs, and that work should be completed by December so at that time the maintenance department can gradually start moving its



equipment and operation into it.

“Our goal is, by spring break, to have everything moved over to the new site and start operating from there after that point in time,” Waite said.

After the Annex building and the maintenance building at the La Grande Middle School campus are emptied, those structures will be razed to make room for the new multi-purpose, pre-engineered building. The Annex, which had a gym on the second story, will be replaced with the new building.

REMINDER



Sunset Drive will be closed this school year for the expansion of Grande Ronde Hospital. Please allow extra time for the drop off and pick up of your students to allow for new traffic patterns.

