

## December 2015

### High School Construction Update

The team has been very busy at work over the past few months as we began early planning for the new high school. Since the passage of the bond issue in May 2015, the district has been working closely with the Ohio Facility Construction Commission (OFCC) to set the final project budget as well as select an architect for the construction project. In late September, the district named SHP Leading Design as the architect for our new high school. The district has a long relationship with SHP, dating back to 2000. SHP was the architect for the elementary and middle schools, as well as the central office and transportation facility. We are excited to continue this relationship for our new high school.

After being selected, SHP officials began working closely with the district staff to develop all of the desired features of the new school and to determine how education will be delivered in a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century high school. A key component of this process was an extensive “educational visioning” effort that involved teachers, students, administrators, OFCC officials, and the SHP design team. The group recognized that future educational delivery will not be the same as it was in 1962 when the current high school opened. This process has required numerous meetings with high school staff members and officials from OFCC to ensure that the early design process remains within those guidelines in terms of educational requirements and overall building size. At this time, the project is beginning to enter the Schematic Design (SD) phase. This is the earliest stage of building design. We hope to have a basic floor plan of the building developed by February. Once completed, staff members will gather once again to review the initial plan and provide feedback to the design team.

There have been several meetings to discuss sustainability goals for our new high school as part of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program. This program is designed to incorporate features in a facility that promote energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and increase indoor air-quality for students and staff. The Miami Trace Middle School received a rating of LEED Gold for our efforts on that project.

District officials and SHP site designers have also been working with officials from Fayette County and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to see what may be done to improve the traffic congestion in and around the central campus. The district has contracted with a firm to conduct a detailed traffic study of the area to determine the best way things may be improved. There is also a large focus on how the new high school may be tied into the existing campus infrastructure and how this may impact traffic flow for cars and school buses.

The district received proposals from eleven (11) firms to serve as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMr) for the project. The role of the CMr will be to actually build our new building. District and OFCC officials ranked the firms and narrowed the list to four (4) finalist firms. These firms will make formal presentations in mid-January that will outline their plans for our project. The four (4) firms will then be ranked by district and OFCC officials and a final selection for the CMr will be made. It is our hope that this process will be completed by early February 2016.

To close, there have been many things going on “behind the scenes” as we work towards that day when we actually break ground on our new school! It is critical that we spend the time to get this right as it will serve our high school students for decades into the future. It is our hope that the community may see dirt beginning to move in late 2016, with a goal of opening the facility to students in January 2019. We will continue to provide updates as the project development proceeds. Please contact us at (740) 335-3010 or email Bill Franke at [bfranke@mtrace.org](mailto:bfranke@mtrace.org) if you have any questions related to the project. Thank you for your continued support and Go Panthers!