

Frequently Asked Questions

Wilson

Will there be students present while construction is going on inside the school, and if so what safety measures are being taken for faculty and students?

There will not be any substantial work planned inside the school while school is in session. For areas adjacent to the new additions, we will have one-hour fire separation walls for noise and dust control.

Will there be students present while construction is going on outside the school, and if so what measures are being taken to separate this from faculty and students?

There will be work going on outside of the school during the school year. For the addition areas, these will be separated by fencing to contain the construction activities and to keep the faculty and students out of those areas. The Geothermal Well Fields area will also be separated with fencing in order to contain the construction activities. This will allow students to still use areas that are not affected by construction for other school activities like gym classes and athletic practices.

What consideration has been given for the music program?

The existing space allotted for the music program was considered and is thought to be adequate. Details involving that space and amenities for it, like possible additional instrument storage, have yet to be considered.

Do any plans exist to increase parking, change traffic flows or add sidewalks?

Traffic patterns at Wilson will not be altered and new sidewalks will be provided only to provide access around the new construction west of the building. We believe parking will be very adequate for the typical school day. We also understand that it will not be considered adequate to accommodate off street event parking. Our buildings have never been in a position to provide parking for those events and it is not reasonable to expect that parking to accommodate that many vehicles could ever be provided at our various sites.

Will asbestos need to be removed and what precautions will be taken?

It is likely that some asbestos will need to be removed in the building. An Asbestos Management Plan exists for the building identifying which items contain asbestos. As specific scopes of work are identified the extent of abatement required will be determined. Any abatement activity occurring will be done in full compliance with the Illinois Public Health Department's requirements for asbestos abatement in schools.

Is there a possibility of putting a second floor on the addition?

There is a structural alternative that would allow for a future second floor; however this is not currently included in the budget.

What areas of the site will be affected?

The areas of new construction will be in the open area to the west of the school and on the north side of the building near the cafeteria as shown on the plans.

Q: What are the sizes of the new classrooms?

The sizes of the science classroom areas in the addition average approximately 960 sf. The square footage of the re-worked classrooms in the existing building are similar or larger in size to the existing classrooms sizes ranging from approx 710-890 sf.

How many students will be in each classroom?

Each classroom will have between 28-30 students.

What is the square footage of the additions?

There are two areas of addition. The addition on the north area of the building consists of mostly science rooms and special education and is approximately 7,500 sf. There is also an addition for the new fitness room. The new addition portion of the fitness room equals approximately 1,650 sf. (The existing building square footage included in the fitness center is 878 square feet making the total fitness area 2,528 sf.) There is a total of approximately 9,150 square feet of new footprint added to the existing building.

Will there be ample daylight in the new or reworked classrooms.

As presented, daylighting is an important feature for a quality learning atmosphere. The new areas will have ample natural light, and the reworked classroom areas will be studied, with new windows as necessary to ensure sufficient daylight.

Will there be additional restrooms?

The will be a convenience toilet room as part of the addition. However, the existing toilets are to be utilized as the existing building exceeds the required fixture counts needed per code.

Will there be gas lines run to the new science rooms?

Currently gas lines for the science rooms are not part of the project.

Are the roofs being replaced?

Portions of the roof will be replaced and other areas will be recoated.

Will the green roof be able to be seen?

The green roof can be viewed from the second floor classroom windows on the west side of the building.

Will there be a sprinkler system?

The new addition will have an automatic sprinkler system as well as the auditorium stage

Will there be new lighting in the existing classrooms?

The existing lighting will be assessed and will be replaced as necessary to bring up to current standards.

What is the payback on the geothermal system and is it guaranteed?

The geothermal system proposed for the school is a 1-pipe system which is far more economical than standard 2-pipe systems. Based on past experience with this system installed in many other Illinois school buildings, we can say confidently that there is no premium with this system as compared to other HVAC systems which offer the same benefits to the occupants including on demand heating or cooling of any individual space. Since there is no premium, there is no added expense to payback; however, the District will reap the energy savings benefits for years.

What is the location of the equipment serving the classrooms and how it they be controlled?

The design calls for one geothermal heat pump unit to be installed in each classroom. This unit may be a low unit at the outside wall similar to the existing unit ventilator, or may be a vertical configuration which is easier to service, located somewhere in the room. The location is yet to be determined. Whichever unit is utilized, each unit will have its own thermostat for temperature control and each unit will be able to heat or cool independently of the other units.

What are the maintenance costs for the geothermal units?

The units are simple in their design and easily maintained by district personnel or local heating/cooling firms. The units are no more complicated than most home heating/cooling units which will save on maintenance costs. History has shown when geothermal system design is kept simple (as is being currently proposed), the maintenance cost of a geothermal system is less than other commercial heating/cooling systems. The piping that is installed in the geothermal well field is HDPE pipe – the same pipe the natural gas company utilizes for its mains – and all joints are heat fused and become stronger than the pipe. There will be no maintenance associated with the well field and the well field has a life expectancy of 75-100 years.

How many wells will you have to sink?

The current estimate is 150 wells at a depth of 300 ft. Very soon, a test well will be installed to gain valuable information to use in the well field design. From the drilling, the actual make-up of the earth will be known which will allow the well drillers bidding the project to know what method of drilling they will have to use. Also, actual geothermal piping will be installed in the well and water will be piped through the well for 24-36 hours to measure the thermal response of the earth. The results of this test will provide the information needed to design the well field to just the right size. This test well will be utilized as one of the wells in the final design.

Will the geothermal system be similar to the one recently installed in Bicentennial in Coal Valley?

The geothermal system at Wilson will be different in 2 main areas. The system at Bicentennial utilizes a 2-pipe system which requires more pump energy than the 1-pipe system which will be utilized at Wilson. The other main difference will be that the Wilson geothermal units will be located in the classroom where they are easier to service than those at Bicentennial which are located above the corridor ceiling. The units couldn't be located in the corridor ceiling at Wilson because there is insufficient ceiling space to do so.

Deere

Will construction be going on during school days?

With the extent of remodeling activities that exist in the project it is likely that construction activities will occur during the school year occupied periods.

Will teaching / learning be interrupted during construction?

When construction activities occur in an occupied condition, safety is paramount in approaching any and all work to be performed. Hard separation walls will be erected to keep the work areas separate and secure from occupied areas of the school. Work that will involve high levels of noise, are required to be performed off hours to minimize levels of disturbance as much as possible. We will be proactive in educating staff and student body in terms of the work that will be occurring as well as conducting a high level of coordination communication with both groups as well.

How close to Budget will you stay?

The entire project team including design and construction management has made a commitment to staying within the established budget for overall construction costs.

Do any plans exist to increase parking, change traffic flows or add sidewalks?

Traffic patterns at Deere will not be significantly altered and new sidewalks will be provided around the perimeter of the new construction. An area of the existing parking lot on the south side of the building will be utilized for the construction of new building square footage. As a result the existing parking lot will be added on to by extending further to the west. There will be a slight net gain in actual parking spaces. We believe parking will be very adequate for the typical school day. We also understand that it will not be considered adequate to accommodate off street event parking. Our buildings have never been in a position to provide parking for those events and it is not reasonable to expect that parking to accommodate that many vehicles could ever be provided at our various sites

What plans exist for new security measures?

Final decisions on this are pending. At this point we intend to provide card access systems for entry into the buildings. This will allow us to strengthen our existing policies that require all exterior doors, except the main entrance, to be locked throughout the school day. This allows us to better control the access to the building for the safety of students and staff while at the same time, provide better key control. We are considering the possibility of installing some infrastructure for future security measures but have made no final decisions.

Will asbestos need to be removed and what precautions will be taken?

It is likely that some asbestos will need to be removed in the building. An Asbestos Management Plan exists for the building identifying which items contain asbestos. As specific scopes of work are identified the extent of abatement required will be determined. Any abatement activity occurring will be done in full compliance with the Illinois Public Health Department's requirements for asbestos abatement in schools.

Will there be enough lockers and toilets for all of the students?

Yes

Why are the Science Rooms grouped together?

Science labs are shown in the current locations to take advantage of existing plumbing and allow for a common pre-storage room between the labs. Alternatives are being discussed.

Will the new addition be sensitive to the existing building?

Yes, the proposed design is sympathetic to the existing building design. Various design features have been used on the new addition so there is a common language.

Will there be an attempt to introduce natural light into the new addition?

Yes, natural light is an important consideration for both sustainability and the education environment. Since the addition is on the south end of the building there is an opportunity to incorporate window fenestrations into the design.

Will square footage for storage be considered for the Band Room?

Yes, storage will be provided.

Will soundproofing be considered at the Band Room?

Yes, soundproofing will be needed at this location.

What spaces are being provided for the music program?

The music program will have two rooms – Band Room and Choir Room.

Will Counselor’s Office and ISS Room be included in the new design?

Yes, these spaces are included in the program.

What is the payback on the geothermal system and is it guaranteed?

The geothermal system proposed for the school is a 1-pipe system which is far more economical than standard 2-pipe systems. Based on past experience with this system installed in many other Illinois school buildings, we can say confidently that there is no premium with this system as compared to other HVAC systems which offer the same benefits to the occupants including on demand heating or cooling of any individual space. Since there is no premium, there is no added expense to payback; however, the District will reap the energy savings benefits for years.

Is the heating/cooling system going to take up a lot of space? Will it be visible? How will it be controlled?

For the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors, the existing air system handling system will be utilized to provide ventilation air to the classrooms through ceiling mounted units called “chilled beams”. These units also have heating and cooling coils which will provide temperature control of the space. The only thing visible will be the face of the unit in the ceiling grid. There is no fan or moving parts to the chilled beams. The system design for the ground floor is still in design, but it is likely that this same system will be applied to the south half and the north half may utilize heat pump units similar to those being proposed for Wilson - one geothermal heat pump unit to be installed in each classroom. All classrooms throughout the building will have their own thermostat for temperature control and each room will be able to heat or cool independently of the other rooms.

What are the maintenance costs for the chilled beam units and geothermal heat pump units?

The chilled beam units have no moving parts and are virtually maintenance free. The existing air handling units and water-to-water heat pump units that will serve the chilled beam units with ventilation air and hot/chilled water will require maintenance, but this equipment is not complicated and can be serviced by district personnel or local heating/cooling service firms.

The geothermal heat pump units which will be utilized in the north half of the ground floor are simple in their design as well and are no more complicated than most home heating/cooling units which will save on maintenance costs. History has shown when geothermal system design is kept simple (as is being currently proposed), the maintenance cost of a geothermal system is less than other commercial heating/cooling systems. The piping that is installed in the geothermal well field is HDPE pipe – the same pipe the natural gas company utilizes for its mains – and all joints are heat fused and become stronger than the pipe. There will be no maintenance associated with the well field and the well field has a life expectancy of 75-100 years.

How many wells will there be around the building?

The current estimate is 150 wells at a depth of 300 ft. Very soon, a test well will be installed to gain valuable information to use in the well field design. From the drilling, the actual make-up of the earth will be known which will allow the well drillers bidding the project to know what method of drilling they will have to use. Also, actual geothermal piping will be installed in the well and water will be piped through the well for 24-36 hours to measure the thermal response of the earth. The results of this test will provide the information needed to design the well field to just the right size. This test well will be utilized as one of the wells in the final design.

What are the environmental effects of storing heat in the ground? Would the energy be more cost effective since it is stored and re-used energy?

There are no environmental effects of storing heat in the ground. The piping is High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) and extremely robust, so there will be no leaks. The earth is a very efficient heat sink and the system design will be balanced – the heat rejected to the earth in the summer will be extracted in the winter. The temperature range of the earth in the well field area will vary from 50-70 degrees F., but there will be no effect beyond the well field area. Studies have shown that with a balanced system, the long term effect would be no more than a 0.2 degree F. temperature increase in the center of the well field.

Will the geothermal system be similar to the one recently installed in Bicentennial in Coal Valley?

The geothermal system at Deere will be different in 2 main areas. The system at Bicentennial utilizes a 2-pipe system which requires more pump energy than the 1-pipe system which will be utilized at Deere. The other main difference will be that the Deere geothermal system will largely utilize centralized water-to-water heat pumps to produce chilled and hot water that will be distributed to the chilled beam units rather than individual heat pump units located in each classroom. The exception is the north half of the ground floor which will utilize geothermal heat pump units located in the classroom where they are easier to service than those at Bicentennial are which are located above the corridor ceiling.

FAQ'S FOR CURRICULUM/TRANSITION

Will there be extracurricular activities for 6th graders?

There will be opportunities for 6th graders to participate in extracurricular activities. Currently, there is a transition committee that is considering just what format they will take. Activities that are being considered include athletic, fine arts, and social activities.

Will there be opportunities for the incoming sixth graders to ask questions about the transition with their parents so they better understand the change?

During the 5th grade, multiple opportunities will be given for students and their families to meet with teachers, ask questions, and are informed on the progress of the project. Because of the amount of construction, building tours will probably have to be limited to a timeframe immediately before the school year begins. The first day of school will be an abbreviated schedule for orientation where students will have a chance to see how the school day will function.

There is the possibility of changing the offerings in exploratory courses. When will this be decided? Will these courses be offered on a semester basis? Six weeks? Will they be restricted by grade level?

The transition committee is reviewing possible curricular offerings outside of the core classes. Parents have been surveyed about their preferences, and students will also be surveyed this fall. All survey results will be posted on the district website. Based upon this input, as well as a review of research, an exploratory curriculum will be developed that will support the mission of the middle schools. The curricular program will be decided no later than October 2010. The length of the courses will be determined by the needs of the program, and they will be sequenced according to the instructional program.

Fifth grade students will miss out on the opportunities that make 6th grade special at the elementary school such as the track meet, patrols, etc.

Elementary schools will be going through a transition as they lose two grades from their building. Both the current 5th and 6th grade students will transition to the middle school in the same year. Each building will work on ways to make this final year of elementary school special as well as a review of possible district-sponsored activities that can help students transition more effectively to the middle school.

What about the separation of the students? There is a concern about 6th graders mixing with 8th grade students and picking up bad habits.

Both buildings have been designed to keep the grade levels clustered so that shifting around the building is minimized. Efforts will be made in designing a master schedule where students are kept grouped by age level at lunch as well. Staff members will provide hall supervision to help maintain order between periods as well as before and after school.

Will there still be PATS opportunities?

Opportunities for PATS students, as well as for special needs students, will be maintained at the 6-8 middle school.

Are there real educational benefits to making this transition?

Research was conducted by a committee made up of staff, parents and community members as a part of the Strategic Plan. Recommendations were made to the Board with several re-structuring options considered. In December 2007, the K-5, 6-8, 9-12 configuration was selected. This configuration allows for much needed intervention and enrichment time that is not currently available in a two-year middle school. Research has shown that longer periods of time between transitions positively impacts achievement. Overall, the national trend has seen a significant decline in grade level configurations such as what currently exist in Moline and what existed previously.

Is it possible to reconsider building new gymnasiums instead of fitness centers?

The emerging trend for schools is to develop fitness activity space for students for use as a part of the P.E. curriculum. This not only provides opportunity for physical activity but also provides them with lifelong knowledge and skills of techniques to maintain fitness as a part of their daily lives. One needs only to look at private fitness clubs to see that gymnasium type spaces are not constructed for this activity in those settings. Deere's fitness center will be 2,400 sf and Wilson's will be 2,528 sf. This space is as large or larger than most of our elementary gyms.

Will the power point be on the website?

It is on the website.

Will sixth, seventh and eighth grade all fit into the auditorium at one time?

Yes, both auditoriums will house the students from the three grade levels. Deere's capacity is approximately 880 and Wilson is 973.

What if the construction is not done on time after preparing the children for the transition and they have to stay at the elementary school?

That certainly would not be the plan but if something much unexpected or out of our control occurs it could happen. Our planners have considered and anticipate the need for contingencies for the projects but obviously not every issue can be anticipated and planned for (i.e., Act of God).

Was input received from teachers from non-core instruction areas?

At Deere 2 of the 3 teachers on the committee were non core teachers. At Wilson all teachers were given the opportunity to participate in the committee. Not all chose to do so. However, remember that we are at a preliminary stage in and the real opportunity for specific input on individual spaces is yet to come.

Will criminal background checks be required for construction activities?

Any construction related personnel on site while school is in session and students are in attendance will be required to have a criminal background check.