

Change is in the air

Change is inevitable. Change is constant, and change is in the air—from groundbreaking to bidding, to temporary changes in parking lots. With change comes celebration but some stress, too.

We will be celebrating our first groundbreaking on the new elementary school on Friday, October 3rd at noon, delayed from September 30th because of weather. Please come and join us as this marks the beginning of the several construction projects within the school district that will occur over the next two and a half years.

To date, the Board of Education has accepted the site work, utilities and foundation bids for Eisenhower Elementary. Soon the building will be going out to bid.

Abilene's Field House at Cowboy Stadium is also in the bidding process, with bid opening scheduled for October 18. The addition and the remodel for Abilene Middle School will be going out to bid in the next month as well. The architects are still working on plans for the high school, tech building, McKinley and Kennedy; those bids should be ready to go out in December and January.

Plans are also underway for changes to Abilene High School's parking lot. By about mid-January the current lot will not be available for student parking due to construction, as well as the staging required for the construction. To deal with this situation, which could run for approximately an 18 month period, we are making temporary arrangements for buses to be parked off-site, freeing up existing space in the bus area as well as additional attached space for student parking.

Additional parking will be available in the lower level parking lot at Abilene Middle School. And, Memorial Health System has generously agreed to allot space for AHS staff parking in space formerly used by the Family Physicians Clinic. While these changes will certainly accommodate parking needs both during the day and for evening activities, we realize that off-site parking causes inconvenience for our students and staff.

And, we certainly realize that it will affect the community too, interrupting the usual traffic flow and putting a strain on traffic patterns. We ask for the community's understanding during this process that will definitely cause inconveniences. But, eventually students and staff will have new and improved on-site parking, buses will be moved back to the bus barn, and traffic will again flow through the parking lot.

As we embark on this process, let us remember—changing a state of being causes stress in the system and environment and some short-term pain is essential to have longer term gain. But, in the end, we can all celebrate the much needed changes and the benefits they will provide to our community.

