



Roosevelt High School

School Building Improvement Bond Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 2015

What is the School Building Improvement Bond?

In November 2012, Portland voters approved an 8-year, \$482 million school building improvement bond by a two-thirds majority. Based on a citizen-developed and prioritized plan, the bond will fully modernize three high schools and replace one K-8 school. It will also replace roofs, and improve seismic safety, access, and grade 6th-8th science classrooms at up to 63 other schools.

What has been done so far on the Roosevelt project?

We have completed the Master Plan, Schematic Design and Design Development Phases for Roosevelt High School, which processes included extensive public participation. The School Board approved the Roosevelt Master Plan on December 16, 2013, and the Schematic Design was approved on June 23, 2014. The Master Plan created the vision and primary concepts for the project and the Schematic Design further refined and defined school appearance, materials, layout and costs. Design Development was completed in early 2015. Construction Documents are now being completed. PPS is currently negotiating with the contractor for final pricing.

Bassetti Architects is the Architecture Team for the Roosevelt High School Modernization. Bassetti has a strong background in both educational projects and historic buildings. The contractor for the project is Lease Crutcher Lewis.

Where are we in the process now?

We are now in the pre- construction phase of the project. Over spring break some construction related activities took place. The gym wing has been closed and both math and life skills classes were moved. This relocation is necessary in order to allow the project team to begin construction as soon as school ends this summer. The contractor has set up shop and some construction fencing has gone up on the baseball field. We are beginning construction on a temporary structure will house PE classes during the first phase of construction while the new gym is being built.

A public ceremonial groundbreaking will occur on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 10am. This celebration will include prominent members of the community and will be followed by self-guided tours of the building and a BBQ.

What are the highlights of the new design?

- A welcoming, two story commons that provides students and the community a space to gather, work and learn.
- New spaces and opportunities for career and project-based learning so students can dream, design, make and create.
- Learning wings with a variety of spaces wired for technology to enhance group and individualized learning
- Repurposing the auditorium as the new Media Center allowing this majestic space to continue to serve the Roosevelt community.
- New athletics facilities include a new gym with expanded capacity and a new auxiliary gym to support activities such as dance and wrestling
- A new Arts Wing that features a modern theater, music rooms and art classrooms.
- A community services center with a health clinic, clothes closet, food pantry, and counseling center that provides a separate entrance for after-hours use

What construction phasing means for Staff and Students?

Construction will be phased such that students and teachers will remain on-site. Classes will be moved between the existing building, temporary classrooms, and the new facility as it is constructed. The project team will be in constant communication with Roosevelt High School staff to minimize disruption to teachers and students to the extent feasible.

Theater and performing arts

For the 2015-16 school year drama classes will be held in general education classrooms. Performances will take place at locations to be determined. In the fall of 2016, drama and music classes will move into their brand new building and theater.

Sports and PE

For the 2015-16 school year PE classes will be held in a heated tent structure to be erected on-site. Athletics staff is reviewing alternative locations for basketball practice and games for the 2015-16 school year. In the fall of 2016, the new gymnasium building will open and all gym-related sports will have their new home.

The football field and track will remain open during construction. Baseball, tennis and softball will be impacted for the full two-year construction work effort. Athletics staff is also considering alternate locations. Final decisions have not been made.

School Assemblies

For the 2015-16 school year, assemblies will be held in the cafeteria. The student population may be split for this purpose, as necessary or desirable. Once completed, the gymnasium can house student assemblies for a total enrollment of 1700.

Construction impacts on the neighborhood

- Work may occur on some evenings and on some weekends.
- There will be increased construction traffic in and around school grounds.
- Street closures are not anticipated at this time.
- Parking on the Roosevelt campus will not be available during construction.
- Site security is a priority. Construction fencing will surround the active areas of the site.
- If you have construction issues and concerns an RHS construction hotline will be brought online. Check the website - <http://RooseveltBond.pps.net> for more information.

Upcoming Construction phases

Phase I Construction SUMMER 2015 –SUMMER 2016

- Gymnasium, music building and boiler room demolished
- Construct new gymnasium and classroom wing, new auditorium and student commons cafeteria
- Former auditorium transforms into new media center

Phase II Construction SUMMER 2016 – SUMMER 2017

- New auditorium, gymnasium, media center and commons cafeteria open in fall of 2016
- Renovate original 1921 buildings for new learning, administrative and wrap around services
- Construct second half of student commons
- Temporary facilities remain on site

Phase III SUMMER 2017 – December 2017

- All modernized buildings open to students in the fall of 2017
- Existing shops, library, cafeteria wings demolished
- Temporary facilities removed
- Construction fence removed
- Site work and landscaping improvement completes in winter

How did the community, teachers, and families have input on how Roosevelt High School was designed?

Roosevelt High School was designed through an extensive community process including input from students, families, neighbors, and service providers. There was likewise an extensive internal process including input from teachers, building leadership, district educators, maintenance, custodial, technology and nutrition services.

Although the school district has common educational goals and design guidelines, each school has a unique community. Particular factors include: partnership opportunities, services offered to students, historical significance of the building, and community use of the school facilities.

A Design Advisory Group (DAG) was formed for the Roosevelt High School full modernization project. Each DAG was engaged in master planning and design through design development. The Design Advisory Group consisted of parents, teachers, students, service providers, and the community. The DAG provided feedback for master planning and the architectural design process and was intended to facilitate outreach to the broader community.

In addition to the DAG, the Roosevelt High school staff working in the building – including principals, teachers, aides, secretaries, nutrition workers and custodians – have been and will continue to be a targeted resource to the design process, as they know the operations of the school, the students who learn there and the opportunities that exist for improvement.

A large number of public outreach and engagement events were held including 14 Design Advisory Group meetings, 4 public design workshops and 3 design open houses. The PPS outreach team attended over 50 parent focused and neighborhood meetings & events. Notices for public meetings were distributed through school newsletters, flyers placed in schools and throughout communities. Ads for events were placed in local newspapers like the Skanner and the St. Johns Review. We also used the EMMA email system to send out notices and updates to hundreds of people. Also the PPS *Autodialer* system send out calls to families of students at Roosevelt and all its feeder schools whenever a public workshop or open house was held.

How did design workshops offer community members an opportunity for input?

Both Master Planning and Schematic Design workshops were held at Roosevelt High, the Charles Jordan Community Center, and George Middle School. These workshops were followed by Open Houses where the preferred master and schematic design plans were informally presented to the community. A construction impact Open House was also held. These open meetings gave members of the community an opportunity to directly engage with the Design Team in defining a collective vision for their school.

People were able to share their thoughts and ideas on: What should the future Roosevelt look and feel like? What parts of the building and campus work well? What parts don't? How can Roosevelt better support its students and families? These sessions were designed to allow everyone to equally contribute their unique perspectives, priorities, ideas and comments.

How was Roosevelt High School chosen for modernization?

The Long-Range Facilities Plan states that Portland Public Schools should create effective, accessible and inclusive learning environments to help all students achieve. The entire committee agreed that a series of capital bonds over several decades would be required in order to renovate or replace school facilities district-wide.

Franklin, Grant and Roosevelt high schools were chosen for modernization because they reflect public input that prioritized comprehensive high schools in poor seismic condition with major accessibility deficiencies and high free and reduced lunch populations.

What is a full modernization?

Full modernization addresses all of the deficient building systems (such as heating, plumbing, electrical, etc.) and significantly renovates a school.

It includes building changes that create flexible spaces for teaching and learning, and other improvements that support student achievement.

It is cost effective. For example, the estimated square foot cost of seismic upgrades is reduced by about 50% when completed as part of the major renovation.

Why would some school buildings be modernized rather than replaced?

The decision to fully modernize or completely replace a school building depends on its age, historic significance, condition, deficiencies, size, and programmatic space needs.

PPS has many historic neighborhood schools. Historic buildings are being renovated through the School Building Improvement Bond in a way that is consistent with the building's historical designations and building components, while providing up-to-date teaching and learning environments and more durable, sustainable finishes. Teachers, staff and families are involved in planning to help preserve the unique aspects of each school and its integration into the surrounding community.

Why are PPS and the City collaborating on student transportation projects at bond schools?

Many public and private improvement projects include requirements to construct related transportation improvements as a part of the work. PPS and the City have agreed the City will design and construct any required transportation projects in the City's right-of-way. PPS provided \$5 million in bond funds to the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) as the total cost of PPS' commitment for these projects. Our agreement prioritizes student transportation safety projects required as conditions of permit approvals associated with schools receiving full modernization (Franklin, Grant and Roosevelt High Schools) or replacement (Faubion PreK -8) Other summer improvement project school sites may also be included, as funds allow, to receive transportation improvements that support safe walking and biking to school.

How do I learn more about the project? And what can I do to help?

For more information please join our mailing list email: RHSMOD@pps.net. Visit our [Bond Program website](#) the [Roosevelt Project Website](#) or call 503-916-2222. You can help by informing your friends and neighbors about the project and referring them to the Roosevelt Project website for the latest information and updates.