

Community input sought on new school buildings

[Daniel Carson](#), Reporter Published 7:00 a.m. ET Dec. 1, 2017

Public meeting set for Dec. 14 at Terra State



(Photo: File)

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FREMONT - Residents will get a chance to weigh in on Fremont City Schools' plans for a new high school and four new elementary school buildings, as the district hosts a daylong community meeting Dec. 14 at Terra State Community College.

Superintendent Jon Detwiler said the meeting will be held at Terra State's Ronald L. Neeley Conference and Hospitality Center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

He said the district was sending invitations to community members, including clergy, residents and city government officials, for the meeting.

The superintendent said there will be 15 students participating in the meeting, as well as FCS staff, teachers, counselors and custodians.

Detwiler said the district selected HEPY Inc. recently as its on-site commissioning agent for the building project.

"They'll just make sure we're getting what we paid for," Detwiler said, adding that the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission required the use of a commissioning agent on the project.

The district in November hired a construction manager-at-risk (CMAR) to oversee the building of the five new school buildings.

Gilbane Building Co., which has offices in Cleveland and Findlay, will partner with Mosser Construction and work with the district and architectural firms Then Design Architecture (TDA) and SSOE on the project.

In May, district voters approved a \$58.6 million levy to build four new elementary buildings and a new high school and auditorium that will replace aging buildings and upgrade technologies.

Groundbreaking on the project is scheduled for 2019, with the district's preliminary plan to have all buildings open in August 2021.

In October, Detwiler said the district will pare down the number of elementary schools in the district from seven to four, with east side residents attending Atkinson Elementary, 1100 Delaware Ave., and Croghan Elementary, 1110 Chestnut Ave., while students living on the west side of town will attend Otis Elementary, 718 N. Brush St., and Lutz Elementary, 1929 Buckland Ave.

Stamm, Hayes and Washington Elementary in Lindsey will not be used as school buildings under the current plan.

Detwiler said the district will have to decide what to do with the Washington and Hayes buildings and property.

After public input, the district could move into planning and design, where renderings would be created for each building, he said.

Detwiler said the district also plans to start talking to teachers and staff about the new buildings and facility needs.

For more information and to see periodic updates on the facility project, visit the district's YouTube page, FremontCSD.

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