

SEPTEMBER 2017

DEAR ANACORTES COMMUNITY MEMBER,



I hope this letter finds you well as we say good-bye to an amazing Northwest summer. I'm continually reminded of how

beautiful Anacortes is – and how fortunate we are to live here.

This brochure updates you on our progress with the new high school. As the biggest infrastructure project in the history of our community, it is important to keep you updated throughout the construction process.

We remain deeply grateful for the investment in our students, and we stand by our commitment to build

a high-quality school that will serve Anacortes children for decades to come.

In Fall 2015, the school board set guiding principles for the project. These principles greatly informed the design process, and we refer to them often:

- **An emphasis on quality learning environments**
- **An identity that captures the spirit of the community**
- **Durability and sustainability**
- **A flexible environment**
- **Safety and security**

We also remain committed to delivering this project on time and on budget. We know how important it is to

manage public funds with the utmost care, and we are determined to get the greatest value for taxpayer dollars. So far, we have fulfilled this commitment – and we are determined to do so for the duration of the project.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions, comments or concerns about the project. I can be reached at (360) 293-1211 or mwenzel@asd103.org

Best regards,

Dr. Mark Wenzel
Superintendent
Anacortes School District

A look at the new Anacortes High School



Q AND A



With Dave Cram

*ASD Finance and
Operations Director*

HOW MUCH HAS THE DISTRICT SPENT SO FAR ON THE PROJECT?

To date, we've spent \$18 million, and we are on budget. This includes all of Phase I (Rice Field) and part of Phase II (classroom building). It's not just construction costs, but the general contractor, the project manager, architects and engineers, sales tax, permitting, etc.

WHAT CONTROLS ARE IN PLACE TO MAKE SURE WE STAY ON BUDGET?

First, we're under a contract. We have a signed contract with our general contractor FORMA to complete all the required work for our budget. The bids are locked in, so the prices can't change. We also have contingency funds for unforeseen conditions. Second, communication on this project is very strong, with weekly planning meetings where we talk about the schedule and solve problems. Third, prior to the build, we conducted a constructability review, a thorough vetting of the construction documents, as well as a soils survey.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS YOU SEE MOVING FORWARD?

The biggest challenge is the school calendar. To minimize the impact on students, we have an aggressive schedule. It's doable but a prolonged period of bad weather – or labor or material shortages – could challenge this schedule. We are looking ahead at labor and delivery dates to do everything we can to be proactive.

WHAT'S GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

The earthwork is coming to an end, and we've had very few change orders. That's helped us stay on budget. Having Marc Estvold and Marty Yates on site daily allows us to anticipate any issues before they arise.

AHS GRAD HELPS BUILD THE NEW SCHOOL

"To be helping the community that I've been a part of and that will always be a part of me is really special," says FORMA Construction intern Zach Vance.

A 2014 Anacortes High School graduate and a senior at Colorado State University, Vance spent his summer working as a project engineer on site, helping coordinate with the subcontractors to make sure everything gets built according to plan. He says substituting this field experience for classroom learning is invaluable.

"Everything here is what you'd learn in a classroom, but the hands-on aspect offers so much more. I'm actually doing the work of a full-time project engineer instead of just reading about that role," he said.

Because he interned last summer on the Rice Field construction, he's been given more responsibilities this year. Much of his role revolves around issues that arise and working closely with the architect to find timely and cost-effective solutions.

FORMA manager Keith Michel says Vance immediately became a valuable member of the field management team and that they were thrilled to have him back this summer.

Zach Vance, AHS 2014

"As an AHS graduate, Zach has a natural desire to contribute to the success of this project. His attention to detail, work ethic and overall dedication to the task at hand have impressed the whole team of FORMA managers," said Michel.

Vance credits Scott Dickison's woodworking class with sparking his interest in the building trade. But he's quick to add AP environmental science with Victor Garcia as one of his all-time favorite classes.

Vance, who is majoring in construction management, will continue his internship through January. After completing spring semester back in Colorado, he will graduate with a bachelor of science. He plans to enter the workforce shortly after.

SITE ACTIVITY

It's been a busy summer on the high school site – moving dirt, pouring concrete walls and laying plumbing and electrical lines. Engineers tested soil compaction to make sure settling won't occur over time. In addition, brace frames were put in place to give lateral stability in the event of an earthquake. With the erection of steel in late summer and early fall, the new school is coming to life.



STUDENT VOICES



Bella McPhee
Class of 2020

“I saw in the plans that there are a lot of windows. I’m excited about the views we’ll have. I think the commons will be a great place for students, and I can’t wait for a bigger lunchroom.”



Tate Calles
Class of 2020

“I think the outdoor amphitheatre is going to be a great place to hang out or study. And having new halls that aren’t dark and larger, brighter classrooms that aren’t cracking will be nice. I’m excited to see how the drawings come to life in a real building.”



Lily Jordan
Class of 2021

“I think the new school will send out a positive attitude for students, and everyone, really. It’s like a brand-new start, and I think it will boost how everyone feels about our school and how we learn. Having new science labs and new technology will be exciting.”



CAP SANTE HIGH SCHOOL

Crews worked hard this summer to prep the new temporary home of Cap Sante High School at 22nd Street and J Ave. The ASD maintenance team dedicated more than 160 hours to the move, including prepping the site for mechanical and electrical, as

well as obtaining a conditional use permit. The building was moved from the high school site in three sections. Once in place, crews worked on power, phones and internet connections. Cap Sante serves about 75 students on and off campus.



PLANNING FOR 2018-2019

During the 2018-2019 school year, as many as 20 percent of high school classes will be offsite to allow for the final phase of construction including the auditorium, gym, Career & Technical Education (CTE) wing, and music classrooms. Planning the program relocation is going well, says coordinator Bob Knorr.

“It’s a huge puzzle in a short window,” he said. “We’re doing a lot of coordination now to get a handle on it ahead of time.”

In addition to finding space for academic classes, Knorr is working with Erik Titus, district athletic and activities director, to find practice and game sites for school sports teams. He is also identifying performance spaces for band, choir and drama, as well as equipment storage space for programs such as robotics, metals, digital media, music and weight training.



TRAFFIC CALMING

In partnership with the district, the City of Anacortes is working to improve safety on the streets neighboring the high school. One example is called ‘traffic calming’ which has multiple benefits: slowing traffic at intersections; decreasing the actual distance a pedestrian is in the crosswalk; and

rounding extension bumps out to prevent cars from parking near the corner, thus increasing visibility. Project Manager Marc Estvold says the city has been an excellent partner throughout the high school construction project.



ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FINDING INSPIRATION IN MEMORIAL PLAZA

U.S. Army Major Scott Smiley visited the Veterans Memorial Plaza at Anacortes High School's Seahawk Stadium last spring. Smiley was wounded in Iraq in 2005 when a roadside bomb left him completely blind.

Retired Air Force Colonel Richard Iversen, a member of the Veterans Memorial Committee, brought Smiley and his brother-in-law Travis Elliot to the plaza to see the memorial and the plaques honoring two Medal of Honor recipients.

"Though totally blind, there is no doubt that he could feel in his heart and see in his mind, the spirit of those who gave their lives defending our freedoms," said Iversen.

Following his injury in Iraq, Smiley continued to serve in the Army as the first blind active-duty officer in military history. In 2007, the Army named him "Soldier of the Year" and in 2008 he won an ESPY as the "World's Best Outdoor Athlete." He is the recipient of the Army's prestigious MacArthur Leadership Award.

After teaching at the Army ROTC program at Gonzaga University, Smiley retired from the military in 2015. He holds the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab and Airborne and Combat Diver Badge.

Smiley lives in Spokane and travels around the country speaking and sharing his message of hope, courage and perseverance.

"It was very moving walking through the plaza. The space was beyond amazing," he said. "Every high school should have something like this to remind students of the local sacrifices that took place for their freedom."

SEAHAWK STADIUM

The new Seahawk Stadium, completed last fall, has become an Anacortes asset. In addition to school and community athletics, the stadium hosted the 2017 AHS graduation, Relay for Life cancer walk, and a visit by the Seattle Seahawks this summer. Rice Field is open to the community M-F, 6 to 7:30 am and 7 to 10:00 pm, as well as Sunday 12:00 to 6:00 pm.



Jake Santos *AHS junior*

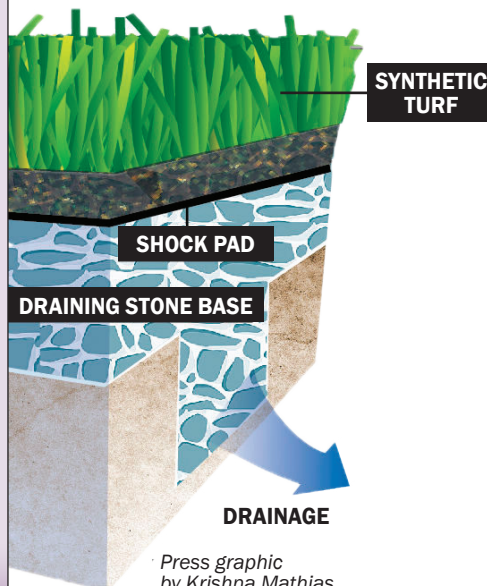
"The new field is so much better; it's comfortable to run on and holds up nicely in rainy conditions. The covered bleachers also make it possible for my grandmother to attend games and cheer me on."

A NEW PRODUCT: ARTIFICIAL TURF WITH CORK

Last winter's snow contributed to an unexpected outcome in the cork turf on Rice Field. Below the turf is a permeable E-layer (shock pad). When extra moisture from the snow froze, cork floated to the surface on two occasions. To alleviate this, in

consultation with the manufacturer, crews drilled a pattern of holes in the E-layer to increase its permeability. No extra cost was incurred. The district also has a machine to redistribute cork on the turf when needed.

Marty Yates, maintenance supervisor, says our district is really on the leading edge of schools using cork turf, and it's performing well. The district chose cork material after concerns were raised over potential hazards of crumb rubber. The turf is under a 20-year warranty.



Press graphic by Krishna Mathias

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