



RHS Modernization Project Director Newsletter #7

September 2014

The halls of Roosevelt High School have been filled once again as another school year begins. While we hope it has been a restful and restorative summer for everyone, it has been a busy and productive one for the Roosevelt High School (RHS) modernization project. And the coming months are going to get even busier as we start the countdown for groundbreaking in the spring. Please read on for more details on the progress that has been made and new milestones on the horizon:

Schematic Design Approved by School Board

On June 23, the School Board officially approved the Schematic Design for Roosevelt. A culmination of 12 months of planning, community conversations, and hard work on the part of the Bassetti Architects design team, the Schematic Design refined the big ideas from the Roosevelt Master Plan and finalized the location of all major spaces in the building. This plan was also detailed to an extent so it could be analyzed for cost to ensure the project was within budget.

The summer months since have been dedicated to Design Development, the project phase when spaces are more fully detailed with structural, mechanical, and electrical systems, along with furniture and interior elements. Conversations continued with building users and stakeholders to refine spaces such as the classrooms, the Writing Center, gymnasium, custodial spaces and health clinic. This phase, now nearing completion, is the last stage of significant input gathering before Construction Documents are assembled in preparation for permitting and groundbreaking in Spring 2015.

Plans Developed for Phased Construction

As many of you are aware from previous newsletters, Roosevelt will be a phased project and remain an occupied campus during construction. This means that students will continue to attend classes at RHS while construction is completed in rotating locations throughout the site. Roosevelt is an exciting project in that sections of the new building will be available for students in advance of the final completion date. As new parts of the building are brought online, other spaces and buildings in the campus will be removed or renovated. New and renovated buildings sections are anticipated to open as early as Fall 2016.

To create a plan with the smallest impact on teaching and learning possible, the PPS project team including Bassetti Architects and Lease Crutcher Lewis, our CM/GC contracting team, have worked in collaboration with school administrators (and will continue to do so through construction). To share this plan publicly and how this will impact students, families and the neighborhood, please stay tuned for announcements on upcoming Phasing Plan Open Houses. Dates will be announced through the project website: <http://RooseveltBond.pps.net> and through future newsletters and community-posted flyers.

Development of Career Related Learning

A subject of continued community interest, the intended curriculum and academic programs for the Science / Technology / Engineering / Math (STEM) spaces continue to be developed in collaboration with teachers, administrators and local experts. Decisions on the specific programs and educator uses will greatly impact how they will be laid out and initially furnished as part of the modernization. Currently, both labs are conceived to be equipped with plumbing, ventilation, track cable/electrical systems and flexibly laid out so they can transform for different program focuses throughout the lifetime of the school. Each lab will have plenty of space for classes of students, small groups, and independent learners to experience hands-on, project based learning during their time at Roosevelt whether in a theater craft or mechanical engineering class, or a robotics or environmental science club.

Welcome New Roosevelt Rough Riders!

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not share our warm welcomes to the new faces and honorary Rough Riders that have joined both the school and the modernization team. Big thanks to Filip Hristic, Roosevelt's new principal, and Arturo Ruelas, joining Elisa Schorr as a vice principal, for taking time to meet with the design team amidst their busy transitions into the Roosevelt community and school year. We look forward to many more opportunities for communication and collaboration as the Roosevelt building transformation takes place. We also would like to extend our congratulations to Charlene Williams as she transitions into her role as Senior Director for the Roosevelt Cluster and Benson High School and look forward to her continued partnership in fostering Roosevelt's development.

We appreciate all of the comments and participation that we have seen from so many over these past few months and look forward to seeing both familiar and new faces as we move forward with the development of our school. As always, please be in touch with any questions you may have by contacting us at rhsmod@pps.net.

Michelle R. M. Platter

*Capital Project Director – Roosevelt High School
“Go Riders!”*