

Fremont City Schools moves closer to vote on project cost

[Daniel Carson](#), Fremont News-Messenger Published 3:19 p.m. ET Feb. 18, 2019

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Jon Detwiler, Fremont City Schools superintendent, said the school district's board is scheduled to meet Feb. 26 to vote on a guaranteed maximum price amendment for its elementary school buildings project. *(Photo 11: File)*

FREMONT - A vote on the Fremont City Schools' elementary school buildings project's guaranteed maximum price amendment is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 26, the district's superintendent said Friday.

Superintendent Jon Detwiler previously told the News-Messenger a vote might be taken at a Feb. 6 meeting at Terra State Community College's Neeley Center.

Instead, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission met with two FCS board members at that meeting to discuss the project and the building costs associated with it, Detwiler said.

Detwiler said the OFCC, Fremont City Schools and the project's construction manager have been involved in ongoing negotiations regarding project and material costs, with all sides trying to prioritize materials, lighting and other parts of the new buildings.

He said the initial designs for the new school buildings were over budget.

"Over the last six months, we've been kind of bringing it back to scale," Detwiler said.

He said the project's construction manager may be putting bids out for the project as early as next week.

As the school district prepares to finalize and approve project costs, Detwiler said early site work has been completed at all four new elementary school locations, with sewers, construction building pads, and underground water retention systems completed in January.

Voters in 2017 approved a \$58.6 million levy to construct four new elementary buildings and a new Ross High School as part of a facilities plan to upgrade building quality and technologies.

Completion of the new Ross building is scheduled for the summer of 2021.

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

Once the new building opens in 2021, workers will begin tearing down the old Fremont Ross building.

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 on the project.

Detwiler said Friday the school board purchased the empty American Legion building at 2000 Buckland Ave. at a sheriff's sale for the future use of Fremont City Schools' maintenance and technology departments.

Gilbane has moved some equipment into the building and will use the former American Legion site as a headquarters for the elementary school buildings project, Detwiler said.

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