



HIGHLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS

PROJECT UPDATE FOR NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

DECEMBER 2018

YEAR IN REVIEW

Administrators and staff members, along with **GPD Group** and **Hammond Construction**, have continued to work diligently on the new elementary building projects. This past year has been focused on securing land for each of the new schools, and conducting due diligence with Phase 1 environmental assessments, soil borings and traffic studies, the vital first steps before commencing the full architectural design. With unforeseen challenges to find viable land options, combined with an unfavorable bid market, the decision was made to push construction out another year. Every decision made on the new school projects is done with careful consideration to choose the best long-term benefit of our students, teachers and community. The District is currently in the final stages of securing properties in Hinckley, Granger and Sharon Townships. Each site will have plenty of greenspace and are located in each township.

It is our goal to provide each elementary school with similar amenities, yet each building will have an identity that is unique to their community. Once the property purchases are finalized, GPD can move on to developing more detailed site plans and building designs.

DESIGN PROCESS

GPD Group has conducted numerous meetings and visioning sessions with district staff, teachers, user groups and community members. Highland staff members have toured several newly constructed schools in the Northeast Ohio region to see current trends and 21st century learning design elements first-hand. GPD Group will utilize all of the information gathered from staff and community members to develop preliminary designs for each of the buildings.

The design process moving forward involves three major phases: schematic design, design development and producing the final construction documents. Schematic design involves the overall look of the building (including renderings), preliminary floor plans and the layout of the building on the site. The design development phase



includes finalizing the size of the rooms and spaces, refining the look, selecting materials, determining the systems, and deciding on door and window types and locations. This phase also includes many design team meetings, which are critical to finalizing decisions so the detailed documentation can begin in the next phase.

The construction documents phase (blue prints) involves adding a level of detail and technical information to the design documents so the builder has a set of instructions to construct the project as designed. It also includes selecting and finalizing interior finishes. This phase is when the architect, construction manager and consultants work through the technical aspects of the project.

LOOKING AHEAD

All design phases will be completed by the end of 2019, then momentum will shift to the building process. We are excited about the future of Highland Local Schools, and will continue to provide updates on the building projects periodically through the year to share our progress.