



July 2, 2007

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July Bond Update



Playgrounds get a facelift

The hard work and generosity of parent groups have provided some wonderful upgrades to playgrounds at schools throughout the district over the years. However, these improvements at individual schools have also created a great disparity in terms of design and equipment district-wide. To remedy this, the 2006 Bond Program includes the development of a playground master plan as well as the implementation of the plan at schools.

GPD Land Design has been selected from a pool of candidates who responded to a request for proposals to develop the plan. Work will begin immediately and the first

step will be to survey existing playground conditions, needs and site issues. Also as part of phase I of the bond implementation, the playgrounds at Ryan and Douglass elementaries will be improved to comply with the new plan. The projects at these schools will also serve to help the landscape architect revise the master plan with lessons learned. In phases 2 and 3, Boulder Valley will implement the plan at other schools throughout the district.

Construction contractors join project teams

Several phase I bond projects will soon welcome construction contractors to their design teams. Construction managers/general contractors (CM/GC) typically join a project during the design phase to assist the architect with cost estimating, scheduling and construction planning. With larger projects, it is helpful to have input from the construction contractor earlier in the process to provide feedback on constructability, safety, phasing and cost estimating.

In May, Boulder Valley issued a request for proposals to hire CM/GCs for six phase I projects. Final contractor selections will be announced in July. Please check the [Bond Program Home page](#) for the latest updates.

New 2006 Bond Program Web page to launch in July

To make it easier for school communities and the public to access the information they want about the 2006 Bond Program, the bond Web page is being remodeled to make it easier to navigate and include individual pages for each school. The new page will launch in July and will be accessible from the BVSD home page.

In addition, the general public can communicate with the committee through e-mail at the following address: CBOC@bvsd.org or contact Susan Cousins at susan.cousins@bvsd.org.

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[Dr. Chris King assumes BVSD leadership as new superintendent](#)



District welcomes new superintendent

Monday, July 2, 2007, Dr. Christopher King, who prefers to be addressed simply as “Chris,” spent his first day in his office as Boulder Valley School District superintendent. Outgoing Superintendent George F. García is still with BVSD until his contract expires at the end of July but the Board and he agreed that Dr. King would assume administrative and operational authority on July 1. Dr. King is now the leader of Colorado’s eighth largest public school district with more than 28,000 students.

“The Board is delighted that Chris King will now lead our already high-performing school district to even higher levels of academic achievement and equity of educational opportunity for each of our students,” declared Dr. Helayne Jones, president of the seven-member board.

Board members were also generous in their praise of Dr. García, who last summer announced his intention to retire in 2007 after seven years at the helm of BVSD. He is the second longest serving superintendent in BVSD history.

“Over the past seven years George García has provided the knowledge, wisdom, and experience needed to achieve a strong record of academic achievement, fiscal

stability, and equitable educational opportunity,” stated Board Member Ken Roberge.

The Board has expressed their consensus that Dr. King, a 14-year BVSD veteran teacher, high school principal and district administrator intimately familiar with the 500-square-mile district and its many distinct communities emerged as “the right leader at the right time.”

“The Board is confident that Chris King, with his combination of experience, intellect and vision will take our district to even higher levels of success while increasing community awareness and engagement in the education of our children,” Dr. Jones stated.

“These are exciting times to be involved with the Boulder Valley School District. I very much appreciate the vote of confidence in my leadership abilities, and I am eager to help take the District to the next levels of excellence and equity,” said Dr. King.

A native of Montrose in southwestern Colorado, Chris King graduated with a bachelor’s degree in English from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado in 1984. In 1990, he earned his masters degree in Journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He was awarded a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Colorado at Denver in 1996. He was licensed in Educational Leadership in 2005 by the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Dr. King began his educational career in 1985 as an English and journalism teacher at Broomfield High School. In 1989, he taught English and coached wrestling at the Brookstone Day School in Columbus, Georgia. He moved back to Colorado in 1989 and was a graduate teaching assistant in journalism while earning his masters degree. From 1990 until 1992, Dr. King worked as a teacher and dean of students in the Cherry Creek Schools.

In 1992, Dr. King returned to Colorado’s Western Slope to become assistant principal of Montrose High School. In 1994, he served as an assistant principal and

as an interim principal in the Jefferson County School District. Dr. King rejoined BVSD in 1997 when he was hired as principal of Boulder High School. In 2001, he was appointed assistant superintendent where he oversaw the reconfiguration of the BVSD Division of School Leadership to achieve greater administrative service to district schools while also cutting costs. In 2005, Dr. King was named BVSD's deputy superintendent and has led BVSD de-stratification efforts, developed a set of counseling standards and oversaw state-recognized strategies to reduce the achievement gap between majority and minority students.

Dr. King and his wife, Kelley King, part-time principal of both Jamestown and Gold Hill elementary schools, live with their two children in BVSD.

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[BVSD tracks education-related bills](#)

Governor Bill Ritter finalizes 2007 legislation

The Boulder Valley School District enjoyed an excellent session under the State Capitol's gold dome this year; most bills the district supported were passed by the Colorado General Assembly and signed by Governor Bill Ritter. The governor has 30 days from the end of the legislative session in early May to sign bills, to veto bills or to allow bills to become law without his signature for bills passed in the final 10 days of the session.

In addition, a majority of the bills opposed by BVSD were defeated. Several other bills, because of their titles and possible K-12 impact were tracked without BVSD ever supporting or opposing them. This is because they might have been amended at some point in the legislative process causing the district to take a position.

Most public school funding in Colorado comes from annual state appropriations.

The state, through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is also the major regulator of compliance with state law and the rules and regulations that flow from those laws. For these reasons, the Boulder Valley Board of Education annually sets its “legislative platform” of policies that it supports and opposes to serve as a guide to its contract lobbyist. The day-to-day oversight of that lobbying has been delegated to BVSD Chief Operations Officer Robert Hammond.

For a complete listing of all legislation tracked by BVSD’s legislative team, [please click here](#).

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