

Issaquah School District Progressing on School Siting and Building Projects

As our enrollment continues to grow, the Issaquah School District is hard at work planning, constructing, and purchasing property to build, remodel, and expand schools. Thanks to voter approval of our \$533M construction bond in 2016, we have begun the rebuild of Pine Lake Middle School, expansions at Sunset and Cougar Ridge elementary schools, and will move our central administrative offices this summer and begin preparations to build our sixth middle school on the current administration building property. We are also making progress on acquiring land for a new high school and elementary schools, including the land west of Swedish Hospital as the future site of a new elementary school for our Highlands community.

Following the annexation of the King County land, the Issaquah City Council approved a short plat for the property and held a 14-day comment period. We must wait until the short plat is final before we can begin working with our consultants to perform assessments, or “due diligence” work, on the site. Once approved, it will take the District two to three months to complete Geotechnical soil testing, an inventory and assessment of the trees, and topographic survey work. We will also be working with the City with regard to stormwater system and adjacent developer construction requirements along Discovery Drive. Residents may see a little activity in late winter or early spring as we bring equipment on site to perform these investigations.

Once we have performed our due diligence and determined there are no fatal flaws with regard to the viability of the property, a project and permitting schedule will be established and we could begin design work. However, before any of this can happen, the Issaquah City Council must approve our plans and ultimately make the decision whether or not to sell the property to us.

So stay tuned! As we get into the spring months, we will have more information to share. In the meantime, we encourage you to stay informed about the Highlands property and all of our construction projects by visiting our Construction Projects page on our website at <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/departments/CapProjects>.