

SUPERINTENDENT'S POST, DECEMBER 2016

By Chuck McCauley | Bartlesville Public Schools

We're making progress on several Bruin bond issue projects. Madison Middle School moved to its new location on the former Sooner/Mid-High campus last school year, and the demolition of the adjacent former Madison Middle School campus is underway. Asbestos abatement that began in late November is now complete, and the site should be cleared in the coming months.

Original Madison's 1950s "California-style" school buildings were ill-suited to our Oklahoma climate, and many of their materials did not age well. This led to high maintenance costs for the district and a poor environment for students and staff. The demolition of the old buildings will conclude the projects from the 2013 bond issue which reconfigured our secondary schools. The reconfiguration reduced student transitions across grade levels and created a four-year high school. Reducing from four to three secondary sites has also significantly lowered our annual operating expenses in this era of inadequate state funding of our public schools. The plan is to demolish the Madison buildings to two feet below ground level, where grass seed will then be planted.

Upcoming projects from the 2016 bond include resurfacing the track and replacing the tennis courts at the high school, replacing BPSD buses, and purchasing activity and "people mover" buses.

The resurfacing of the Bartlesville High School's track, which will remain Bruin blue by popular demand, is set to be completed in January, although the new surface will need several days of decent weather for completion. The current Doornbos track was built in 1988, with some edge and marking renovations in 2004, and its surface has worn out. We're looking forward to having a safe new surface for our athletes, suitable for hosting track events.

Purchasing of new buses will begin in January. The district will purchase 15 new route buses, which will become available by the end of this school year. Those will get better gas mileage and have lower maintenance costs than the old 1990s buses now in use. Additionally, we are excited to be purchasing two smaller "people mover" buses and two activity buses, which will be new to the district. The activity buses, adorned with Bruin graphics, will feature underbody storage for students' equipment and can be utilized for trips to band competitions and sports games.

The five decrepit tennis courts at the high school and an adjacent parking lot will be replaced this spring with six new courts. Those will feature improved seating and access, with a grassy area along the west side to accommodate team and fan events. It will be exciting to have our players actually playing competitive matches at home again.

This is a great time to be a Bruin!

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This column with photo files is online at

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3SRJwMFy015a01CMFpiY3JGY3M>

PHOTO #1 BELOW

Tagline: Demolition begins at Old Madison school

Downloadable at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3SRJwMFy015QjI4UHdKNmRCdVE>



PHOTO #2 BELOW

Tagline: The track at the high school will be resurfaced in January

Downloadable at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3SRJwMFy015ZVISWFJKRUVwQ0E>



PHOTO #2 BELOW

Tagline: The tennis courts at the high school will be replaced this spring

Downloadable at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3SRJwMFy015LXI3X1g3c21DUTQ>

