



## Bella Vista High Measure N Signature Project Forum Report

### Summary

San Juan Unified held a Measure N Signature Project Forum at Bella Vista High School on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014 in the school library.

Staff delivered a short Power Point Presentation to a group of 65 participants. The larger group then broke out into three small groups to discuss three previously identified Signature Project ideas for Bella Vista: a new science wing, a synthetic turf field, and “classroom presentation stations” that would include flat screen televisions and upgraded technology. The small groups then reassembled as a larger group for questions and comments.

### Small Group results

There was passionate discussion in each of the small groups for both new science facilities and a synthetic turf stadium at Bella Vista. There was some good conversation related to classroom presentation stations, but ultimately that project idea did not receive support as a Signature Project.

Staff took a show-of-hands count in each small group to gauge which projects Thursday night’s participants preferred at Bella Vista. In two of the rooms, a combined 23 said they preferred a new science classroom wing and 23 said they would prefer a synthetic turf field. The third breakout group asked staff if they could vote for a fourth option – that Bella Vista’s Signature Project include both a science wing and a turf field. That preference was unanimous among the 20 participants in group three. Group three did indicate with a 17-3 tally, that it would prefer a turf field if only one of the two projects is possible.

## **Key points (listed in no particular order):**

Why classroom presentation stations are needed at Bella Vista:

- Used in every classroom/reaches every child
- Technology is a powerful teaching tool
- Unlimited potential with web access

Needed features of classroom presentation stations:

- Large flat screen televisions
- Apple TV or other stream/airplay device
- Upgraded technology to meet demand
- Teacher training

Why a synthetic turf field is needed at Bella Vista:

- Safety. Current fields have holes, lack maintenance
- Multiple use by multiple sports, band and PE
- Increases field use and potential revenue sources
- Saves water/maintenance
- All-weather use should be a district standard
- Football and extracurricular activities keep students out of trouble

Needed features of a synthetic turf field:

- Synthetic turf
- Bleacher expansion (specifically visitors side)
- Team locker rooms

Why a new science wing is needed at Bella Vista:

- Current rooms are small/outdated
- Bella Vista has eight teachers without their own classroom
- Not enough sinks for labs
- Need shower/eye wash stations
- Some lab features unsafe
- AP physics is currently in an old auto shop
- Science will draw scholar athletes
- Bella Vista is known as “the science school”
- Science is an inspirational subject for students
- With new classrooms, classrooms housing current science courses can be renovated and used by other programs

Needed features of a science wing:

- Enough sinks/hoods/eye wash stations for full lab class
- Storage for chemicals and equipment
- New safety equipment
- Hoods for chemistry
- 10 classrooms
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century model classrooms
- Technology with expandable infrastructure
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## Questions and Answers

Staff took many questions and comments from forum participants at Bella Vista. There was an overall sentiment shared that Bella Vista has been overlooked when it comes to facilities upgrades over the years. A science teacher shared a historical perspective indicating that science classroom upgrades have been planned, but have fallen through on multiple occasions. That has resulted in “transient” teachers that don’t have their own classrooms and science labs that are lacking proper amenities and equipment. Students at the forum said Bella Vista is known for science and academics and not athletics, so they felt new classrooms are of paramount importance. Many comments suggested that Bella Vista should get both a science classroom wing and a turf field.

### **Q: How much money will Bella Vista get for a Signature Project?**

**A:** The board has set aside \$117 million out of Measure N for Signature Projects at nine high schools. That comes out to an average cost of \$10 million each (plus contingency and escalation costs). Some schools will have projects that come out a little more than \$10 million, some will have projects less. So, we’re working with an average cost.

### **Q: How much would the Bella Vista science wing cost? How much for a turf field or presentation stations?**

**A:** The estimated cost at this time is about \$12.5 million. A turf field would cost about \$1.5 million. We don’t have a good estimate on presentation stations.

### **Q: El Camino and Del Campo both got turf fields paid for by Measure N, and they still get another Signature Project. Why?**

**A:** The board made the decision to install fields at Del Campo and El Camino because those stadiums are used by multiple high schools as home fields and serve thousands of students for athletics. Those stadiums were also in the most “shovel ready” condition for that type of project because they have other amenities – including lights and press boxes – that some of our other schools do not have.

### **Q: What is the timeline for Signature Projects to be completed?**

**A:** Staff will work with principals, the Superintendent's cabinet and the board to determine a loading order for all nine Signature Projects. All projects will have to go through a planning process that includes submission to the state architect's office. That takes at least nine months. We're looking at the fall of 2015 before we can break ground on any of our Signature Projects.

**Q: Do we have the choice or option to have both a field and a science building?**

**A:** Staff has direction to recommend one Signature Project at each high school. However, we can and will relay your views that Bella Vista has a need for both a field and a science building during our discussions. It will also be noted online with our forum reports.

**Q: Where would a new science wing be built on campus? Would it have to be built on our outdoor courts?**

**A:** There have been multiple sites identified on campus where a science wing could be built. The \$12.5 million idea would place the building out front (along Madison Avenue) and would not affect the hard courts.