

Virtual tour of new high school offered August 2, 2019

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Residents viewed a virtual tour of the new Fremont Ross High School building Wednesday night, as Fremont City Schools gears up to start on-site construction work this fall.

Scott Alleman, lead architect for ThenDesign Architecture (TDA), and Detwiler hosted a public meeting at Fremont Middle School on the new high school building.

Visitors saw a brief video presentation on the new building and were able to ask Detwiler and Alleman questions about the facility.

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 facilities plan to upgrade building quality



Contractors have put up fences around the new construction site at Fremont Ross High School. Superintendent Jon Detwiler said he hopes that by next week, the school district will have established a new traffic pattern around the construction area that will last through 2021. DANIEL CARSON/THE NEWS-MESSENGER

and technologies as the district moves into the 21st century of education.

Alleman said the new two-story building will be able to accommodate about 1,200 students, which is slightly bigger than the district's current student population needs.

There will be approximately 800 lockers in the new building.

Detwiler said the district conducted a survey and found that fewer students were using lockers than in the past.

"We got big lockers, but we got just what we think we need," Detwiler said.

The building's second-story footprint will mirror the first floor, Alleman said.

The new Ross performing arts center will have 700 seats, while the 12,000 square foot gymnasium seats 1,200.

Alleman said there will be an 8,000square-foot auxiliary gymnasium without bleachers that will serve primarily as a physical education space.

Detwiler said the new Fremont Ross track will be widened to make it more attractive as a possible venue for regional meets.

When TDA last presented a public update, the company had presented plans to the state showing the main new Fremont Ross building connected to the school's existing natatorium.

Detwiler said that if the natatorium were connected to the main school building from day one, the Fremont Ross project would be technically considered renovation as opposed to new construction by the state.

"So it was a significant amount of money we would have lost," Detwiler said.

Once construction is completed, the district can build a connection to link the natatorium with the main building.

Fremont City Schools has a link on itswebsite where residents can see updates on its elementary schools and new Fremont Ross High School at <https://www.fremontschools.net/ConstructionProject/>.

Construction on the new Fremont Ross High School building is slated to be completed by the summer of 2021, Detwiler said in July that the district expects to have a final guaranteed maximum price, or GMP, for the Fremont Ross building project by mid-August.

After the board approves a GMP amendment, substantial construction work should begin on the new high school, Detwiler said.

The superintendent said he hoped to establish a new traffic pattern next week around the Ross construction site for students and parents trying to access the school.

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