

Early site work starting soon on 5 new Fremont school buildings

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FREMONT - Early site work will begin on the new Otis and Lutz Elementary School buildings in a couple of weeks, as Fremont City Schools moves forward with its ambitious building project to construct four new elementary schools and a new Fremont Ross High School.

Superintendent Jon Detwiler said Tuesday that fences will be put up and temporary driveways installed for construction trucks at both sites, with similar work starting in November at the Croghan and Atkinson Elementary School sites.

Detwiler said the school district wants to get as much work as it can at all four elementary school sites this fall before winter sets in. The new elementary schools are slated to be ready for the school year starting in the fall of 2020.

He said the district is beginning what will be a long-term project as it starts to move dirt around the building sites.

"I'm sure the community will be patient and understanding as we begin this long process," Detwiler said.

Multi-Million dollar project

Voters in May 2017 [approved a \\$58.6 million levy](#) to construct four new elementary buildings and one new Ross High School as part of a facility plan to upgrade building quality and technologies.

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

Detwiler said the district has approved local funding for an additional classroom in each of the new elementary school buildings.

He said some site work will also start on the new Fremont Ross High School after the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

In July, Scott Alleman, lead architect for ThenDesign Architecture (TDA), [said at a public meeting](#) the project's design development phase should be done by September. Construction would begin in June 2019, with the completion of the new Ross building scheduled for the summer of 2021.

The existing Fremont Ross High School, built in 1958, will remain open for classes while the new building is under construction.

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