

BOND/CONSTRUCTION UPDATE 7.21.15

Dripping Springs ISD has made significant progress on implementation of the \$92.4 million bond program that was approved by voters in May of 2014. Since the last update was distributed, several steps have been accomplished.

Earlier this month, ground was broken for the elementary school and middle school on Sawyer Ranch Road. These schools, which will have initial capacities for 850 elementary students and 850 middle school students (designed for future expansion to 1,200 middle school students), are scheduled to be complete for the 2017-18 school year. The two schools are connected in order to gain efficiencies in areas such as the shared kitchen and mechanical room, to reduce the overall footprint of the structure, and to allow for collaborative opportunities between the two schools.

Also included in the bond program were a baseball/softball complex at Dripping Springs High School and a multi-purpose stadium to be built around the current competition field at DSHS (including a field house with additional locker room space). A contract with Lee Lewis Construction was approved at the July 20 special Board meeting for those projects, which are expected to begin in August. Both projects are projected to be ready for the 2016-17 school year, one year ahead of the original schedule.

One project that has been modified during the planning process is the Network Operations Center (NOC), which will serve as the hub of the district's network technology infrastructure. Originally this facility was slated to be built on the new elementary school and middle school campus. It has since been determined that, based on the location of DSISD schools and the need for connectivity, it would be more efficient to locate the NOC at the high school campus. It will be built as an external building on the south side of the school near the gyms.

Other projects listed in the bond have been completed or are in progress such as technology upgrades and maintenance improvements. A network "refresh" to the network and campus computers is underway. HVAC upgrades are being completed at Walnut Springs Elementary and roofing work is being done at both Walnut Springs and the middle school.

A display of photos and planning documents of the elementary school/middle school and the stadium are available at the DSISD Administration Building, which is open this summer from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Additional information is available at: www.dsisdbond.net.