

Measure G bond school construction underway

By Dawn Marks April 27, 2019 Chino Champion



An artist's rendering of the future Chino High. The new campus is being built in phases, with final completion expected in 2024. WLC Architects is the architect. Construction management company Balfour Beatty Construction Inc. has an on-site portable office at Jefferson Avenue and 10th Street. Champion photo by Dawn Marks

Construction has begun in earnest at several school sites funded by the Chino Valley school district's \$750 million school construction and modernization bond approved by voters in November 2016.

More than two years ago, the school board prioritized projects from the first issuance of \$208 million in bond sales.

Here's the progress that has been made on those so far.

Chino High a priority

Chino High, built in the early 1950s, is undergoing a total reconstruction in three phases so students will not have to be relocated, said Chino Valley school district assistant superintendent of facilities, planning and operations Greg Stachura.

In 2016, the district's projected cost to rebuild Chino High was \$130.8 million. The estimate has not changed, Mr. Stachura said.

Phases zero and one will be completed with \$60 million allocated from the first bond distribution. Phases two and three will be funded from a second bond series to be released in late 2019 or early 2020.

An official ground-breaking ceremony was held on Oct. 16.

Phase zero — hiring the contractor and renovating the existing baseball field and building a new softball field — has been completed.

New restrooms, a snack bar and storage facilities will be built this summer near the new ballfields.

Phases one and two drawings are currently being checked by the state architect and full approval is expected at any time.

Phase one construction of Chino High is expected to commence this summer, starting at the north side of the school, facing Jefferson Avenue.

Parking lots will be put in at 10th Street and Jefferson.

Classrooms, an administration building, and a new school entrance will be built at the site of the old Chino American Little League baseball field.

Nearby will be a library and buildings with additional classrooms.

Student occupancy of phase one is anticipated in May 2021.

In phase two, lasting from 2022 to 2023, the current administration building on Park Place and buildings on the south side will be demolished and replaced with new classrooms and a performing arts center.

Mr. Stachura said the performing arts center will be comparable to the theater at Chino Hills High.

An aquatics center will be built in 2023 to 2024 as part of phase three.

It will have similar features to the Chino Hills High aquatics center, built several years ago with Measure M funds.

New Preserve School

The school board has set aside \$23 million to purchase land from the Lewis Corporation to build a second school in the Chino Preserve area.

The land north of Main Street and south of East Preserve Loop will be available for purchase from the developer in 2020-21.

In February, the district canceled its agreement with the developer to build the school.

As of today, the district has not hired an architect or construction firm.

“The school board has not yet made a decision to move forward with the construction of the second school,” Mr. Stachura said.

Ayala High

Winter rains caused a 30-day delay in the completion of a new science building at Ayala High in Chino Hills, Mr. Stachura said.

Nevertheless, he said the two-story building with 14 science lab classrooms is expected to be on target for student occupation in fall 2020.

Some equipment from the existing science labs will be moved to the new building and some new equipment will be purchased, Mr. Stachura added.

Estimated cost of the science building is \$15 million.

Heating and air conditioning systems in the school's kitchen and gym will be installed this summer.

In the fall, modernization work at Ayala will begin and continue through March 2021.

The modernization work will cost \$33 million, not including new furniture and technology, Mr. Stachura said.

WLC Architects is handling architectural design and Balfour Beatty Construction Inc. is managing construction.

Safety and security for all schools

The "Raptor" visitor management system was installed last year at all school sites.

Visitors and volunteers receive passes after having their driver's license or state-issued identification scanned at the school office.

Security upgrades began in June 2018 and will be completed by May 2021.

Total estimated cost for the safety and security project is \$56 million.

Every district school will have keyless access, security cameras, upgraded alarms, security fencing and gates.

Keyless access hardware is new this year at Chaparral Elementary in Chino Hills and security cameras were installed at Woodcrest Junior High and Liberty Elementary schools in Ontario.

Walnut Avenue Elementary in Chino and Levi Dickey Elementary in Ontario are next to receive keyless access.

To date, the district has spent \$143,846 on security cameras and \$190,873 on keyless access hardware.

Due to the interactivity of the security projects, the plans were adjusted so that all security elements are completed for one group of schools at a time, Mr. Stachura said. The first group to receive security elements are Ayala, Buena Vista, Chino, Chino Hills and Don Lugo high schools and Howard Cattle, Litel, Oak Ridge, Country Springs and Rolling Ridge elementary schools.

Single-point-of-entry and fencing modifications will be completed at Ayala High in Chino Hills and at Cal Aero Preserve Academy in Chino by this summer, according to Mr. Stachura.

Modernization

Eleven schools are 25 years or older and modernization work began this year at a handful of them. Included in the work is new flooring and new cabinetry.

Phase one schools are Howard Cattle Elementary in Chino and Oak Ridge and Litel elementary schools in Chino Hills.

Bids for modernization work were approved Jan. 17 by the school board and the first phase of the projects are well underway at each school, Mr. Stachura said.

During the modernization work, students will be housed in interim units, now installed at all phase one schools.

Mr. Stachura said termite damage was found at both Litel and Oak Ridge, and Oak Ridge also has some uneven floors.

Work at Litel and Oak Ridge will continue through the 2019 calendar year. The schools, which were built in the same design, will have their multipurpose rooms, now at the front of the school, converted to administration offices in the final construction phases.

The entire campus interior of Howard Cattle Elementary, except for one newer building, will undergo renovations to include all new flooring, ceiling and wall finishes, new cabinets and countertops, renovated restrooms, lighting, plumbing, and some work to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning.

The renovations include new technology systems and classroom furniture. Completion will be in spring 2020.

Plans for modernization at phase two schools — Country Springs and Rolling Ridge, both in Chino Hills — have been approved by the state architect and the work will be done in multiple phases with completion over the 2020 summer break.

Projected costs are roughly \$7.2 million for Litel Elementary, \$8.6 million for Cattle Elementary, and \$7.2 million at Oak Ridge.

Mr. Stachura said the district should qualify for up to 60 percent of the total construction costs on modernization projects as soon as state funding becomes available, which is unknown at this time.

Butterfield, Eagle Canyon and Hidden Trails elementary schools and Canyon Hills and Townsend junior high schools, all in Chino Hills, are in the design phase as part of the third series of schools to be modernized. C.W. Driver, Inc. has been selected as the construction project manager for the phase one and two schools.

Junior highs science labs

Science labs are being renovated at all junior high schools, including Canyon Hills and Townsend in Chino Hills, and Magnolia and Ramona in Chino.

The state architect has approved plans for Magnolia and Ramona, and in February, the school board approved construction bids. Renovations will be done at these two schools starting this May through September. Modernization plans were submitted in March for Canyon Hills and Townsend. Briggs K-8 Fundamental School in Chino will receive a new science building to replace six portable classrooms, plus parking lot modifications and a new driveway. Plan approval is expected in June 2019 and bids have not yet gone out, Mr. Stachura said.

Arcadis, Inc. was hired as the construction manager for the new Briggs wing.

STEAM Academy campus upgrades

The school board authorized \$1.5 million from Measure G for renovations and upgrades to the campus of the former El Rancho Elementary in Chino.

The district has been leasing the campus to Allegiance STEAM Academy Charter School since its opening in July 2018.

Completed are interior renovations, heating and air conditioning system retrofit in the multipurpose room, new primary and kindergarten playgrounds, gas line replacement, wireless network installation, directional boring for underground plumbing, asphalt and concrete repair and underground plumbing installation.