

A summary from the April 11, 2006 School Board Meeting

## Update on Bond Projects, Facilities Improvement Plan

### Bond Projects Update

■ Superintendent Don Helmstetter reported the **first bid opening**, for work at the high school's **Panther Stadium**, occurred during the past week.

■ At the School Board Work Session on April 25, the Board will be asked to **approve bids** related to additional classrooms at **Park Terrace Elementary**, a new media center at **Westwood Elementary**, and the conversion of the present Westwood Elementary media center into classrooms. These projects will be completed before the start of school in the fall.

■ The preliminary design work of the **new elementary school** and plans and designs for the new **high school** Phy. Ed. and fine arts areas are scheduled to begin this spring.

■ The district will need **transition or staging space** for the Early Childhood program next year. One of the options the district is considering is the former Spring Lake Park Health Partners facility which could be used as a staging area for Early Childhood Programs, Learning Alternatives Community School, high school and the District Office.

Once the district has no further use for the facility, it could be sold. Dr. Helmstetter said using property such as the Health Partners facility rather than using temporary modular units is a much more viable and desirable option. Other facilities are also being considered as transitioning spaces.

■ A 21-member **New Elementary Design Team** has been formed. The team will tour three Twin City area elementary schools on April 19 to gather design ideas.

■ On April 20, the **community Construction Oversight Group** will meet at the District Office. That group will likely meet every 6-8 weeks. The meetings are open to the public.

### Sale of Bonds

Joel Sutter, Ehlers and Associates, Inc., shared the results of bidding for the sale of \$45 million in bonds. This is the first of three bond issues to finance projects authorized by voters on February 28, 2006. Seven bids were received on this first bond issue.

Sutter recommended and the Board approved a resolution awarding the bond bid to Banc of America Securities, LLC, Charlotte, North Carolina, at a true interest rate of 4.5702%. This interest rate is considerably less than figures used to prepare estimates prior to the referendum vote.

Sutter reported that the interest rates from this first sale of bonds will benefit district taxpayers with a lower tax impact than originally projected.

In addition to a more favorable interest rate, the district also received a premium bid on the sale of its bonds. This premium will allow the district to retain a larger amount of interest earnings for use

on planned capital projects funded through the bond issue.

### Track and Field Reconstruction

Greg Dehler, of Wold Architects and Engineers, presented bids for the Spring Lake Park High School Track and Field Reconstruction Project.

The track is a safety hazard, unusable for the second year for track and field events. Drainage has been a problem for years. The athletic field is in poor condition, off limits to most activities.

The reconstruction project will correct the drainage problem, replace the track surface, and install a synthetic turf field. This surface will allow for 20 times the field's current usage and significant annual savings on maintenance and repair, mowing, sodding, watering, and fertilizing.

Following discussion, the Board approved bids by Glenn Rehbein, Inc of Blaine, MN for a base bid of \$557,000 for overall site excavation, drainage, and track reconstruction up to the sub base of the new synthetic football field turf system.

The bid also included \$427,000 for a Field Turf Pro monofilament grass system with rubber and sand mix infill. The turf is a cutting edge synthetic material with a life expectancy of 15 years.

Track and field improvements are being funded basis through a lease purchase agreement.