

# **CPS 2010 Bond Construction and Technology Update**

By Mark D. Rosekrans – Associate Superintendent for Operations

It is hard to believe come November, that it has been almost a year since the Charlotte community once again supported their school district and students with passage of the 23.6 million bond proposal. Much has been done in the past 11 months since the passage of the vote and we are gearing up for more construction activity in the coming months.

Bid Package #1 (BP1) was started in June 2011 and completed in August 2011. BP 1 added site and playground improvements to Washington Elementary and Parkview Elementary. It also added the speed table at the Middle School to improve traffic flow and separate buses with vehicle pick up and drop off traffic. The last item was the boiler addition at the aquatic center to control inside air temperature and increase efficiency in operations.

Bid Package #2 (BP 2) is quickly progressing from design concepts to construction documents and specifications. As a reminder, BP 2 is the main package of projects related to the High School, Parkview and Washington and these projects account for roughly 85% of the bond proposal. Focal projects include, the new heating and ventilation system at the high school, secured entries at Parkview and Washington, two new science classrooms, new boys and girls locker-rooms, and administrative / guidance offices at the high school, to name just a few. The package is projected to be released for bids to contractors around January 1, 2012. The bids will then be received by the district sometime in early to mid-February 2012. The bids will then be reviewed and assessed by the construction team via post bid interviews to ensure contractors have the required scope covered and costs included appropriately in their submitted bid. The Board of Education will then take action and award contracts to the lowest responsive bidder in March 2012. It is anticipated that construction activity will start at Charlotte High School during Spring Break, which is at the start of April. During spring break, the High School will have temporary walls, and entrances and exits developed to ensure student safety per fire code egress requirements. Once the construction starts in April 2012 at the High School, the building is anticipated to be under construction for 18 to 24 months or longer. At the elementary buildings, all construction will be done during the summer months (June 2012 – August 2012) when school is not in session. The construction at the elementary buildings during the summer only is possible due to these projects being smaller in nature as compared to the projects at the high school.

On the technology front, many improvements have also been under construction. This past summer, network electronics were replaced at each of the district facilities. The new electronics provide the district with enhanced computer performance, which allows for more instructional and curricular opportunities for staff and students. The electronics also provide increased security.

Technology mini-grants were also awarded to certain staff members to take new technologies such as I-Pads into the classrooms to use as instructional tools with students.

All of the mini-grants will be evaluated and help guide further technology purchases that will be implemented across the district.

Wireless technology is also underway at each of the district facilities. The wireless installation started in September at the high school and will move to the Middle School / Upper Elementary next, and then to elementary buildings. The installation is projected to be completed by December. Wireless capabilities district wide will be filtered for security allow for more academic access across the curriculums and provide great access opportunities across each building. The school districts acceptable use policy will still apply and be administered with students and staff.

More information continues to be provided on our web-site under the promises made promise kept link. Once again, the district is thankful for the support provided by the community to make these improvements for the education of our children.