

Warwick Middle School Construction Revs

Welcome to the Fourth Edition of the Warwick Middle School Construction Update.

Like a stationary race car whose driver is pressing down on its gas pedal, great amounts of manpower, materials and equipment are all focused on progressing the Warwick Middle School Project (hereinafter referred to as "MSP") in anticipation of the onset of consistent warmer and dryer weather. Construction crews, led by the mason, are 'champing on the bit' to erect the balance of the shell of the MSP. The mason is the key, because although there are steel beams and trusses throughout, the MSP is categorized as a "masonry bearing" structure, meaning much of the walls and slabs are supported by/are bearing on masonry walls below. As walls are constructed all else follows in a jigsaw puzzle fashion.

THE PROJECT:

"Site Logistics & Security": No news is good news here. The Warwick School District has taken every step to ensure that the project was set up safely as economically and programmatically as possible. Construction traffic remains separated from the existing campus traffic and all construction activity is being performed within a gated chain link fence. Personalized badges are assigned to all personnel after proper background criminal and child abuse security clearances are obtained and five full-time security cameras continue to monitor and record all activity within the construction site.

The Schedule: The Project Milestones and their respective current status are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
Project Award	June 1, 2008	Completed
Complete All Site Logistics	July 15, 2008	Completed
Enclosure of New Building	May 1, 2009	On Schedule
Renovate Gym/Lockers	6/15 – 8/7/2009	On Schedule
Substantial Completion of New Building	October 16, 2009	On Schedule
Final Completion of New Building	November 13, 2009	On Schedule
Occupy New Middle School	January, 2010	On schedule
Removal of Existing Building & Construct New Parking Lot	1/4 - 6/15/2010	On Schedule
Final Completion of Entire Project	June 15, 2010	On Schedule

From the beginning of the Project, The general contractor has indicated a desire to revisit some of the milestones in order to better sequence the Work. More recently, the general contractor has alleged that it has incurred delay and the other contractors have expressed a concern that, as a result, the duration of their work has been compressed. While some agreed upon modification to the milestone schedule has been anticipated from the onset, it is the author's opinion that the project will be completed on time and the January 2010 occupancy date shall be met.

Community Event: On February 5th the MSP hosted an Open House from 3:30 to 5:00pm. With wind chills in the single digits, twenty or so residents braved the weather for a hearty glimpse of the MSP. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jill Hackman, MS Principal Larry Zeamer and Asst. Principal Michael Smith were in attendance and warmly greeted everyone .. hot chocolate,

soft pretzels, hot apple cider and assorted cookies were offered. Larry Zeamer narrated a very thoughtful and informative slide presentation that had been arranged by Jeffrey D. Martin.

After the twenty minute presentation, to our pleasant surprise, two thirds of the people braved these single digit temperatures and attended a bone chilling tour of the construction site to review progress! Several students were on hand and expressed their excitement to see the new middle school construction underway. 7th grader, Amy Kochel, remarked that the new school “should be a brighter and cheerier environment for the kids to learn in” while 8th grader, Derek Lewis-Eby, simply exclaimed “It’s great!” 6th grader, Cody Souders, took a moment to appreciate the hard work of the construction crews braving the cold saying that they were “doing a good job.”

Lititz resident and former maintenance man, Scott Brown, was hopeful that Lititz residents understood that buildings have a life span and that “based on the age [of the current middle school] and the time it was built, it was time for a new one take its place.” Also in attendance was Lititz native Ken Hess who is the grandson of the late Roy S. Buch who years ago had sold the property beneath the Middle School to the School District. Ken reminisced about his childhood days, playing in the fields and farming over all the rocks around the middle school site, but was glad to see the site being used by children. “As a former construction worker, I understand why the building needed to be torn down .. God bless the guys out there working in this weather.”

This Update was written by Dan Cicala. Dan, a building professional and attorney, is the Principal of Fidevia, the Construction Administrator for the Warwick Middle School Project. Any inquiries or comments may be addressed directly to Dan or to Melanie Heckel @ 625-3433. In addition, residents are encouraged to learn more about the Project by visiting the WSD’s award-winning website @ www.warwicksd.org.