



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

TO: Dr. Angel Turner, Superintendent
FROM: Kirby G. Callam, Director of Strategic Project Management
DATE: June 23, 2025
RE: **June 2025 Foster School Update**

Objective: **Information** Discussion Follow-up Decision

As we near the expected one year window before teachers begin setting up their classrooms for students in the fall of 2026, the Foster School project continues to move forward with several milestones reached:

A. School Furniture

Since April of this year, District 65 has worked with Cordogan Clark to serve as the purchasing agent for Foster School’s classroom and school furniture. Using the Sourcewell State of Illinois Purchasing Coop, Cordogan Clark secured quotes from high-quality vendors KI, Inc., Groupe Lacasse, Inc., and LMC Smith Systems.

Additionally, District 65—working with Turner Townsend and Heery, its owner’s representative—obtained competitive quotes through the Omnia State of Illinois Purchasing Coop from three furniture dealers: Meteor Education, School Specialty, and Frank Cooney, Inc.

Following a thorough review of all quotes, and based on recommendations from both Cordogan Clark and Turner Townsend and Heery, District 65 will purchase classroom, cafeteria, library, and specialty room furniture from KI, Inc. and Groupe Lacasse, Inc. for \$477,720 under Sourcewell contract #091423-KII. This price includes delivery and installation and falls well below the \$980,000 that is budgeted for the purchase of school furniture.

Purchasing the school furniture now -- a year before the school opens -- is expected to save the district between \$50,000 - \$70,000 by avoiding price increases from annual upcharges and tariffs, even with an additional anticipated \$22,500 for 15-month climate-controlled storage.

Library bookshelves, art room tables, and the library check-out desk were not included in the purchase order with KI Inc. and Groupe Lacasse Inc. These items will be purchased separately to better align with Foster School and District 65 budget and functional needs. In addition, District 65 will re-use all adult and administrative furniture for Foster School from its existing warehouse storage reserves and from

available furniture that will come from the closure of Bessie Rhodes and possibly other school(s) as a result of the SDRP Phase III process.

B. Construction

This week, the pouring of concrete floors and the final sealing of the roof are wrapping up, setting the stage for the installation of HVAC equipment on the roof and the windows to seal the building. The installation of the building's transformer and connection to electrical service with ComEd last week was also a notable construction milestone.

Overall, the project remains on-schedule and under budget.

C. Bid Group 5

Cordogan Clark has recommended moving up the schedule for Bid Group 5 from October 2025 to this July to ensure needed curb work can be completed before the City of Evanston's moratorium on street work between November 15 and April 15 of each year.

Bid Group 5 includes the bid package scopes covering the playground surface and equipment, landscaping, sidewalks and pavement, and building gutters.

One remaining bid package approval will remain for later this year that covers the audio and visual system installations in classrooms and specialty rooms such as the cafetorium and gym.

D. Foster School Family Block Party

The Foster School Transition Committee finished a series of 2025 school year parent and family events with a block party on Saturday, June 14, at Twiggs Park. Over 150 attendees enjoyed food, music, dancing, games, and prize bags on a perfect spring day in the Fifth Ward.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for further discussion on our next steps.