

District to move forward with \$32M in upgrades at Olympic High

Chris Henry, Kitsap Sun Published 3:36 p.m. PT Jan. 28, 2020

CENTRAL KITSAP — A year ago, Olympic High School students and staff celebrated the grand re-opening of their school's central wing following a \$55 million renovation.

Oly's modernization was one of several major construction projects in the Central Kitsap School District covered in part by a \$220 million bond approved in 2016. State construction funds and federal aid made up the rest.

District officials believe they have sufficient state and federal funding to cover phase 2 of Oly's modernization without going to voters for another bond.

The school board recently approved a tentative budget of \$32.5 million for the project, which is set to break ground in June and be completed in August 2021. The final budget will be approved by the board in May.



Olympic High School is slated for \$32.5 million in upgrades, with renovation planned for the south and north wings of the building. The school board approved the tentative budget in January 2020. The work is set to start in June and be completed in August 2021. (Photo: Central Kitsap School District)

The district qualifies for nearly \$19 million in state construction assistance because of the age of the building (constructed in 1979).

The district also qualifies for federal heavy impact aid, which helps districts with large military populations from local bases offset lost revenue from tax-exempt properties. Central Kitsap deposits heavy impact aid into its capital facilities fund and expects to tap about \$11 million from this source for Oly phase 2. The district expects to receive enough impact aid in 2021 to bring the total project budget to \$32.5 million

In phase 2, the district will renovate the south classroom wing and the north athletic wing. The south wing will involve updating classrooms, renovating restrooms, adding a staff room, replacing roofs and exterior windows, and converting the greenhouse to a commons area.

Work in the north wing will involve redesigning and upgrading school locker rooms, creating four locker rooms (two for boys, two for girls) and a team training area. The upgrade will allow more than one sports team to practice and host games at the same time.

"We're trying to make sure what we're focused on is creating equitable opportunities so all kids at Olympic High School can participate in sports," said Doug Newell, executive director of business and operations.

Not included in the upgrade is a renovation of the pool, which would cost \$10 million to \$15 million and is out of the district's reach at this time, Newell said. One possibility district officials have considered in the future is building a new pool in a more central location. Phase 2 at Olympic High will include upgrades of electrical and mechanical systems that support the pool.

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The district will also hold off for now on upgrading the pool locker rooms. Newell said district officials working with contracted engineering and construction companies determined it was more critical to address failing roofs and other parts of the building exterior while the project is underway. The pool locker rooms could more easily be addressed later, Newell said.

The district is updating its facilities plan. Two projects likely to be identified as high priority are the replacement of Fairview Middle School and Brownsville Elementary. Two capital measures in the early 2000s to replace Fairview failed.

Newell said the district hopes to be able to identify enough in state construction assistance and federal heavy impact aid to pay for a new Fairview in four or five years. The plan is to move Fairview near Olympic High, creating a middle school-high school campus similar to those at Klahowya Secondary School, and Central Kitsap High School and Middle School.

The 2016 bond, plus state and federal aid, paid for the construction of a new Central Kitsap High School and Middle School, as well as an expansion of

Klahowya.

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