



August 19, 2019

Northeastern Local School District Community,

The Northeastern Local School District Board and Administration continue to work tirelessly with our partners in the school facilities project - the state's Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, Shook Touchstone (Construction Manager At-Risk), and Ruetschle Architects - to address significant budget issues in the initial cost estimates for the design of the PK-12 grade Northeastern facility that will be located in South Vienna.

In the month since we received the first cost estimates and updated the community about the budget issues, we have taken several steps to tackle the discrepancy between our budget and the estimates:

- Our Core Team of partners in the project and representatives from the district has met several times to review the estimates and the designs and discuss avenues to align the estimates with our budget.
- We have pursued and received approval from the state for variances, which involve using an alternate building exterior closure system and HVAC system, that will reduce costs without sacrificing quality and allow for more efficient timelines for the project.
- We are working diligently with Ruetschle Architects to revise initial designs for the building to be as cost efficient as possible.
- We continue to work with the OFCC to review the plan and material options for the building with the intent of delivering the project on budget.

Addressing these budget issues remains our top priority. We, unfortunately, are in a construction market that is significantly raising the cost to build when compared to the OFCC estimates given to us at the beginning of this project. Surrounding district building projects are also experiencing similar budget issues. We remain, though, committed to our community values of a safe learning environment for all students and a project that fits the budget we established through the OFCC's process.

If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Board of Education or to Superintendent Dr. John Kronour (johnkronour@nelso.org; 937-325-7615).

Sincerely,

The Northeastern Local School District Board of Education

President Jill Parker; Vice President Joel Augustus; Members Dr. John Crankshaw, Steve Schwitzgable, and Jeff Yinger

Superintendent Dr. John Kronour

Treasurer Dale Miller