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Noblesville Schools break ground for first phase of construction

Noblesville, IN [November 29, 2010] Noblesville Schools kicked off the first phase of the district's construction and renovation projects with a groundbreaking ceremony at Hinkle Creek Elementary School.

The \$30 million phase of work will impact eight of Noblesville's eleven school buildings - Hazel Dell, Hinkle Creek, North, Stony Creek, and White River elementary schools, Noblesville Intermediate School, Noblesville Middle School, and the Noblesville High School main campus. The second phase of the construction projects will be the addition of an elementary school on Promise Road north of 146th Street.

The construction projects will allow Noblesville Schools to continue its quest for excellence, said Superintendent Dr. Libbie Conner. The projects will provide needed space and updated technology and "will allow us to bring equity to our programs for every one of our students in Noblesville Schools and that is very very important both to our school board and to me as superintendent."



"We are a dynamic growing district and our community is a very desirable place where people want to live and to raise their children," Dr. Conner noted. "It is indeed our job, our task as a school district to make this the very best it can be for our families in Noblesville."

Chris Hamm, president of the Noblesville Board of School Trustees, told the audience that the narrow defeat of the construction referendum in January 2009 provided an opportunity for the school district to create a better plan, a plan that was approved by voters in the May 2010 referendum. In response to the voters' consent to move ahead, the school district is working everyday to deliver the projects on time and under budget, he said.

"That defeat two years ago provided us with an opportunity and the citizens made it clear, on both sides of the equation, what they wanted to see and what they didn't want to see. We heard those concerns and we listened. We threw out the plan from two years ago and started over from scratch," he said.

"We sharpened our pencils, we thought hard about the short-term and long-term needs of our school corporation. We thought very specifically about our needs—not our wants, not our desires—but the basic fundamental things that we need to provide world-class education for the children of the Noblesville school corporation. We vented everything through the conversation of "Does this provide the best and most cost effective solution for the citizens of this community and the children that we serve?"

It was from that hard work and the help and input of nearly 12 months of community outreach that a new plan was created for the future of Noblesville Schools. Mr. Hamm said that the plan would reduce the operational cost of the school buildings, provide critical space for continued growth, and allow fifth-grade students to remain in the elementary schools "where they desperately need to be so that they can grow in that elementary environment before they transition out to the next school."

Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear said Noblesville's high quality school system is a major factor in making the community a dynamic place to live and do business.

"From the city's perspective, strong schools are essential to attracting businesses to locate their facilities in Noblesville," he said. "No business wants to come to a community with a poor school system. When a community expects and supports great schools it benefits the entire community."

"The Performance Services design-build team is grateful for being selected for this project," said Scott Zigmond, vice president of sales and marketing for Performance Services. "Our team consists of partners who have designed and built these schools, made them more energy efficient, and assisted in the creation of the school corporation's 21st century technology standards," . "Ten of our partner companies are headquartered in Noblesville and we have over 150 of our partners' children attending school here. We clearly understand how important it is in keeping Noblesville Schools strong for the community."

Press release provided by:

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For more information about Noblesville Schools, visit <http://www.noblesvilleschools.org/>

Performance Services is an Indiana-based design build engineering company that specializes in constructing and renovating schools and renovating universities to deliver optimal learning environments through both the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract and Design-Build procurement methods. Innovative wind power and geothermal systems are integral to the energy services portfolio. The company has provided energy solutions to schools for 12 years and is the leading service provider of guaranteed energy savings projects and ENERGY STAR labeled schools in Indiana. In 2009, Performance Services was named the #1 Best Places to Work employer in Indiana. To learn more, visit www.performanceservices.com.

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