



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

RE: Holmes Update

DATE: May 23, 2017

Since the Board approved the Holmes expansion project in July 2016, there have been several developments. The highlights are listed below:

July 2016

The Board of Education approved the Holmes expansion at a cost of \$4,941,300. Construction was scheduled to begin in summer 2017. The site for the approved option was to the west of Holmes school on Village property.

October 2016

Construction is delayed because an agreement between D97 and the Village could not be reached to allow the District to conduct soil testing, which is a required before construction can begin. As a result, construction was postponed to the summer of 2018. The Board and FAC consider alternatives to the west site. Meetings with building leadership and the PTO are conducted. New sketches are created for an expansion on District property to the east of Holmes school. A series of discussions and negotiations ensue between D97 and the Village allow for soil testing.

February 2017

The Village approves the soil testing. The building principal identifies the need for one additional classroom. The District considers the lease of one, two classroom mobile unit for one year until the Holmes expansion is complete.

March 2017

The Village is contacted to discuss the permits and other requirements for mobile units. Two sites are considered for the mobile unit location. Meetings are held with the PTO and Holmes parents to discuss options.

April 2017

Soil boring bids are released for testing to be done at both east and west sites. The administration looks for alternatives to the mobile units in an effort to save money and avoid the use of mobile units. Additionally, there was concern about acquiring the necessary permits in time.

May 2017

District administrators, the building principal, and the architect look for ways to obtain two classrooms inside the existing building. The FAC committee held their regular meeting at Holmes Elementary School to discuss the mobile units and the alternative site for the expansion proposal to the east.

During the meeting, FAC committee members unanimously recommended that the Board of Education approve the alternate east site expansion proposal and use existing classroom space instead of mobile units. The utility relocation and Village easement are the primary reasons for the recommendation. Conversely, the east proposal is recommended because it will be built on District owned property and it may be also be a cost saving because it may not require utility relocation.

The administration agrees with the FAC recommendation.

Meetings were held with Holmes PTO and building leadership teams. The PTO voted to support the east expansion. Some members expressed disappointment about losing garden space on the east site.

Since then, the Village has indicated that there will be movement on the Kenilworth right of way Board request. As a result, it may be possible to construct the classrooms on the west site. The east site could be approved as an alternate if the right of way request is delayed.