

Memorandum

Subject:	Fairport Harbor EVSD – New PK-12 Project, December Update
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Fairport Harbor Exempted Village School District – December Update

As the cold winter weather arrives, Fairport Harbor EVSD and the design team have made tremendous progress on designs for the \$50 million, 116,000 SF PK-12 school. The new school replaces Harding High School and the elementary school with a single, consolidated facility on the existing high school site. Scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year, this new facility features advanced learning environments, updated technology, and modern building systems. While designed specifically for the student population, it also includes space for the attached Fairport Harbor Library.

Since September, designers from ThenDesign Architecture (TDA), the district administration, school board members, and officials from the OFCC have been meeting weekly to discuss plans for the school and work through a variety of details regarding the project. Additionally, a "Construction Leadership" group was formed. Comprised of school personnel, this group works in conjunction with the design team to address specific questions about how the facility can impact current staff and students when it's completed. Together these two groups provide valuable insight for the architects while they develop plans for the new school.

This November, a variety of important steps were taken in the design process. Several staff engagements were conducted to gather input from educators who will ultimately use the new building. This ensures the finished product addresses the needs of the district.

To further designs for the library, a presentation by the architect was given to the Library Board on November 8th. This gave them a glimpse into the process and provided a chance to provide feedback. The new library will be attached to the school but still maintain a separate entrance for the public. Working closely with the district, plans are in place so students can continue to use this feature during the school day.

Improving safety and security is a key priority of this project and in mid-November, the district and safety officials met to discuss how to best incorporate modern security technologies into the school. While there are many new state-of-the-art systems going into it, a key discussion for the district is how they will transition from 2 buildings to 1. This will help simplify some security processes and allow for combined resources to improve this overall aspect of the project.

With the importance of environmental sustainability, the new school will be LEED silver certified and incorporate many "green features." An eco-charette was held on November 29th. This is a meeting, where team members review the school's sustainability approach and plan how it can achieve the required LEED credits to ensure it is a sustainable project. Sustainable features include mapping out the building's heating and cooling systems, an efficient lighting strategy, while providing flexible outdoor playgrounds and easy site accessibility.

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Also in November, Osborn Engineering was selected as the "Commission Agent" for the project. They will ensure the district's needs are met and provide oversight during the construction project. Bringing them into the design process now allows them to best understand and represent the district during key milestones in construction.

All this design input culminated in the first, early set of initial drawings, called "schematic design drawings." These rough drawings enable architects to do initial cost estimates for the entire project and serve as a foundation to continue the work. They will be refined in the next phase "design development," to better conform to the project budget and needs of the school. CT Taylor, the Construction Manager, will be using these to compile the cost estimates.

As the winter progresses, additional staff engagements will occur as design development gets underway. This iterative refinement process ensures all the needs of the many stakeholder groups are met.

Looking ahead to the new year, CT Taylor, in conjunction with TDA, will host a construction overview meeting to go through the details of construction and what residents should expect during that period. As design development culminates, we look forward to reporting back on plans and renderings of the new school.

We encourage all community members interested in this project to attend the monthly Board of Education meetings. Architects present updates on the new school building design and offer opportunities to ask questions, becoming more informed on how this project is providing a better educational environment for the students of Fairport Harbor EVSD.