

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

In the State of Ohio, January is designated annually as School Board Recognition Month. It is an opportunity to recognize a group of individuals who carry an awesome responsibility on their shoulders as members of this governing body. Being elected to serve on the Board of Education by popular vote of the electorate is a small consolation when dealing with some of the tough issues that leave the potential to divide parents, staffs, and communities.

School Board Recognition Month gives all of us a chance to say “thank you” to those who serve on the Board of Education and deserve some encouragement, a pat on the back, or a thank you from time to time. After all, if the job were easy, then everyone, or certainly more people, would want to do it. Though three of our board members are new to their jobs, I encourage you to take a moment to thank all five of them for the tough job that lies before them each day, each week, and each month. I certainly extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Naylor, Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Bauman, and Mr. Ryan, and assure them that there will be plenty of tough work ahead in the coming months.

## HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS

No doubt, you have probably heard and read a great deal about the proposed building project for our school district. At this point, I can tell you that the initial soil borings and environmental surveys have been completed for the elementary construction sites by CTL Engineering Company. You may have even noticed some of this work taking place in

each of our three attendance areas. We will be using the data gathered from this process to help us determine if our pre-selected sites are suitable for constructing schools.

I would have to think that there are questions on your minds regarding suggested improvements to the high school facilities. After all, these buildings are less than ten years old. What could they possibly need? If I wasn't involved with the day-to-day operations of the district, and in a position to be in and out of those buildings, I would probably ask the same thing. First, and foremost, keep in mind that our proposed building project with the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) is a Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP). As such, it includes all buildings that house students within the district. The OSFC has indicated that our elementary facilities are beyond renovation and need to be replaced. The OSFC has also indicated that significant renovations are needed at the Career and Technical Center, which will be covered in a later article. Well, what are some of the improvements that are recommended for the high school buildings by the OSFC through the CFAP? This is what I want to spend the rest of this article explaining to all of you. Sometimes, the language and terminology used by the OSFC is a little confusing, so an attempt will be made to state these items in terms that we can all appreciate.

The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) contracted with Freytag & Associates, an independent architectural firm, to conduct an assessment of our facilities. The basis of the assessment was to compare our current facilities to standards established by the OSFC, as outlined in the Ohio School Design Manual. The following is a listing of high

school renovations as per Freytag and Associates and, ultimately, the OSFC assessment of our buildings. These renovations are to bring our current buildings up to the standards set in the Ohio School Design Manual. Some locally funded initiative monies may be used for additional improvements/upgrades. All of the suggested improvements listed below would be common to all three of our high school buildings. This list may not be all-inclusive, but it does include the more expensive upgrades. In addition, some of the high schools qualify for blacktop/parking lot repairs. The West Union site also qualifies for sewer system improvements.

Bear in mind, that renovation items listed below will be funded 93% by the state and 7% by local funding. Also, keep in mind that in order to access state funds for elementary facilities, we must address the required high school items. Additional needed improvements above those listed would be funded 100% locally (LFI – Locally Funded Initiatives).

- A. Roofing** – replace existing membrane roof due to age.
- B. Electrical Systems** – Provide additional receptacles to meet OSDM requirements.  
Install surge suppression and lightning protection to meet OSDM requirements.
- C. Plumbing and Fixtures** - Provide eye wash stations in two science classrooms and two science prep rooms. Provide a compressed air system with connections to all science classrooms, labs and prep rooms. Provide additional exterior wall hydrants. Provide an OSDM compliant 140-degree domestic hot water system for kitchen

equipment and ware washing sinks. Provide ADA piping insulation where required.

- D. Structure: Walls and Chimneys** – Provide tuck-pointing in all areas of mortar deterioration as required. Recaulk existing control joints as required. Repair windowsill mortar and flash over windowsills with aluminum. Spot clean efflorescence from brick. Replace bottom course of brick where damaged.
- E. General Finishes** – Provide additional tack boards and wall cabinets in standard classrooms. Replace damaged ceiling tiles as required. Provide complete replacement of metal toilet partitions due to condition.
- F. Interior Lighting** – Provide additional fixtures in the gymnasium, auditoria, large group classroom, and media center to meet recommended OSDM lighting levels, and install occupancy sensors or timed lighting control system on interior lights.
- G. Security System** – Provide partial security system upgrade to meet OSDM guidelines.
- H. Handicapped Access** – Provide piping insulation on three lavatories to make fully compliant. Provide an automatic power door operator on one main entrance door. Replace damaged ADA toilet compartment partitions with OSDM compliant solid polymer or phenolic-core partitions. Provide ramps to recessed auditoria areas and a lift to access the orchestra pit.
- I. Loose Furnishings** – Provide for replacement of inadequate or outdated furniture.
- J. Technology** – Provide complete replacement of technology systems to meet OSDM requirements.

**K. Construction Contingency/Non-Construction Costs** – 7% construction contingency. 16.2% for non-construction costs. Non-construction costs include soil borings, agency approval fees, construction testing, printing, advertising, builder's risk, design professional compensation, and construction manager compensation.

OSFC's assessment indicated no renovations are necessary in the following areas: heating system, ventilation/air conditioning, windows, structure-foundation, structure-floors and roofs, emergency/egress lighting, fire alarm, water supply, exterior doors, hazardous material, and life safety.

In closing, the exact cost to local taxpayers for the improvements outlined or suggested by the OSFC will be determined soon. This information will be available once we have the revised Master Plan for the district, and have determined the state/local costs for the project, as well as the millage needed for the local portion of the project. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent