

Mild weather a boon for school building projects

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Daniel Carson Fremont News-Messenger USA TODAY NETWORK

FREMONT – Mild weather in December and early January has allowed construction crews more time for early site work at Fremont City Schools' four new elementary school sites.

FCS Superintendent Jon Detwiler said Jan. 2 that contractors from Mosser Construction were putting in utilities and getting as much preparation done as possible before temperatures consistently dip below freezing.

Detwiler said Atkinson Elementary School was getting its initial construction pad ready, with early work also taking place at Croghan Elementary School on Jan. 3.

Contractors started initially at the Otis and Lutz Elementary School building sites. Detwiler said in December the district's goal was to get all four elementary schools to the same point before wintry weather sets in.

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.

Construction on the new Fremont Ross high school building is expected to begin sometime this summer, Detwiler said.

District officials and project architect Scott Alleman have previously said 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 immediately begin tearing down the old Fremont Ross building.

Detwiler reiterated Wednesday that he expects the FCS board to vote on the elementary buildings' construction bid documents and a guaranteed maximum price amendment by the end of January.

The superintendent said the district should have a better idea after those votes about what construction costs will be for the elementary schools.

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Construction continued at Croghan Elementary School on a new school building, one of four new elementary school buildings Fremont City Schools has planned for the district. PHOTOS BY DANIEL CARSON/THE NEWS-MESSENGER



Early site work and stacks of supplies were evident at Croghan Elementary School.