

# Community gets closer look at new Fremont Ross building plans

**Daniel Carson, Reporter** Published 2:35 p.m. ET May 3, 2018



*(Photo: File photo)*

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FREMONT - Construction on the new Fremont Ross High School building is slated to start in June 2019, with completion planned by the summer of 2021, Superintendent Jon Detwiler and project architects announced Wednesday at a community meeting.

Scott Alleman, lead architect for ThenDesign Architecture (TDA), and Detwiler hosted a public meeting at Fremont Middle School on the new high school building for community members and gave updates on preliminary floor and site plans for the new Fremont Ross building.

Voters in May 2017 approved a \$58.6 million levy to construct four new elementary buildings and one new Ross High School as part of a facilities plan to upgrade building quality and technologies as the district moves into the 21st century of education.

Alleman showed a video of previous community visioning sessions regarding the new building.

He said common themes from residents on what they'd like to see in the building's floor plan included:

- A student dining room acting as a hub between the gymnasium, performing arts center and music area adjacent to the existing natatorium complex.

- Street access for the school's agricultural business, building services and food services departments.

- Green space connecting the new high school to the existing middle school.

"Every one of these items ended up being incorporated into the floor plan," Alleman said.

Alleman said project architects are four-to-five months into the project's design phase. A design development submission is expected by September, with bid and project documents scheduled for submission in January.

The new school's floor plan includes a two-story media center space and a 700-seat performing arts center.

Alleman said there will be an elevator that allows people to get to the second floor of the building.

The performing arts center will include an orchestra pit and sloped seating.

Plans call for a 12,000-square-foot gymnasium at the high school that seats approximately 1,300 people.

Detwiler said the school district will use the existing track area for parking and as a staging area for contractor equipment during construction of the new building.

The project's construction manager would like access to the existing track by May or June 2019, Detwiler said.

He said the district will build a new track, which will cost between \$400,000 and \$700,000. Detwiler said former superintendent Traci McCaudy and the district's school board had done a good job of setting aside money for a potential track replacement.

A new track could potentially be built by the current Ross football practice fields, Detwiler said.

FCS officials are also looking at options for where to relocate the district's bus garage, Detwiler said.

For security purposes, the new high school's floor plan includes offices for school resource officers at the school's north entrance and in the administrative area.

Detwiler said Fremont Police Chief Dean Bliss had given input on several occasions to the district about security measures for the new building.

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