

School plans outlined

Work on \$31 million site set to begin in summer

May 17, 2016

By BOB COUPLAND , Tribune Chronicle

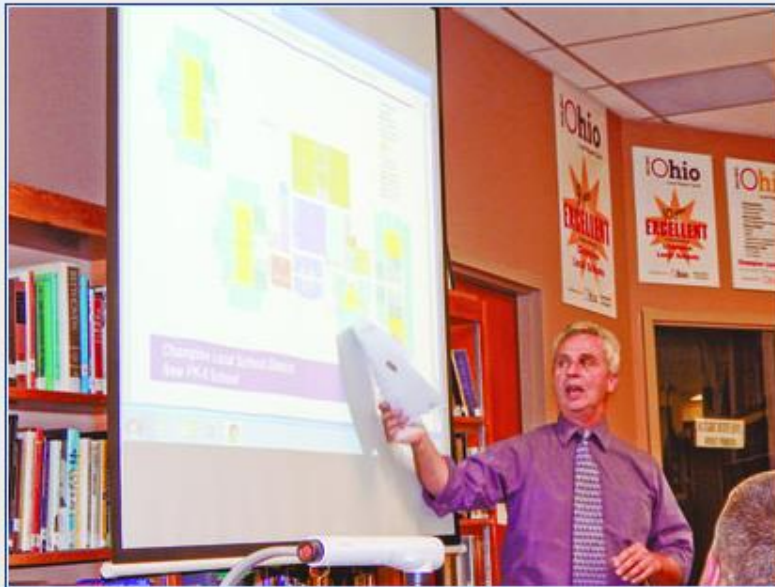
Save | [<](#) [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [p](#) [✉](#)

CHAMPION - Construction is set to begin this summer on a \$31 million PK-8 School complex scheduled to open for the 2018-19 school year. On Monday, the architects reviewed plans and showed schematic drawings during the Champion Board of Education meeting.

"There will be a lot of uniqueness of the design of this project for a 21st century building with high performance learning environments," said architect Gary Balog of Balog, Steines, Hendricks and Manchester Architects in Youngstown.

The team used input from administrators and staff of what the new building should include, such as classrooms that open into large-roomed pods for specific grade levels for "high-performance learning environments." The 127,000-square-foot complex will have separate sections for younger and older students.

Article Photos



Tribune Chronicle photos / Bob Coupland

Balog said the grade levels will be broken down into houses and all of the houses have extended learning areas which will allow more interactive learning. Teachers and students will be able to move freely around the classroom pods.

Balog said each grade level will be in separate "houses" with their own pod areas where classrooms are located.

Architect Brett Hendricks said the grades 5-8 wing will be a two-story section and have two grades on the first floor and two on the second floor.

Balog said with 21st century technology and design also come a more secure and safe building.

"People will probably begin seeing work at the site by September," Balog said.

Superintendent Pamela Hood said the building project is one of the first major projects in years for the school district.

"This is a building program the entire community has an investment in and can appreciate," she said.

"This whole building project is very exciting for the community as a whole. It's the first time they've seen a building built here as far as a school building since the early days of 1915, when they consolidated and built the elementary school," Hood said.

Hendricks said from November to February, Champion elementary and middle school teachers and administrators have been looking at newly built school complexes in New Albany, Beaver Local, Ridgemont and Strongsville. That feedback from the staff was used in the design phase of the project and enabled architects to "leapfrog the project" to where it is in the design process today, he said.

Last month, the board purchased 20.9 acres off state Route 45, south of the high school and north of the township cemetery, which will create a campus setting with the high school nearby. The land was purchased for \$106,000 from the township.

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

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.

Hood said the OSFC determined the elementary and middle schools needed replaced due to age.

A part of the agreement, when the Central Elementary School is torn down, the township will acquire that property.

The board entered into a \$1.65 million contract with Hammond Construction of Canton as the main contractor of the building.

bcoupland@tribtoday.com

© Copyright 2016 Tribune Chronicle. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

[Save](#) |

Recommend You and 2 others recommend this.



G+ 0