

# Board gives “go-ahead” to contractor to begin Kennison project work

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Just weeks after the district announced it had filled the \$700,000 funding gap, the Hermiston School District Board of Education voted unanimously to approve an all-inclusive base project cost of \$5.0 million for the Kennison Field Renovation Project. Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith reviewed the successful bidding process, which included significant support from the local subcontracting pool. According to Smith, “we are delighted to see such a high level of involvement from many of our local contractors, who will be instrumental in ensuring our ability to complete this project on time and on budget. Over the coming days, we will be calling a number of local subcontractors and informing them that they have landed significant portions of the work as the low bidders.”

Smith reviewed the financial components of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract with the project general contractor, P and C Construction, which consists of an estimated \$4.3 million in project construction costs, a five percent contingency allowance, a seven percent general conditions and fees budget, and pre-established three percent contractor’s fee for the project.

“We were grateful to see that our local subcontractors really ‘sharpened their pencils’ to ensure we came in close to our original \$4.1 million budget estimate,” noted Smith. Despite some additional design features added over the last few months as a result of stakeholder input and a handful of code-related and civil cost additions, bid day estimates varied less than five percent from the preliminary project budget established months earlier.

“If this was any other community, I believe we would be looking at a project cost far in excess of what we are seeing. Our community contracting and supply pool has clearly rolled up their sleeves to cut costs everywhere they could, and it is reflected in many of their bids.”

The combination of State and Federal grants, Booster Club Support, and community fundraising efforts, have provided the District just over \$5.2 million in available resources.

A groundbreaking ceremony has been set for Friday, February 8, at 4:00 pm at Kennison Field, next to Hermiston High School.