Sports Facilities District-wide Take On a New Look

Bullard’s new athletic facilities are just a start; proposed Measure Q will upgrade all Fresno Unified schools.

Work on Bullard High School’s new swim complex and nine-lane track is well underway as the school plans for a late spring opening of both athletic venues.

The projects, with a price tag of nearly $6 million, are among significant upgrades to sports facilities district-wide, and will elevate Bullard High’s profile throughout the Valley in athletics. The competition pool will be Fresno Unified School District’s first 50-meter pool.

The athletic upgrades were funded in part by Measure K, the $199 million school bond passed by voters in 2001. With funding from Measure K largely committed to projects district-wide, the Board of Education proposed in June to place a new local school bond measure on the November 2 ballot.

The $280 million Measure Q addresses top-priority projects identified in the Facilities Master Plan while maintaining the current authorized tax rate. The Facilities Master Plan is a blueprint for facilities improvements over the next 15 years approved by the Board of Education in the spring of 2009, and marks a milestone in the work to transform Fresno Unified. The plan was a result of two years of community-led work by the Facilities Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

Measure Q proposes to upgrade and improve all Fresno Unified schools, including $79 million for elementary schools, $46 million for middle schools, $98 million for high schools, $12 million for career technical education, $16 million for school maintenance/repair and technology, $8 million for alternative/continuing education to address the dropout issue, and funds for special education and other work.

The athletic venues under construction at Bullard High are tangible signs of the district’s efforts to provide high-quality facilities for students and the community. Work on the track and the pools is far enough along to give a clear vision of the scope of the projects and is creating excitement in the Bullard community and district, said Lincoln Owensby, a project manager for Fresno Unified who is overseeing construction.

» See Bullard Athletics, PG. 7
I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress we are making in the Fresno Unified School District and the solid footing we now have giving us the ability to place Measure Q, a $280 million school bond, on the ballot in November for the community’s consideration.

We recently posted our fifth straight year of improved academic achievement district-wide and are leveraging state and national partnerships to accelerate student achievement growth. Throughout the district we have boosted the academic improvement of our students both in English language arts and in mathematics. And while we are still not satisfied with the pace of our improvement, the gains are steady on the state’s measure of student progress, the California Standards Tests.

We surpassed the 40 percent mark this year in the percent of FUSD students who have scored proficient or advanced in mathematics, compared to 29.3 percent just four years ago—this represents four out of every 10 students are proficient or advanced in mathematics. That calculates out to more than 4,700 additional students at proficiency now than we saw in 2007. We certainly have far to go, and we will press for continued improvement district-wide.

We have transformed the district’s finances from the brink of bankruptcy to stability with consecutive unqualified audits, consecutive balanced budgets and a reserve to weather challenging budget times. We are doing more with less in many areas, including having one of the lowest ratios of central-office administrators in the state.

We have maintained a balanced and phased-in approach to address the state’s budget crisis, which has not only ensured that district employees continue to be employed with FUSD but also has redirected more resources to the classroom.

I also want to highlight our continued progress in technology. We provide our students and staff. Partnerships with the private sector have helped advance major technology initiatives, and we have recently introduced a new K-12 student information system. ATLAS – Achievement, Technology, Learning and Assessment System—will include a parent portal enhancing parents’ ability to track their student’s grades, attendance and critical data. We also recently announced our participation in a pilot project at Sequoia and Kings Canyon middle schools that provides iPads to students for Algebra I in place of conventional textbooks. We want to be at the forefront of this exciting arena of interactive digital textbook learning.

Because of our steady academic achievement improvement, balanced budgets and pursuit of innovative ways to boost student learning, we are in a very good position to place a school bond before the community that will continue our facilities improvement district-wide. This is an important next step in implementing our Facilities Master Plan, which is a long-term vision for all facilities improvement in Fresno Unified.

I invite you to learn more about our plans for the future—and what we are doing now—by visiting our web site at www.fresno.k12.ca.us.

---

**High School Master Planning News**

Community members, parents, students and staff are invited to attend a second round of public meetings this month as part of an effort to create master plans for high school campuses in the Fresno Unified School District.

Architects hired by the district to work with school communities to develop the master plans will provide conceptual drawings reflecting community input from the first round of meetings in September. Parents with students in the elementary and middle schools that feed into high schools are encouraged to attend to provide input.

As part of the Fresno Unified Facilities Master Plan—a milestone document that charts the district’s facilities needs for the next 20 years—high schools have begun a process to create a facilities vision for their campuses. The master plan will drive all future facilities investments as funding becomes available, and will reflect community input on a variety of issues including:

- How campus facilities impact student achievement and performance
- What defines the campus and what image it should project
- What role the campus plays in community involvement and pride

---

**Meeting Schedule:**

(all at 6 p.m.)

**Bullard High School**  
Oct. 19

**Edison High School**  
Oct. 20

**Fresno High School**  
Oct. 18

**Hoover High School**  
Oct. 19

**McLane High School**  
Oct. 19

**Roosevelt High School**  
Oct. 19

---

**Building Futures** is a regular publication of Fresno Unified School District prepared by the Communications Office. The department can be reached at (559) 457-3733  
Or online at www.fresno.k12.ca.us
FUSD Men’s Alliance Program Is Changing Lives

A group of 75 Fresno Unified School District students who have struggled with academics, attendance and poor behavior are receiving extra guidance and instruction through the Men’s Alliance program.

While the district has accelerated its mentoring opportunities during the past three years under coordinator Darrin Person, the Men’s Alliance represents a new strategy: the creation of a structured elective class, embedded in students’ daily class schedules.

The district selected 25 at-risk students from Edison, Hoover and Sunnyside high schools for the first year of the program, with plans to expand the Men’s Alliance throughout the district. The class focuses on leadership development and conflict resolution, while strengthening students’ self-esteem, communication skills, decision-making and ability to resist peer pressure.

The class also teaches the students to become self-sufficient learners and adults and provides opportunities to explore college and career options. Students were fitted last month for a dress shirt and tie, which they must wear on a designated day of the week. They are also expected to participate in community-service projects and other activities outside the class.

“Our mission is to develop personal behavior and academic skills that will lead to success in class, careers and in their adult lives,” Person said.

Students were selected who had struggled with behavior, academics or connecting in school but had the potential to be leaders, Person said. The classes this year are made up of 10th and 11th graders, with a 12th-grade group expected to be added next year.

Along with their Men’s Alliance teacher, students in the class are connected with a larger team at their school, including an administrator and counselor, adding an additional layer of support.

Speakers from the community join class discussions occasionally to provide encouragement and a variety of perspectives.

“It’s a good class for a better future,” said Jameal Brown, a junior in the Men’s Alliance class at Edison High. “It will give us better opportunities. A lot of us weren’t up to par, but this class has changed us a whole lot. We’re on time more, academically doing better, we’re all getting along. We don’t get in trouble as much.”

Jameal said students in the class greet each other on campus with a handshake and by saying “Men’s Alliance” or “MA.”

He has plans to pursue a career as a pianist, first attending music school in London. Jameal said he’s learning skills and strategies in Men’s Alliance that will help him achieve his goals.

Person said the Men’s Alliance class has the potential to change a student’s life course, and he tells the students: “In life, there are times you get thrown a lifeline — what are you going to do about it?”

Magnet Programs Hope To Attract New Students

The Fresno Unified School District will hold a magnet schools fair from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Baird Middle School cafeteria, providing a great opportunity for families inside and outside the district to gather information on the 19 specialty programs offered in FUSD.

Fresno Unified has been providing innovative educational opportunities for students for more than 25 years through its magnet schools and magnet programs within schools. The district continues to expand and refine its offerings to cover a broad range of focus areas including performing arts, medical and technology. The deadline to apply for the 2011-12 school year is Dec. 1, 2010.

The district would like to remind families who don’t live within Fresno Unified boundaries that state law allows students to enroll in the district where a parent or guardian works. This provides access to Fresno Unified’s diverse academic programs—the most extensive in the Valley—to students who live outside district lines.

Elementary Magnets
- Hamilton K-8 – global studies through the arts
- Bullard TALENT K-8 – arts and performing arts (lottery)
- Yokomi – hands-on science (children of downtown employees have lottery priority)

Middle School Magnets
- Ahwahnee – environmental science
- Baird 5-8 – agribusiness
- Edison Computech – science, math and technology (admission criteria)
- Fort Miller – Careers Academy
- Sequoia – science
- Tioga – MicroSociety (business and career planning)
- Wawona International Baccalaureate 6-8 – global studies focus; prepares students for Fresno High School IB program

High School Magnets
- Bullard - Law and Public Service
- Design Science – construction industry, community college credit
- Duncan Polytechnical – exploration of careers in agriculture, business, health, public service and industrial technology
- Edison Computech – rigorous offerings in science, math and technology (admission criteria)
- Fresno High – International Baccalaureate (college prep/global studies)
- Hoover – ACE (architecture, construction, engineering)
- McLane – medical education and research
- Roosevelt-School of the Arts (visual and performing arts)
- Sunnyside – Doctor’s Academy (admission criteria)
Whooping Cough
BE AWARE—TREAT IT EARLY

What Is Whooping Cough?

- Whooping cough disease (also called pertussis) causes coughing fits that make it hard to breathe.
- It spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes.
- It can kill young babies.

Whooping Cough Signs and Symptoms

Early Symptoms
Often, symptoms start mild and are like a common cold:
- runny nose
- sneezing
- mild cough

Symptoms After 1-2 Weeks
Symptoms can get worse fast and can last for months. They include bad coughing attacks that may lead to:
- vomiting
- a red or blue face
- a "whoop" sound
- sweating spells

Symptoms in Infants Are Different
Infants younger than 6 months old often do not have a typical cough. In the early stages, infants may:
- gasp or gag
- get very tired
- stop breathing
- have seizures

Symptoms can get worse very fast. Often, babies need to go to the hospital for care.

Treat Whooping Cough Early

Call Your Doctor If You or a Family Member:
- Are around someone who has whooping cough or a bad cough
- Have any symptoms of whooping cough

Your Doctor May Prescribe an Antibiotic Medicine
Early treatment with antibiotic medicine can:
- Keep you from getting sicker
- Prevent you from spreading the disease to others
- Be given to infants and other household members to prevent them from getting sick

If You Have Whooping Cough:
- Stay home. Avoid contact with others until you have finished treatment.
- If you are caring for an infant, have an adult who is not sick, feed, hold, and care for your baby.

Whooping Cough Shots Prevent the Disease

- Everyone needs to be up-to-date on their whooping cough shots (DTaP for kids younger than 7 years; or Tdap for older ages).
- Newborn babies are too young for the shots.
- Immunity from the disease or the shots wears off, so people 11 years and older need a booster shot.

Get Healthy, Stay Healthy!

Asthma
HELP YOUR CHILD GAIN CONTROL

By working with your child’s doctor, school nurse, teachers and other school staff, you can help your child control symptoms that prevent him/her from participating in school activities.

Did you know that when a child’s asthma is under good control, he/she can:
- Participate in PE most of the time
- Concentrate better in class
- Attend school with fewer absences
- Sleep better and have more energy

What parents can do:

- Work closely with your doctor or health care provider to learn how to manage asthma.
- Ask the doctor which medicines are right for your child and learn how to use an inhaler and spacer correctly. Use the medicine as prescribed.
- Learn the difference between the quick relief medicine and the controller medicine.
- Ask the doctor to complete an Asthma Action Plan for the school. (The school nurse can provide this for you to take to your appointment.)
- Give the completed Asthma Action Plan to the school nurse and keep a copy to use at home.
- Provide the appropriate medication for your child to use at school.

Students are allowed to carry their inhalers at school and self-medicate if the doctor has provided a written authorization for this and the parent has given written permission. This is included on the Asthma Action Plan.

Know the signs of a severe asthma flare-up:

- Trouble breathing even when sitting still
- Difficulty speaking without pauses
- Feeling dizzy or confused
- Blue color around lips or fingernails
- Ribs show or neck pulls in with each breath

Seek emergency medical care or call 911 if your child shows signs of a severe flare-up or enters the danger zone (red zone) of his/her Asthma Action Plan.

Think prevention:

- Avoid substances or situations that may trigger flare-ups: cold air, furry animals, strong odors, grass, pollen mold, dust, cigarette smoke, air pollution.
- Make sure the child takes the controller medicine as directed by the doctor- even when the child is feeling well.
- Make sure the child never runs out of the prescribed medications.
- Ensure that the child takes the correct medication to school and on trips.
- Make sure the child gets a flu shot every year.
- Work with the doctor to complete the Asthma Action Plan and share it with the school nurse.

Good communication is essential to asthma care and management in school. Talk to the school nurse about your child’s asthma, how severe it is and what medications he/she takes.

www.getimmunizedca.org
Know the Symptoms. Call Your Doctor.

Click here to type in your clinic location and name of your organization, or delete this text.

IMM-1023 (7/10)
Student Parking Valets Validate Safety

Thomas Elementary School has launched a Student Valet Parking Program this school year that has drastically improved student safety and eased parking-lot tension among parents during the morning drop-off. Principal Gayle Frediani also credits the program with helping reduce student referrals and suspensions.

Student valets wearing special sashes and visors meet each car as it pulls up to the curb in the morning, open the door for the student with a pleasant greeting and escort the student to either the blacktop or break-fast line, then hustle back to meet the next car. The new system encourages parents driving children to school to wait in line and pull up to the drop-off zone in an orderly manner. Because the valets escort the students, parents do not have to get out of their cars.

Six student valets are on duty each morning along with staff and parent volunteers to keep morning drop-off running smoothly.

“Our parents are loving it,” Frediani said. “It just starts everyone’s day off safely and calmly.”

Last year, drop-off and pick-up had become chaotic with parents jockeying for position, tempers flaring and some students getting out of cars into traffic. Over the summer, Thomas Vice Principal Kathy Mohler contacted Don Weaver, emergency planning/crisis response coordinator, for ideas on how to improve the safety and climate of the drop-off area.

Weaver was familiar with the Student Valet Parking Program promoted by AAA and had helped establish a successful valet program at Olimos Elementary School last year. About a week before school started, Weaver trained a group of 10 upper-grade Thomas students in how to assist students at drop-off.

A mix of students with leadership qualities and leadership potential were selected for the first team of valets. It’s considered a plum assignment, Mohler and Frediani said, and some of the students are doing better in class because of their new responsibilities as a valet.

Combined with Thomas Elementary’s work with the Safe and Civil Schools program, Frediani said the new student valet system appears to be improving student behavior throughout the school. During the first four weeks of school, Frediani had just one student referral and one suspension compared to seven during the same time period last year. Students may be responding to a more calm drop-off, without any parents yelling at each other or becoming irritated with students.

“Students are not starting school on a negative,” Frediani said.

Parent Autum Cousins said the new system has vastly changed the atmosphere of the parking lot and drop-off zone.

“It’s a whole lot safer for everybody,” Cousins said. “And I think it’s great for the kids as valets. They’re learning responsibility and to do things for the community, which is what we should be teaching them.”

Fourth-grader Trinity McGuire said she enjoys the responsibility of being a parking valet and parents like it “because they don’t have to park and get out of their cars.”

Weaver said the program is “an overwhelming success.”

“It’s a great community service as well as improving safety for students,” Weaver said.

He said that the program may be implemented at other elementary schools with similar parking-lot problems.
The Fresno Unified School District has initiated a pilot project to strengthen the neighborhood schools and boost student academic achievement in the Bullard High School area.

The Bullard Regional Pilot will serve as a model for similar undertakings in all high school communities as the district accelerates efforts to support strong feeder patterns between elementary, middle and high schools.

The Bullard initiative will establish a clearly articulated K-12 academic program that builds an academic talent pipeline in the region. “We’ve taken a look at the Bullard school community and selected some specific areas that we want to strengthen,” said Michael Hanson, superintendent of Fresno Unified. “Principals from all of the feeder schools are collaborating on the effort, which is creating a unified vision.

“We’re trying to foster a more clear identity and sense of community among feeder schools and their high school in each area, which will translate into increased success for our students and support from parents.”

Focus areas that support the academic work include athletics, facilities, staff, and climate/culture. While work continues in all the targeted areas in various stages, four projects have been identified for immediate planning and implementation:

**Writing**
Create and implement a writing program K-12 that strengthens writing skills critical to the academic and career success of students.

**GATE/Accelerated Program**
Enhance and refine the rigor of the GATE/accelerated program to support and challenge high-performing students.

**K-12 Career Awareness and Preparation**
Design and implement a K-12 career awareness and preparation program to increase rigor and options for students, with a focus on two pathways—Law/Public Service and Sports Medicine.

**Uniforms**
Begin uniform policy process for implementation at Tenaya Middle School and Bullard High School for the 2011/12 school year if approved by the parent community.

Efforts to bolster a cohesive academic vision within the Bullard area, and eventually all high school areas, mesh with the district’s Facilities Master Plan, approved by the board in 2009. One of the guiding principles of that 15-year plan is to create feeder patterns that provide students and families a clear, consistent vision of the schools they will attend from elementary through high school.

Projects included in the Measure Q local school bond measure, on the Nov. 2 ballot, are based on top priorities identified in the Facilities Master Plan.

At Sequoia Middle School this year, the district has expanded the number of days it offers physical exams for students at the school clinic and piloted a new system for Sequoia athletes to undergo the necessary physical exam to compete on the eighth grade football team.

The additional services at Sequoia are part of the Health Services Department’s ongoing efforts to improve the health of Fresno Unified students, said Diane Torna, director of health services.

Every year, a significant number of students miss out on eighth grade football because they didn’t visit a doctor or clinic for a physical.

“It’s a big problem,” Torna said. “We want all of our students to be able to participate in the extracurricular activities that keep kids connected in school. But many families just don’t have a regular doctor or aren’t familiar with the importance of a physical exam.”

In August, the district athletic office, Sequoia Middle School and health services teamed with Community Regional Medical Center to pilot a different method of providing football team physicals. The district transported 26 football players, with their parents’ permission, to the hospital’s family-practice clinic for physical exams with a doctor. Torna said the exams were more thorough than a typical sports screenings and may assist the students in establishing contact with a doctor for future visits.

The pilot went well, she said, and the district will consider expanding the practice.

In addition, health services is offering physical exams three days a week this year at Sequoia for all area students; it offered exams one day a week last spring and has for two years provided exams at the school for migrant students.

Torna said offering the physicals at the school, which is easily accessible and familiar to area families, “is a huge advantage. It was hard for families to get to our health center.”

**BULLARD ATHLETICS (continued from pg. 1)**

The track, on the north side of the campus, will include a grass field in the center for football, soccer and lacrosse with a sophisticated watering system that maximizes water conservation efforts. The all-weather track will have a state-of-the-art storm drain system to minimize rain delays and the lights are designed to have a minimal impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

Both the competition and teaching pools have been dug and the detailed reinforcement work is underway to support heavy public-pool use.

The competition pool has a diving end and is large enough to accommodate multiple water polo courses for tournaments and practice.

The facility features tiered concrete seating for spectators and a concession stand. The teaching pool has a sloping walkway to the pool’s edge that can accommodate wheelchairs. Both the track and the competition pool require adherence to precise specifications so that they can be certified for record-setting performances.

“Our students and families deserve the highest quality facilities, and we are excited to be able to deliver athletic facility improvements for all Fresno Unified high school campuses,” said Karin Temple, assistant superintendent of Operational Services.
Solving for x became a lot more fun for a group of Kings Canyon and Sequoia middle school students this year. They are learning Algebra I on iPads instead of using conventional textbooks.

About 100 Fresno Unified students and another 300 from Long Beach, Riverside and San Francisco school districts are piloting an Algebra I app for textbook company Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Forget about that heavy textbook – it’s a slim and sleek iPad for these middle schoolers.

“This unique partnership between Fresno Unified, Houghton Mifflin and the iPad will radically change the way students learn algebra at Kings Canyon and Sequoia,” said Kurt Madden, chief technology officer for Fresno Unified. “Our hope is that this pilot will be successful and spread to other classrooms across the district where the word “algebra” often strikes fear in the hearts and minds of our students.”

Fresno Unified was selected because of its work as a leading school district in California, said John Sipe Jr., regional vice president of Houghton Mifflin, which developed the app.

Students will navigate an entire year’s worth of Algebra I curriculum on the iPads, accessing lessons, practice tests, how-to videos, graphing calculators and even note-taking space with the tap of a finger. Touch the picture of textbook author Edward Burger and he offers up tips and instructions. Burger tutored Kings Canyon students on how to use the iPad algebra app September 9 at the school during the official delivery of the iPads to Fresno Unified.

The group of Fresno Unified students is among the first in the nation to use digital textbooks in a year-long class and their experiences will help guide further development of digital curriculum for devices like the iPad.

“Ultimately, we believe this dynamic algebra app can be the seed that grows a new learning approach and ultimately transforms education as we know it,” said Fresno Unified Superintendent Michael Hanson.

Houghton Mifflin has hired Empirical Education of Palo Alto to study who catches on to algebra better: the students with the iPads or 600 students in a control group using the conventional textbook. Results are expected next fall.
McLane High School students once again took the challenge to increase breakfast participation. Last year they held bragging rights and won the $2,500 prize for the most students eating breakfast at school. Last year McLane increased breakfast participation by 65 percent. This year the winner will not only have bragging rights, but an award of $3,000.

Winchell Elementary School students are enjoying a new playground structure after the original equipment had to be replaced due to arson last year. The cost of the structure was partially offset by a generous $5,000 donation by Walmart. When employees at the Kings Canyon Walmart heard about the fire they wanted to help and contacted Walmart Corporation.

Bullard TALENT students are busy raising funds to travel to Washington, D.C. for the Heritage Music Festival in the spring. This is an honor to attend and highlights the great accomplishments of these students and offers an extraordinary opportunity to participate on a national stage. If you would like to help contact Bullard TALENT at 248-7030.
FUSD Takes a Step Forward Toward a Southwest Fresno Middle School

Plans are moving forward to build a middle school in southwest Fresno that will reflect the high standards of a 21st century learning environment and provide the first traditional campus for seventh and eighth-graders in the area in 30 years.

The district took a major step toward making a southwest middle school a reality on Sept. 22 when the Fresno Unified Board of Education unanimously approved the Carver Academy proposal, at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Church Avenue, as the preferred site. The selection was the result of two years of studying nearly a dozen potential sites, along with numerous discussions through the years of how to fill the middle school gap in the area.

“Our board has kept the pressure on to ensure that we continue to march toward this new middle school,” said Fresno Unified Superintendent Michael Hanson. “While we have had many challenges along the way, it does not detract from the fact that we will deliver a middle school that our students in this community deserve.”

Construction could begin in 15 to 18 months for an August 2013 opening. Over the next several months, the district will:

- Work with an advisory committee of community, staff and architects to explore and refine the educational vision and design of the new school.
- Communicate with property owners and occupants for access to property and to discuss relocation assistance.
- Work with the appropriate agencies on a California Environmental Quality Act analysis, appraisals and additional technical studies.

While the district had previously named a preferred site across the street at King and Church avenues, the land was not within Fresno Unified boundaries and an agreement could not be reached. The 8.5-acre Carver site is already owned by the district. During construction, accommodations will be made for the 115 fifth- and sixth-grade students who attend Carver to ensure their education is not disrupted.

Fresno Unified will assemble a 22-acre site for the school by purchasing property to the east and north and working with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to acquire 4.5 acres and relocate a flood control overflow basin. The two-story school is expected to cost $20 million to $30 million and will be largely paid for with federal stimulus funds.
2010-2011 School Year Calendar

THANKSGIVING BREAK
NOVEMBER 22-26

WINTER BREAK
DECEMBER 20 thru JANUARY 7

SPRING BREAK
APRIL 18-25

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
JUNE 9
It starts with being a career-ready graduate
A career-ready graduate is a student who has all possible options available to them upon graduation from Fresno Unified School District. This student has a strong academic foundation, has completed required courses, and has acquired the workplace skills and competencies necessary for success after high school.

WORKPLACE SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Work Ethic ← timely & trustworthy
- Critical Thinking ← figure out solutions to problems
- Basic Education Skills ← reading, writing, technology, and math
- Teamwork and Collaboration ← work together with others
- Workplace Communication Skills ← take direction, ask questions, and present ideas

Want to know more? Ask your teacher or guidance counselor.