Construction market creates challenges for Bond Measure projects

Tigard-Tualatin, like many other Oregon school districts with recently passed bond measures, is facing an unexpected rise in construction costs.

The area's building boom has created a shortage of experienced contractors and subcontractors along with skilled labor and building materials. Tariffs have also increased the cost of steel and had an impact on the price of wood.

The scheduling demands of the school calendar and the logistics of managing construction while students attend school also complicate the desirability of bidding on school projects.

In Tigard-Tualatin, projects that were estimated to cost $260 per square foot one year ago are being bid at $350 per square foot or more.

To respond to these budget issues:

• District architects and school bond teams are using value engineering to find cost efficiencies that can be completed without compromising project elements or scope.
• When feasible, bid packages are being timed to match subcontractor availability;
• Flexible schedules and coordinated construction documents are being provided to increase the desirability of TTSD projects.

The district is also spending some of the contingency funds created from the premium paid by investors when the bonds were sold in 2017. The district’s goal is to complete all of the projects identified in the bond, however some smaller projects may be deferred until funding is certain.

Providing guidance to make sure responsible decisions are being made is a nine-member committee composed of seven community members and two school board members. This group, the Bond Oversight Committee, meets regularly to review the bond’s progress and consider funding issues and needs.

Read more about this statewide problem http://www.osba.org/News-Center/Announcements/2018-07-09_Construction.aspx

Groundbreaking events mark the start of busy summer of school construction

At Tigard High, contractors were on site as soon as school ended to begin a complicated, two-year construction project that will expand, renovate and provide safety improvements to this nearly 2,000-student school.

The front entrance demolition is the most visible sign of activity. It will make room for a new two-story classroom wing that will parallel Durham Rd. Later this summer, the art classroom wing will be demolished to provide space for another two-stories of classrooms. Both projects will be completed by the start of school in 2019-20.

The second phase begins next summer. It involves demolishing part of the interior to build an expanded “commons.” The second phase also includes building a new auxiliary gym, locker, weight and team rooms as well as a new fitness classroom. Improvements to the softball field and relocation of the tennis courts are also part of this project.

More summer construction updates inside.
Here’s what’s included in Tualatin High expansion:

- Classroom Wing;
- Career & Technical Education Wing;
- Expanded "commons" with restroom additions;
- P.E. and athletics renovations;
- Multi-purpose athletic field;
- Main office relocation with new secure entry vestibule.

Tualatin High Quick Facts

1-Year Project
Contractor: P&C Construction
Architect: Bassetti Architects

Tualatin High’s groundbreaking festivities included a performance by the marching band (above) along with the ceremonial shoveling (below). Field work (left) marks the first sign of construction. Planned for completion this summer are the multi-purpose athletic field and auxiliary parking area (to replace parking displaced by construction).

Bridgeport's office will move to the front of the school to improve visibility and control public access.

Bridgeport Improvements focus on student safety:

- Office relocation with new exterior windows and secure entry vestibule;
- Seismic improvements for earthquake safety;
- Security cameras, interior door locks;
- Roof repairs.

Bridgeport Quick Facts
Summer 2018
Contractor: T.S. Gray Construction
Architect: BORA
Year-long project to replace Templeton begins this summer

An updated school with enclosed classrooms and improved traffic flow is being built on the current Templeton site.

The existing core building with its gym, library, cafeteria, music room and two classrooms will remain on the site and be repurposed for other district and community uses.

Templeton Quick Facts
1-Year Project
Contractor: P&C Construction
Architect: DOWA-IBI Group

Durham Center Addition will serve all alternative program students at one site

Durham Center Quick Facts
Late Fall/Winter 2018-19
Contractor: T.S. Gray Construction
Architect: BORA
Net Zero Building will produce as much energy as it uses

Portable classrooms inside the Twality track will house Templeton’s upper grade students this year and remain in place to house Twality students when their new school is under construction in 2019-20.

Students were a big part of Templeton’s groundbreaking ceremony, helping with the shoveling and speaking during the formal program.

The Templeton/Twality site plan shows traffic access improvements with blue lines in front of each school for parents to pick-up and drop-off students and light yellow lines behind each building for bus loading.
New classrooms provide space for students to create, build and prepare for the future

Flexible classrooms where students use technology and traditional tools to design, build and create are part of every major expansion and school replacement project funded by the bond.

**STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classrooms provide “clean” spaces where students use technology and robotics to solve problems and produce hands-on projects.

In **MakerSpace** classrooms, students use traditional power tools and a variety of materials in a setting where neatness isn’t required.

Fowler Middle School’s new STEM and MakerSpace classrooms were modeled after a similar set-up at Hazelbrook Middle School. Once the new Twality Middle School is completed, all TTSD middle school students will have access to similar classrooms.

These same kind of flexible spaces have been included in the Durham Center Addition, the Tualatin High TECH wing addition, Tigard High’s classroom expansion and in the new Templeton Elementary School.

Besides classes taught in these learning spaces, the district also offers STEAM (“A” for arts) classes at the elementary level as well as a variety of high school career pathway programs:

- Engineering
- Business/Marketing
- Health Occupations
- Culinary Arts
- Computer Science
- CAD (Computer Assisted Drawing)
- Auto Technology
- Robotics
- Digital Arts