



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BREAKS GROUND ON SIXTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Olentangy Schools will begin construction on Middle School 6 this June, with a ground-breaking ceremony scheduled for May 27 at 5:30pm.

The yet-to-be named middle school will be built on 45 acres along Piatt Road, south of Olentangy Berlin High School, in Berlin Township. The land was purchased from the Katter family.

“The addition of a sixth middle school to the district will provide the necessary relief needed on the growing enrollment in our current middle schools, particularly in the north east region,” said Olentangy Schools Superintendent Mark T. Raiff. “Middle School 6 will be the district’s third new building in the past five years, and I continue to be proud of the support of our students by our community.”

The approximate \$46 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 funds the construction of the sixth middle school and two elementary schools; Shale Meadows Elementary School will open in Fall 2021, and Elementary School 17 is planned for construction to begin in 2024.

The new schools are needed to address continued enrollment growth. The district has not opened a new middle school since Berkshire Middle School in 2011. At that time, the district had 3,900 attending middle school. In the 2020-2021 school year, Olentangy had over 5,000 middle school students enrolled, with that pace of growth projected to continue for the next decade. Current enrollment forecasts indicate the district will have around 6,500 students in grades 6 – 8 by the 2030-2031 school year.

The school board has hired Robertson Construction Services to serve as construction manager for the project. The new 156,700 square-foot middle school will be similar in design to the district’s other middle schools, with minor modifications.

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