LAND ACQUISITION

As previously communicated, the school district has completed the purchase and acquisition of land for each of the new elementary schools. The Hinckley property is located on Ridge Road, just north of Route 303. The new Granger Elementary will be located on Wilbur Road, directly behind the existing Granger School. The Sharon Township property is also on Ridge Road, set back on the opposite side of the road near the existing Sharon Elementary School. Drone images were captured of each site in September and are shown at right.

DESIGN PROCESS

GPD Group, Hammond Construction, the Highland Board of Education and district staff are nearly complete with the design development phase for all three elementary schools. 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. The drawings have been submitted to Hammond Construction and are currently under review. The next phase of design will be compiling the final construction documents which will be used to send the projects out for bid. The three schools will be bid concurrently beginning in January of 2020.

The new Highland Elementary Schools will each contain a considerable amount of sustainable design features to reduce energy consumption, improve water efficiency and indoor air quality. Along with obtaining materials that are not only sourced regionally but also incorporate significant amounts of recycled content, while supporting the health of the occupants and sustaining the environment in the project locations. Schools incorporating sustainable design provide more than places for learning. They are healthy environments that have a positive effect on students and staff alike. They extend their influence, conserve land and energy, and become active parts of the educational system and community.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENDERINGS

GPD Group has designed all three of Highland’s new elementary schools within a park-like setting and with similar amenities. GPD and the district chose to incorporate flexibility into the layout of the interior spaces. Each school will feature a cafeteria with a stage, allowing the space to serve the students and community in multiple ways. The gymnasium will be located directly adjacent to the cafeteria, separated by a moveable partition wall. This allows the two areas to be opened up into one large gathering space. Each elementary school will also feature extended learning areas allowing instructional flexibility for years to come.

HAPPENING NOW

Work is currently underway at the Granger Elementary site to establish the building pad and retention pond. Over the next few months, you will also see activity on all three building sites. This is part of an early site package that is focused on preparing the land for construction next year. Contractors will focus on major earthwork, grading and establishing the building pad. Once the Army Corps of Engineers has provided approvals for the Hinckley and Sharon sites, work will commence thereafter (weather permitting). When earthwork is complete, the sites will go dormant through the winter months, and will then resume activity in early Spring of 2020.

HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

The Middle School building had a section of roof replaced over corridor spaces near the media center. The existing built up roof structure was removed and a new roof system with tapered insulation and roof drains were installed. Some vinyl metal details are still to be completed by the end of the year.

CONTACT

If you have any questions or concerns about activity occurring on the building site, please feel free to contact Construction Manager, Joe Swantek at 330-495-5225. Thank you.