

Local Schools



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Ground set to be broken on new Early Childhood Center

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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The Poplar Bluff Board of Education approved a \$5.8 million bid, lower than anticipated, for Brockmiller Construction to build a new Early Childhood Center on the Kindergarten site, after carefully planning since December 2016.

Vice president Ken Davis made the motion, which was seconded by member Alana Robertson, and affirmed by Dr. Cynthia Brown, Roger Hanner, Jerrod Murphy, Heather Tuggle and John Scott in a unanimous decision on Thursday, Sept. 20, in the Administrative Building.

“I’m tremendously excited that the board has authorized us to move forward with this project,” exclaimed R-I Superintendent Dr. Scott Dill afterward. “We have worked collaboratively with the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Board of Education over the course of two years to develop this idea, and ensure that it accomplishes the immediate and the long-term needs of both the Early Childhood Center and the comprehensive educational program for the Poplar Bluff School District.”

With extensive experience in the school business, architects reported, the Farmington based construction company intends to mobilize at the Camp Road location on Monday, Oct. 1. The completion date was extended a month and a half to November 2019 so

contractors did not have to factor in overtime in the advent of weather delays, potentially driving up the bottom line during the bidding process. A relocation date for the Early Childhood program from the present Mark Twain building will be determined at a later time.

Based on input from Early Childhood educators, the 34,000-square-foot facility on the western side of the Kindergarten Center campus will include two separate wings for 3 and 4 year olds, each containing six classrooms. There will also be two extended day classrooms, a sensory room, an intensive needs room, two speech rooms, a suite for the Parents As Teachers program, two large storage areas, a nursing station, administrative offices, a centrally-located library and a multipurpose room designed with storm shelter capabilities, according to architect Aaron Duncan.

The state-of-the-art interior design, created by VVELL Studio in Maplewood, will feature a township theme starting with the ‘town hall’ in the lobby accentuated by a cupola skylight and carpeting resembling grass with tulip poplar leaf shapes. The classroom corridors will serve as the ‘streets’ with separate color associations to help young students, complete with a skyline depicted on the walls above the cubby spaces. The floors will be texturized with geometrical shapes to create “learning moments,” according to project manager Mike Pollard, Duncan’s colleague.

“Why not go ahead and have fun with it,” asked Pollard of Dille and Traxel Architecture during the August school board meeting. “It’s been probably one of the most fun projects we’ve had in a long time.”

The Poplar Bluff architectural firm authorized to oversee the work previously designed the Kindergarten Center, which opened in 2010. The facilities will be aesthetically similar with a connecting link for shared common spaces and teacher collaboration. An open area in between the exterior of the buildings will be designated for an enclosed outdoor playground. A total of 175 parking spaces will be added to the property. The internal roadway will be extended with traffic lanes so each school will have separate entry and exit points. An alternate bid of \$72,000 was included for substituting concrete paving in lieu of asphalt.

The construction will be paid outright from capital project balances instead of lease financing, saving the district millions of dollars in interest payments, school officials have estimated. The project represents the second and final phase of the district’s long-range plan funded through a single levy measure approved by voters in 2014, which added over 200,000 square feet of modernized classroom space across campus, improving the

learning experience for students grades 1-12.

Before moving to Mark Twain in 2001, the Early Childhood program was located at the former Kinyon Elementary building on Vine Street and originally – Wheatley School on Garfield Street. While having a preschool-aged specific building for the first time will be a major upgrade for the community, the school board president said, he is even more excited about the opportunity the vacated building on North Main Street opens up.

“The new Early Childhood Center will be a vast improvement,” Scott stated. “More importantly, it will allow us to continue development of a comprehensive alternative school.”

The last piece of the long-range plan will be to convert the Mark Twain campus into a dedicated non-traditional high school with alternative pathways for earning diplomas, absorbing the credit recovery offerings of the Graduation Center, presently housed at the Technical Career Center. Programming plans by school administration are already underway.

The groundbreaking for the new Early Childhood Center has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at 1200 Camp Road. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 in the Kindergarten Center cafeteria.

Pictured: Contractors interested in the Early Childhood Center project attend a pre-bid meeting led by Dille and Traxel Architecture and school officials on Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Poplar Bluff Kindergarten Center.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Bernie Elementary Students Earn Positive Office Referrals

SEPTEMBER 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie Elementary Students Earn Positive Office Referrals

Bernie, MO - Bernie Elementary Positive Office Referrals were awarded this week.

Students who earn such an honor also received a Subway Sandwich Gift Card and a POR Certificate.

These students were referred for displaying positive behavior!

Pictured from left to right:

Front Row:

- Rowan worked hard and did not give up.
- Willow is always quick at following directions, respectful and kind to everyone, and works hard in class!
- Renella and Brooklyn decided to stop arguing daily and to be friends and play together at recess.
- Nolan worked really hard when he was asked to fix his writing paper!

Middle Row:

- Abby was super helpful and very polite in art class.

- Kally gave her best effort all week during small group.
- Shawn is always a hard worker.
- Owen is a great helper to the teacher.
- Liam was very polite to his teacher in music class.
- Wyatt is always quiet and works hard.

Back Row:

- Katie is always happy and so nice to everyone!
- Blair and Brooklyn organized bookshelves that were left a mess without being asked.
- Rhemy helped another student pick up their stuff.
- Blaydn always makes sure that all of the chairs are up before his class leaves for special class.
- Jaxon used his own class bloomz points to buy an item that another student was really wanting and gave it to him.
- Mackenzie showed perseverance while solving challenging math problem.
- Cody for awesome note reading!

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Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes - Monday, September 17, 2018 Meeting

SEPTEMBER 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter School Board Meeting Minutes - Monday, September 17, 2018 Meeting

The Dexter School Board met at their monthly meeting on September 17, 2017 at 6 p.m. The meeting was moved to Monday due to the Stoddard County Fair Parade held on Tuesday.

Below are the minutes submitted by Superintendent C.A. Counts.

Regular Board Meeting Notes - September 17, 2018 - 6:00 PM

1,2,3. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge The Board President announced the meeting is to begin, ascertains the attendance status of all board members with everyone being present. He then leads in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was approved.

5. Public Comments: There were no public comments made.

6. Old Business:

None

7. New Business:

A. The board approved the 2017-18 Audit that was presented by Patrick Kintner CPA.

B. The board approved the 2017-18 ASBR.

C. The board approved the 2018-19 budget amendments.

D. The board discussed and tabled the selection of the Energy Service Company that will be leading the building and renovations of the districts long range plan.

E. The board approved the August MCE district policies updates.

F. The board approved the district 2018-19 assessment plan.

8. Discussion Items:

- A. Mr. Counts discussed cell service and WiFi on campus.
- B. The nurse's report was given to the board.
- C. The building principals gave their reports to the board.
- D. The October board meeting was set for October 16, 2018 at 6:00.

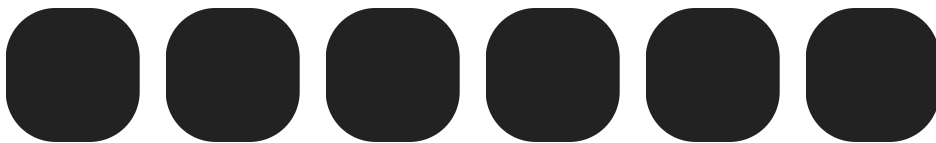
In Closed Session:

1. The board employed the following substitutes teachers for 2018-19: None
2. The board approved the following resignation letter effective September 4, 2018:
Kayla O’Neal

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2nd Grade Students Earn Positive Office Referral

Awards

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

2nd Grade Students Earn Positive Office Referral Awards

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honors 2nd Grade students with Positive Office Referral certificates.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

Pictured back row from left to right: Bryce Josupait, Michael Glore, and Jaden Carter.

Front row from left to right: Dixie Oliver, Makinley Crosby, and Addison Meador.

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1st Grade Students Earn Positive Office Referrals

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

1st Grade Students Earn Positive Office Referrals

Dexter, Missouri - Southwest Elementary honors 1st Grade students with Positive Office Referral certificates.

This award is presented to students who consistently show the 3R's RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN.

Each student received a certificate and a FREE Taco from Taco Bell.

Pictured back row from left to right: Lucas Phillips, Reese Mattingly, Chloe McBroom, and Carson Clark.

Front row from left to right: Railyn Halter, Landon Fields, and Sophia Shoemaker.

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