



## **OLENTANGY SCHOOLS<sup>SM</sup>**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BREAKS GROUND ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 17**

Olentangy Schools will begin construction on Elementary School 17 on April 3, 2023. The ground-breaking ceremony planned for later today, March 23, has been canceled due to impending weather.

The yet-to-be named elementary school will be built at the intersection of Peachblow and Piatt Roads in Berlin Township. The land was donated by Evans Farm.

“During my time as Superintendent, we have broken ground on four schools - Berlin High School, Berlin Middle School, Shale Meadows Elementary and now Elementary School 17, which have changed the landscape in the northeast region of our district.” said Olentangy Schools Superintendent Mark T. Raiff. “These schools are not only needed to address the growth in that immediate area but have been imperative to relieving overcrowding at all school levels across our district. The immense support of our community to fund these school buildings allow our staff to continue to facilitate maximum learning for every student.”

The approximate \$31.6 million project was made possible by voter approval of a combined \$134.7 million no-new-millage bond issue, a 0.5-mill permanent improvement levy and 7.4-mill operating levy which passed on the March 17, 2020, primary ballot. The bond issue portion of the ballot request funded the construction of Shale Meadows Elementary School, Berlin Middle School (which will open this fall), and Elementary School 17.

The new schools address Olentangy’s continued enrollment growth. Since opening Shale Meadows Elementary School in 2021, the district’s preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment has grown by over 500 students. The district has been forced to close enrollment at three elementary schools this school year and redistrict students for the 2023-2024 school year to alleviate overcrowding. Current enrollment forecasts indicate the district will have around 12,841 elementary students by the 2032-2033 school year.

The school board has hired Robertson Construction Services to serve as construction manager for the project. The new 83,000 square-foot elementary school will open in Fall 2024 and be similar in design to the district’s other elementary schools, with the same classroom footprint as Shale Meadows Elementary.

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