

Rim Scoreboard Going to Bid



Old Scoreboard

Chris Jennison, director of administrative services for Rim of the World Unified School District, kneels by the old Rim High School baseball scoreboard, abandoned nearly 10 years ago. A new digital scoreboard should be ready for baseball fans by the spring.

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By Mike Harris, Reporter

For Rim of the World High School baseball fans left wondering during a game what the score was because there was no scoreboard to show results, relief is finally within sight.

Rim of the World Unified School District received final approval from the California Division of the State Architect (DSA) on Oct. 10 to separate architectural plans for new baseball and girls softball scoreboards from the next phase of the high school's modernization plans for next summer.

"We will be requesting bids, and we will have a mandatory job walk at 11 a.m. on Oct. 29," said Chris Jennison, director of administrative services for Rim of the World Unified School District. A second mandatory job walk is scheduled for Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

Project bids are due on Nov. 14, and an award is expected to be made by the school board to the lowest responsible bidder on Nov. 21, Jennison said. He hopes construction can begin by Dec. 12.

The overall estimate for the project is around \$400,000. That would include demolishing the concrete base and support posts for the old baseball scoreboard, installing electrical conduit and purchasing and installing new scoreboards. Funding will come from the district's Measure W school construction bonds.

Bid documents are available from the district's architect, PJHM Architects in Laguna Hills, or at the school district's office in Blue Jay.

The district's construction manager, Tilden-Coil Constructors, has agreed to step aside from the scoreboard's project, with Jennison taking overall responsibility to shepherd the work. That move by Tilden-Coil will save the district money.

Plans for the scoreboards had been part of Rim's next phase of modernization plans, with construction scheduled to take place during summer of 2014. But demands from members of the community to have at least the baseball scoreboard in place for the spring season pushed the district to speed up the process.

A group of area businessmen have been trying to get a new electronic scoreboard installed since 2004.

The local businessmen—Dave Bennett, Jeff Grotewold and Dave Doyle—among others, raised funds to buy a new electronic scoreboard, and donated time and money to install a concrete footing and three steel support beams at the ballfield nearly 10 years ago.

The final step, installing the scoreboard, was halted because of concerns that the foundation and supporting beams had not been approved by the DSA. Efforts since then have been caught in bureaucratic red tape.

What got the group re-energized was the idea of dedicating a new Rim scoreboard to the memory of Jacob Pilkerton, former Rim High star baseball player who was killed in an auto accident on Highway 18 on Aug. 3.

Mark Pilkerton, a structural superintendent for Skanska USA, one of the largest development and construction groups in the country and Jacob's father, is pitching in to see how much of the work can be donated by Skanska.

Contacted Tuesday morning, Bennett said he intended to submit a bid for the project.