



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

Orange County Government approves West Orange relief high school



Orange County Public Schools agreed to spend \$2.5 million on architectural upgrades to a relief high school for West Orange County. (SchenkelShultz Architects)

May 5, 2015 – Orange County Public Schools will be able to move forward with a school to relieve overcrowding at West Orange High School. On Tuesday evening, the Board of County Commissioners voted to approve a special exception to allow the district to build a high school on County Road 535 where it meets Ficquette Road. The land is just inside the West Windermere Rural Settlement.

Jane Benner expects her oldest child to attend the new high school when it is slated to open in 2017. “They’ve been willing to compromise,” she said of the School Board. “They’ve bent over backwards to accommodate everyone without losing sight that this school is needed for the children in the area.”

The district agreed to spend \$2.5 million on architectural upgrades for the school, erect a decorative fence along 535 and an eight-foot wall along the property border with residents. In addition, the district agreed to put more trees between homes and the school. Most significantly, the district agreed to move a lighted football stadium off-site.

On Tuesday, the commissioners imposed several additional conditions: ending band practice at 8 p.m., forbidding bleachers at the school's practice fields, limiting signage and restricting the area where the school can place portable classrooms to a field behind a group of academic buildings.

After the commissioners' unanimous decision Tuesday, School Board Member Pam Gould let out a big sigh of relief.

"My hope is we can bring the community back together around this school. At the end of the day, we'll be able to provide a wonderful school in a wonderful community."

For more information contact Lauren Roth with Facilities Communications at 407-317-3700 x2023774.

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