



Orange County Public Schools

Historic Winter Park Ninth Grade Center renovation underway

Work has begun on the comprehensive renovation of the Winter Park Ninth Grade Center, the historic school that opened in 1927. The School Board of Orange County approved a \$34.4 million budget for the project.

“I am very excited and proud about the creative plans to renovate this historic landmark in Winter Park,” said School Board Chairman Joie Cadle (District 1). “We are committed to preserving the historical elements of the school and providing new technology to meet the current and future needs of our students.”

In addition to the renovation and technology upgrades to the historic building, a new facility will be constructed housing classrooms, science labs, art and music rooms, a media center, a cafeteria, and administration offices. The construction will be completed in three phases and take about two years to finish.

“The half-penny sales tax approved by voters in 2002 provided the district with the funding to upgrade this historic facility,” said Superintendent Ronald Blocker. “Despite current economic and budget challenges we have been able to keep our building program on schedule.”



The new design includes a courtyard that serves as a hub for student activity and provides a more secure environment. An added feature is a newly designed bus loop that will help ease vehicular traffic congestion around the school.

“Providing quality, student-ready classrooms...where and when needed is our commitment to the taxpayers of Orange County,” said Chief Facilities Officer Bob Proie. “When it's finished the Winter Park Ninth Grade Center will be an excellent example of linking memories of the past with the hopes of the future.”

The DLR Group created the new design for the ninth grade center. Skanska and JCB Construction are the construction management team of the project.

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