

The Clay Communicator

Corporate Publication of Clay Community Schools

Winter 2008



From The Desk of Superintendent Daniel Schroeder....

New construction or renovation of existing educational facilities is an intensive process that requires much time, energy, and effort from start to completion of the project. Major decisions include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Federal laws, rules, and regulations; (2) Indiana laws, rules, and regulations; (3) local laws, rules, and regulations; (4) willingness of a community to support and pay for a project; (5) equity amongst educational facilities to ensure equal opportunity for students; (6) ability of the Capital Projects Fund to pay for needed repairs; (7) school corporation assessed valuation and the ability to finance a project; (8) interest rates, the ability to pay back long-term debt, length of bond terms, and existing school corporation debt; (9) hiring of reputable financial advisors, bond counsel, architects, and construction managers; (10) availability of construction materials and qualified labor; and most importantly (11) the positive impact that updated facilities will have on students because the facilities will enhance student motivation and pride and will contribute to more viable curriculum and instructional techniques.

Initial discussions and planning for our current project began prior to my arrival as superintendent in July of 2006. From July of 2006 to anticipated completion of construction sometime in 2011, we are looking at a five-year process from start to finish. Actual construction at our buildings is expected to begin in 2009 and to end in 2011.

Our construction project plans involve the renovation of all of our seven elementary schools and the installation of security systems in all of our ten schools. We are looking at two phases to eventually complete renovation of all our schools, but the current project does not include the middle or high schools. The total cost including bonding and interest will be \$31,115,000 with an expected bond interest rate of 3.89%, to be paid back over a period of 8 ½ years.

We believe that the time is right for the community to support the renovation of our elementary facilities. Parents, administrators and teachers from individual schools, community members, financial experts, and construction experts were all involved in the planning process. Community meetings and meetings with the public were held to generate input. Our Capital Projects Fund cannot support the many needed repairs and replacement of current facilities and machinery, and a building project will relieve some of the demands on CPF. Northview High School and Clay City High School will be paid for in 2009, which will allow the Debt Service tax rate for this new project to remain what it is today. Current interest rates to sell bonds to finance our project are very low in comparison to historical averages. The longer we wait, the more inflation will increase the costs of goods and services. We have held community meetings and special school board meetings resulting in a project cost that is less than half of what was originally proposed. Finally, if we expect our students to have similar types of schools and programs that are offered in other schools, now is the time to provide them, so our students can benefit as soon as possible.

School Calendar for the remainder of 2007-08

Feb. 18..... Snow Make-Up Day (school in session)
March 21..... Good Friday (No School)
March 24-28..... Spring Break
April 11 Snow Make-Up Day (school in session)
April 14 Inservice Day (No School)
May 22 Last Student Day*

*Graduation Dates will be determined once all snow dates have been made up.

WHAT IS IN THE RENOVATION PLAN?

General plans for renovation have been established for each elementary school building, based on needs established by building committees, architects and Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Thomas Reberger.



The plan for each building includes:

✓ **Clay City Elementary**

Security upgrades, roof repairs and replacement, upgraded plumbing and masonry and carpet replacement. Site work for improved drainage and parking lot repairs.

✓ **East Side Elementary**

15,000 square feet of new construction which includes three academic classrooms, art & music classrooms, and expansion to the gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen areas. Upgrades to the lighting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems. Masonry and roof repair and replacement. Improved playground, parking and bus drop off areas.

✓ **Forest Park Elementary**

Relocation of the cafeteria and kitchen. Roof replacement and replacement of doors and fixtures. Upgrades to the lighting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems. Parking lot improvements.

✓ **Jackson Township Elementary** (extensive renovation completed in 2002)

Forced main to city sewer to eliminate treatment plant. Masonry repair and completion of window replacement.

✓ **Meridian Elementary**

12,000 square feet of new construction which includes two academic classrooms, student restrooms and expansion to the gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen. As well as the addition of an elevator for second floor access. Masonry and roof repair and replacement. Upgrades to the lighting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems. Parking lot improvements.

✓ **Staunton Elementary**

14,000 square feet of new construction which includes five academic classrooms, art and music classrooms, cafeteria and expanded storage. Upgrades to the lighting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems. Parking lot improvements.

✓ **Van Buren Elementary**

Expanded art and music classrooms. Upgrades to the lighting, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems. Window replacement.

In addition to the above renovations, schools will receive an entry vestibule and re-configured office areas to improve safety and security.

Secondary buildings will receive security upgrades.

The project does not include any work on a transportation facility or central office building.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the school corporation interested in upgrading the current facilities?

At this time we need to address issues which have arisen at many of our elementary facilities because of the age of many of those facilities. Even the newer elementary buildings are over 30 years old. Although the school corporation is constantly trying to keep up with the maintenance and repairs, many of the original systems, like the heating and air conditioning, the windows, the roof, the electrical service, or even the toilets and sinks are beyond their life expectancy and need to be replaced or upgraded to meet current needs and building codes. Most of the buildings do not meet the handicapped accessibility requirements. Only one of the buildings, Jackson Township, has a secure entrance in the recent renovation. The annual budget for the capital project improvements is less than a million dollars, and the school corporation just can't keep up with all of the needs at all of the facilities. The needs for replacement and repair keep growing each year, and the desire to address safety and security in all of the buildings is a growing concern.

2. What are the needs of the school corporation?

Each of the elementary buildings, except Jackson Township have similar needs for upgrades to the basic systems for electricity, mechanical systems, plumbing, fire alarm, and security. Three of the buildings, Eastside, Staunton, and Meridian, still have modular or portable classrooms and that means that the students have to leave the safety and security of the school. The deficiencies in these elementary facilities have a direct impact on the learning environment of the students, and the outdated and failing systems continue to eat away at the operational costs in terms of maintenance and utility costs.

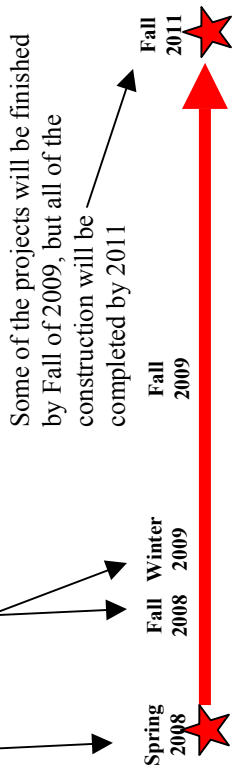
3. How would the needs of the school corporation be met with this proposed project ?

By investing in the existing elementary facilities, Clay Community Schools would be extending the dollars that the community has already put into these schools, and there would be equity among all of the school buildings. In addition, maintenance and operational costs would be reduced because the systems would be upgraded or new.

4. When would this take place?

The actual layouts and engineering of all 7 elementary buildings, as well as the planning for safety and security projects, would start in the spring of this year.

Construction bids would be taken in the late fall of 2008, and construction would be phased in after the first of the year 2009.



5. How much will the project cost and how will we pay for it?

Eastside Elementary School/renovation and additions	\$6,109,839
Meridian Elementary School/renovation and additions	\$5,557,256
Forest Park Elementary School/renovations	\$3,222,739
Staunton Elementary School/renovations and additions	\$4,548,926
Safety and security entry conditions at all facilities	\$250,000
Van Buren Elementary School/renovations	\$2,295,038
Jackson Township Elementary utility extensions and renovations	\$1,460,295
Clay City Elementary School/renovations	\$2,839,200
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$26,283,292

The School Corporation would pay for the work by selling bonds to finance the cost of the projects. The bonds would be repaid in approximately 8 1/2 years. Most school projects require 20 years to repay their debt.But here, because there are current bonds that will be paid off by the end of this year. **NO TAX RATE increase!**

JUST THE FACTS...

Board of School Trustees

Mrs. Terry Barr-President	At-Large
Mr. Brian Atkinson-Vice President	At-Large
Mrs. Dottie King-Secretary	District III
Mr. Len Fischer-Member	District I
Mr. Steve Grigsby-Member	District IV
Mr. Jim Guy-Member	District II
Mr. Ted Jackson-Member	At-Large

Board Members may be emailed at
CCS_School_Board@clay.k12.in.us

Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Enrollment

Clay City Elementary	415
East Side Elementary	289
Forest Park Elementary	255
Jackson Township Elementary	356
Meridian Elementary	258
Staunton Elementary	291
Van Buren Elementary	237
Clay City Jr./Sr. High School	422
North Clay Middle School	924
Northview High School	<u>1145</u>
	4589

Central Administration Office

812-443-4461

Dr. Daniel Schroeder	Superintendent
Mr. Mike Fowler	Business Manager
Mrs. Kathy Knust	Curriculum Coordinator
Mrs. Carolyn Kumpf	Personnel, Food Service & Data Reporting
Mr. Thomas Reberger	Buildings & Grounds

LEAAP Center

812-446-2536

Mary Yelton	Program Director
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Special Services

812-448-8036

Rhonda Lawrence	Director
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Transportation

812-442-7121

Frank Misner	Director
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Schools

Clay City Elementary	812-939-3120
Jon Russell, Principal	
Clay City High School	812-939-2154
Jeff Bell, Principal	
Cumberland Academy	812-446-4120
Lisa Showalter, Principal	
East Side Elementary	812-448-8755
Mary Ray, Principal	
Forest Park Elementary	812-443-7621
Connie Cook, Principal	
Jackson Twp. Elementary	812-986-2177
Jeff Fritz, Principal	
Meridian Elementary	812-448-8560
Karen Phillips, Principal	
North Clay Middle School	812-448-1530
Jeff Allen, Principal	
Northview High School	812-448-2661
Tim Rayle, Principal	
Staunton Elementary	812-448-8270
Sheryl Jordan, Principal	
Van Buren Elementary	812-448-1362
Gail Williams, Principal	