



## **Quarterly Progress Report to the Boulder Valley Board of Education**

May 2008

### **Project Status**

Boulder Valley bond staff began implementation of the 2006 Bond Program 18 months ago when voters generously approved ballot measure 3A providing Boulder Valley School District with \$298.6 million for facilities improvements. To accomplish the bond in six years, we have undertaken a very ambitious schedule. We are currently implementing 30 different bid packages which cover school building projects, athletics and playground projects, site improvements and information technology. At this time, 15 of those are under construction. Many of our projects were bid in March and April this year and we are benefitting from a favorable bid market. Strong competition produced hard bids which met or were below budgets. The guaranteed maximum prices we've received on our CM/GC projects have also come in within budget. Many of the phase I projects will be completed in time for the 2009-10 school year.

Because of specific building needs, three school projects have been moved to phase I: Community Montessori, Platt Middle School and Flatirons Elementary. The first phase of the Community Montessori project was completed last summer. For accounting reasons, it was decided to complete the remainder of the project in phase I as well. Platt Middle School will host Casey Middle School students and staff for 18 months while the new Casey Middle School is being constructed. To prepare for these additional occupants, Platt's bond renovation work has been moved to phase I. Renovations at Flatirons Elementary have also been fast-tracked to accommodate growing enrollment.

Construction on the 70-mile wide area network began this month. The new network will provide dramatically increased digital capacity and access speed to schools. This will be the highest capacity system built by any school district in the nation.

In addition to faster connections, the network will also be more reliable, with redundancy built in at various places in the system. The system has been designed to an industry standard that strives to achieve less than 5 minutes down time per year.

Because of the increased capacity and speed, we'll be able to convert phone service district-wide to voice over internet protocol (VoIP). Converting to this type of phone service will save the district up to a half million dollars in telephone service fees each year.

This system is using the latest technology currently available on the market and has been designed to support the district's technology needs for many years to come. With the increased speed and capacity, video on demand, video conferencing and distance learning will become realities in our classrooms in the near future.

In previous reports to the board, we have provided hard copies of project status reports to you. To conserve paper, this information now will be provided exclusively on the bond website. The bond website can be accessed by clicking on the hard hat logo in the lower right corner of the BVSD home page. The website is our primary tool for reporting bond progress to the public. It includes financial reports, project status information, construction updates, current news, information on the activities of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee and more.

### **Financials**

FY08 third quarter expenditures totaled \$4,306,000, bringing the total bond expenditures to date to \$13,917,232. Retained interest earnings to date total \$2,039,332. These funds remain intact and will not be allocated during phase I. A report of expenditures through FY08 third quarter and revenue and expense projections are attached to this report.

We have developed a process for the allocation of interest earnings, program reserve and project savings to projects when necessary. A flow chart that illustrates the flow of funds is attached. At the beginning of the bond, a program reserve was created to provide funds to be used to augment project budgets as necessary. Supplemental funds that are not used in projects will be returned to the program reserve. Once projects are complete, remaining balances will be transferred to project savings for use in meeting scope on other projects. Funds can be transferred to the program reserve from project savings or interest earnings upon approval by the board and CBOC. Funds can also be transferred directly to project budgets from project savings or interest earnings upon approval by the board and CBOC.

### **Partnerships**

One of the unanticipated benefits that has emerged from the 2006 Bond has been the opportunity to develop partnerships with other local organizations. In the IT WAN project, we have developed partnerships with the City of Boulder, the City of Louisville, the local Federal laboratories, Centennial BOCES and the Colorado Department of Transportation. These partnerships provide various benefits such as the joint use of network components including fiber optic cable and conduit as well as monetary savings. The resources we'll share with Boulder and Louisville have reduced the length of network we'll need to construct by nearly 20 percent. Our partnership with CDOT resulted in a net savings of \$486,000.

In February, the City and County of Broomfield approved the use of municipal services expansion fees of just over \$700,000 to add an eighth lane to the track and create additional parking at the school. The expansion of the track to eight lanes will allow Broomfield High School to now host state track competitions, which it has been unable to do in the past. This improvement will also benefit the many Broomfield youth who use the track each summer through Broomfield Recreation Department programs. The addition of 105 parking spaces at the school will benefit students and other users of the school facilities.

The City of Boulder has agreed to use up to \$1.8 million in educational excise tax funds to reimburse the district for expenses incurred in the pursuit of LEED certification for the new Casey building. Without this funding, LEED certification would not be possible.

Developing partnerships like these is a great way to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the 2006 Bond and to leverage resources to do even more for our students. We look forward to this trend continuing through the entire bond program.

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee  
Quarterly Update to the Board of Education  
May 27, 2008  
Presented by Dee Perry, Committee Chair

Good evening, Dr. Jones and members of the Board of Education. This is the second quarterly report for 2008 from the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Also in attendance tonight from the Committee is Ginger Ramsey, Principal of Broomfield High School.

We have held two meetings since our last quarterly report. The March meeting was held at Casey Middle School and the May meeting was held at Crest View Elementary School. It has been eye-opening to tour the schools prior to our meetings and see the extent of the work that has started and how well the schools are adapting to the disruption of construction. It's very impressive! Our next two scheduled meetings will be held at Manhattan and Southern Hills Middle Schools. We would like to thank the school Principals for graciously hosting our meetings and for taking the time to conduct the facility tours.

Since our February 12<sup>th</sup> quarterly report, we have welcomed two new committee members who replaced former members who resigned. Also, three committee members no longer represent the stakeholder group for which they were originally chosen by the Board of Education. Two of the three members are interested and willing to serve out their terms. Since it takes quite a bit of time for CBOC members to familiarize themselves with the bond and construction issues, it will be a challenge for newly recruited members to

quickly come up to speed. The Committee is in support of the amendment to the CBOC Guidelines which is on the agenda later this evening to allow CBOC members who no longer represent the stakeholder group for which they were originally chosen to remain on the Committee and to serve out their terms.

As part of efforts to maximize transparency to the community, we are continuing our regular review process of the bond website. Additionally, the committee submitted a Guest Opinion about CBOC and the web site and this was published in the April 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Daily Camera.

At our May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, staff brought to our attention that over the past 12 months, the District has been investigating the possibility of replacing Columbine Elementary rather than renovating the existing structure as is defined in the Educational Facilities Master Plan. All scope changes must be reviewed and recommended to the Board of Education by CBOC. In anticipation that a recommendation and decision may need to be made prior to the next CBOC meeting in August, the committee requested staff to provide the architectural analysis and original facility assessment to the Committee via e-mail. Each Committee member was asked to determine if they agreed or did not agree with the assessment that a rebuild is preferable to a remodel. With the exception of 1 abstention, the committee determined that a rebuild is the most cost-effective solution for Columbine Elementary. In the event that the Board of Education ultimately determines it appropriate to supplement the \$8.1M bond money designated for the Columbine remodel in order to rebuild the school, CBOC recommends to the Board of

Education that the \$8.1M bond money be used toward a complete rebuild and that the Educational Facilities Master Plan document be amended accordingly.

In making this assessment, the Committee did not make any judgment regarding the a possible decision to allocate the Washington School sales proceeds to Columbine, nor did we consider any non-financial issues such as attendance, boundary, or stratification; we simply determined that a rebuild of Columbine is an appropriate use of the \$8.1M bond money designated for the school. The Committee recognizes that further discussion of this item may occur and additional analysis may be required before a decision is made.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of BVSD staff and the commitment of the CBOC members. Everyone is working diligently to maximize the learning environment for our district students.