

Friday, October 15, 2010

The highest profile issue facing the Board of Education is the successful completion and transition into all our new facilities this school year. These new educational spaces represent the fruit of labor which began as a dream many years ago. This is an exciting time in the life of Hugoton Schools. The facility improvements represent the teamwork, planning and perseverance of many individuals. In the end, the goal is enhanced student learning, more diverse opportunities for not only students, but also community groups and a safer public school environment.

**New Middle School:** The MS staff and students did an excellent job of moving into their new spaces in just a few days this month. Very little disruption of learning occurred. The students and staff are enjoying their 39,000 square feet of new space. The new bus drive to the east of the building is now in use. The MS is hosting an open house for parents during parent/teacher conferences on October 21-22.

**Demolition of Old MS:** After a successful silent auction this past weekend, this space is almost ready for demolition. Some final items need to be removed in preparation for an October 20th scheduled razing. A total of 20,000 square feet of space will disappear this month.

**Early Childhood Development Center:** This new facility consisting of five kindergarten classrooms and four pre-school classrooms is scheduled to be open for students on November 9th. This 26,000 square foot learning center will be home to 187 students. Meals will be transported to this school from the ES kitchen. A specially designed lift is being installed this month on one of our school vans. Special food warmers will be used to transport both hot and cold food from our main kitchen to the new serving area in the ECDC. The open house for ECDC parents will be Tuesday night, November 16th.

**MS/HS Link:** Phase II of the Hutton construction is the new cafeteria/commons and HS office suite. The completion date of this area is the end of November. This new 22,000 square foot area includes a 6,000 square foot cafeteria that will comfortably seat over 300 students. The HS office staff is planning on moving into their new spaces December 3 – 6. The kitchen and cafeteria is scheduled to be ready the week of December 6th.

**HS Athletic Complex:** Phase III is moving along very nicely. The completion date on this final project is February. The block layers are almost done and they are starting on face brick. Later this month, bar joists and metal roof decking will begin. This 18,000 square foot facility will be home to new locker rooms, a PE classroom, a new weight room (3,000 sq. feet) and a wrestling room/FEMA storm shelter (5,000 sq. feet). The first week of November, we should see a tremendous amount of 18-wheeler truck traffic on our south campus construction road. Up to 12 trucks a day will be delivering very large panels of pre-cast concrete that will make up the FEMA tornado shelter.

**Final Thoughts:** During this time of unprecedented change at USD 210, thank you employees for your patience during our growing pains. I see great things happening everyday at our schools. In the midst of all this exciting progress we are still connecting students with rigorous and relevant learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Crawford  
Superintendent of Schools