

# Champion awards school complex contract

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CHAMPION — The Champion Board of Education has entered into a \$1.65 million contract with Hammond Construction of Canton for all aspects of construction of a \$31.3 million PK-8 school complex.

Rick Savors, media relations manager with the Ohio School Facilities Commission, said Wednesday the construction company was elected this month and will be the main contractor for the new school building.

Hammond Construction also has con-

structed school buildings in other area school districts, including Austintown and Weathersfield, where they built Seaborn Elementary School.

The board last month interviewed three construction management firms for the school complex with the OSFC next needing to give approval.

In addition to Hammond Construction, the board also interviewed Icon Construction Solutions of Cleveland, and Skanska USA Building Inc. of Beachwood.

The new school is planned on a 21-acre tract on state Route 45, south of the high school and

north of the township cemetery. Voters approved a 4.4-mill bond issue in November to raise \$13.8 million, the district's share of the project. The approval triggered an Ohio School Facilities Commission's Facilities Assistance Program offer to provide \$17.5 million for the rest.

Under the plan, the 100-year-old Champion Central Elementary near state routes 305 and 45, as well as Champion Middle School on Alva Avenue, will be demolished.

Officials expect ground to be broken this

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year, with construction to take about two years.

Champion elementary and middle school teachers and administrators have been looking at newly built school complexes to plan for the new school. They have traveled to see schools in New Albany, Beaver Local, Ridgmont and Strongsville.

Superintendent Pamela Hood has said that schools being constructed today are designed for higher achievement learning, such as classrooms that open into large-roomed pods for a grade level, and have the newest technology.

The new school will have separate sections for younger and older students.

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