

Addison Residents Learn About Dallas I.S.D. School Plans

More than 125 Addison residents packed the gymnasium at the Addison Athletic Club July 15 to learn about the Dallas Independent School District's plans for a new elementary school.

To be located next to Greenhill School on Spring Valley at Brookhaven Club Drive, the new facility – the George Herbert Walker Bush Elementary School – will accommodate 800 pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students. Scheduled to open in September 2011, the new building is being designed by WRA Architects and will incorporate energy efficient building materials as well as geo-thermal technology to heat and cool the facility.

The two-story, \$22.5 million, U-shaped building will be built around a courtyard that can be used as an outdoor learning center for gardening, climate and solar studies. Separate bus and parent drop off entrances will enhance safety for the students. The hike/bike trail along the edge of Greenhill School will allow students in the Les Lacs and Midway Meadows neighborhoods to walk to school.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore Tom Braun who, with Councilmember Bianca R. Noble, have served as the City Council's education liaisons, explained how the Council has worked with Dallas I.S.D. staff to create an artistic design of urban architecture that would fit into the community. "We're discussing having the Town maintain the landscaping to ensure it meets city standards," Braun said.

"It is critical that parents get involved in the school," Dallas I.S.D. Trustee from District 1 Dr. Edwin Flores said as he cited student achievement gains in the Northwest District.

"A partnership has to exist between the school, parents and community," explained Ivonne Durant, Executive Director of Dallas I.S.D.'s Northwest Elementary Learning Community who will be responsible for staffing and overseeing the school. She also explained that community input will be sought in selecting the school's principal and certain aspects of curriculum enhancements through the Site Based Management Team of school administrators, parents and community leaders.

"We're really happy that three Addison residents who work for Dallas I.S.D. will play important roles in the development of the school," said Mayor Joe Chow. "In addition to Ms. Durant, Dallas I.S.D.'s Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Donna Micheaux and Director of Design and Special Projects, Construction Services David Patton make their homes in Addison."