

PILLAR #12 - SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Fall 2018 update on the Sandusky City Schools Facilities Pillar is a reflection of the dichotomous nature of our school facilities project. We are extremely pleased to inform our community that we have accomplished our goal of making significant improvements to major instructional spaces at Sandusky High School (SHS) and Sandusky Middle School. These improvements included renovation of the science, chemistry, and physics labs at the middle school and high school. These state-of-the-art labs reflect the first upgrades to this area of our school in more than 60 years and will help the district launch its most aggressive science initiative in our history, with emphasis on our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program. With our new labs, our students will have access to the latest technology and teachers will be able to use their new instructional space to continue to improve student academic performance. In addition to the STEAM labs, we were also able to make improvements to the Frohman Planetarium: The facility was equipped with 50-year-old technology, which has now been upgraded to 21st century technology to assist our students in their academic growth. The new Frohman Planetarium is now the best high school planetarium in Ohio and one of the best in the Midwest. The SHS auditorium was improved with a new sound system that replaces the 60-year-old system we had been using, and with professional stage lighting that will provide a quality experience for our student performers. Room 300 and 301 are now 21st century lecture halls with upgraded technology and wireless communication capacity. We are also proud to share that the summer budget for these projects was nearly 3 million dollars and we are on budget and on time.

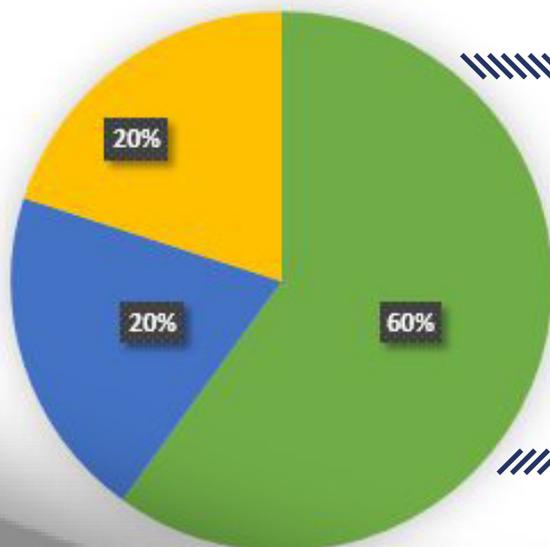
One of the most impactful elements of our facilities program update addresses the recommendation by the Senior Leadership Team to the Board of Education to change the management of our construction project. After careful consideration, the Board felt it was in the best interest of the district to interview new construction management firms that would be able to meet the expectations of our parents, students, and community members. In consultation with our Project Manager from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, we have developed a new timeline for the selection of the new construction management team. We anticipate the appointment of the new team by mid-December. We are still on schedule to build the Ontario Primary School and the Sandusky Intermediate School by August 2020 and the Hancock Pre-K-Kindergarten school by January 2022. We identified seven priorities for our facilities decision-making; (a) maintaining our grade configuration of PreK-K at Hancock, grades 1-2 at Ontario, and grades 3-6 at the Intermediate School; (b) keeping to the original architectural drawings, (c) ensuring a use for every building in the district, (d) capitalizing on our partnership with the City of Sandusky by building schools in growing neighborhoods, (e) ensuring long-term financial viability for the district, (f) ensuring we can meet our 2020 deadline for the first two new buildings, and (g) recommitting to meeting the facilities budget, bidding procedures and timeline and participation by local contractors and vendors.

An ongoing highlight is the district's commitment to open and transparent communication regarding the facilities project. We continue to meet this goal by generating a monthly newsletter, providing regular updates to the Sandusky Register, updating our website with facilities information and adhering to our 24-hour email response policy for questions. We continue to hold both small- and large-scale meetings with parents, and the larger community. Our next community forums are scheduled for January 22 and 23, 2019.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Completed major summer reconstruction projects at Sandusky High School (SHS) and Sandusky Middle School, including installation of state-of-the-art science, physics, and chemistry labs for the first time in 60 years that will contribute to the school district's emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM)
- Renovation of Room 300 and Room 301 at SHS to reflect college- and university-level lecture halls with 21st century technology including wireless internet capacity
- The most significant reconstruction upgrade to the Frohman Planetarium in 50 years including 21st century technology for the new dome, updated seating and upgrades to the sound, lighting and student instructional space
- The first major upgrades to the SHS auditorium in decades including replacing the 60-year-old sound system with a state-of-the-art sound system and professional level stage lighting, designed to provide excellent quality for our student performances
- All summer construction work was completed on time and on budget.
- Maintained an effective communication tool for elementary parents with a monthly "in the backpack" newsletter that kept parents updated on developments associated with the construction project
- The Senior Leadership Team made a recommendation to the Board of Education to transition the current construction management firm and identify a new construction management team to ensure on-time delivery of buildings within the approved budgetary guidelines.
- The Sandusky City Schools received a \$100,000.00 award from the Sandusky Rotary Club in recognition of the Club's 100th year of service to the community. The award will be used to highlight the Sandusky Rotary Club's Global Education Center (GEC). The GEC will be a state of the art 21st century technology center housed at the Sandusky Intermediate School (which will be located next to SHS).
- The Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer completed a five year capital plan that outlines the district facilities and strategic investments for capital projects.



GOAL STATUS:

6/10	Completed	60%
2/10	In Progress	20%
2/10	Not Started	20%