



School Board Announces 2013 Building Project Plans

At their August meeting, members of the Mooresville Schools Board of Directors discussed the need to upgrade school buildings within the district. Mooresville High School, Waverly Elementary School, and Neil Armstrong Elementary School are each on the board’s list of schools due for upgrades.

Mooresville has received five zero-interest bonds for projects under \$2 million in the past three years. MHS and PHMS as well as Newby, Northwood and North Madison elementary schools have undergone projects on their heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems through these government bonds. Although the district already had paperwork completed for Neil Armstrong Elementary’s zero-interest loan, the federal government stopped issuing that funding to schools, according to School Board President Dr. Bill Roberson.

“Since there are no more of those available, we’re starting the process of looking for some low-interest loans,” Roberson said. “It’s a long legal process when you borrow money, so we really will start next board meeting with a process for building next summer.”

Roberson emphasized that the school board had made a commitment to community members not to raise taxes and the district would complete all projects without tax increases. Debt from the proposed projects would be layered in to existing debt to keep tax levels the same. “We have right now in our community a growing homeless population, a growing free and reduced lunch number, people losing their homes, losing their jobs. And the last thing we need to do is raise taxes,” Roberson said. “So we’re not going to do that.”

Both Waverly and Neil Armstrong are due for HVAC and other building upgrades including the creation of secure entryways at each building. Projects for each school will be under \$2 million.

2013 Proposed Projects

Neil Armstrong & Waverly
Scope of Work

- HVAC upgrades (similar to other elementary schools)
- Indoor Environmental Quality Upgrades
- Building-specific upgrades to older structural elements and systems

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2013 Proposed Projects

Mooresville High School

- Three audits sought for project under \$20 million
- 1959 building opened to 400 students and has had six additions. MHS currently serves 1350 students

MHS 1970

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Mooresville High School will be the site of the largest proposed projects. The school was built in 1959 and has had six additions. A project of under \$20 million is proposed to upgrade the current school. The district has asked three companies to perform audits of the building and propose a scope of work.

“We’ve asked these companies to come in, look at the schools, talk to principals, maintenance directors, and say ‘what

are the needs?” said Roberson. “Not the wants, but the needs.”

In the board meeting, the first audit, completed by Skillman Corporation, was reviewed. The two other free audits, by Performance Services and Johnson Melloh Solutions, will be reviewed by the board in August and early September prior to a final scope of work being determined.

The first audit included upgrades to the campus such as work on sidewalks and curbs and passing lanes to reduce traffic congestion. The building envelope, including replacement of some windows and doors as well as replacing crumbling brickwork on one of the oldest sections of the building, was also mentioned as an area of emphasis. Building systems, including plumbing and electrical upgrades, were included in the potential project as were interior renovations to classrooms and other areas.

A key area of the potential projects is safety, including updating some areas of the building which were built prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act and current sprinkler and fire alarm standards. The current entry to the building, added in the 1980s, would also be remodeled to create a secure entry.

Superintendent Brad Lindsay praised Dr. Roberson and Board members for their dedication to finding a way to make needed upgrades while keeping the tax rate at the same level.

“We are committed to wise stewardship and making better happen for our students and our greater Mooresville community,” Lindsay said. “This is an exciting and necessary project which will benefit current and future Mooresville Pioneers.”

At its September meeting, the board will begin the process toward the MHS project with a Preliminary Determination Hearing. After that, a required public meeting known as a 1028 Hearing, will be scheduled for the October school board meeting.

Board members have already begun sharing the building project information with community organizations, homeowners associations and other groups in Mooresville.

MOORESVILLE
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2013 Proposed Projects

Mooresville High School
-Second and third audits in August
-Preliminary Determination Hearing in September
-1028 Hearing scheduled for October 2012

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