



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington Township Update

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (February 11, 2019) – In response to community inquiries, we shared the following response with stakeholders last week: "Washington Township is in current conversations regarding the site renovation of Eastwood Middle School and the best possible plan regarding a tree on the Eastwood property. An analysis is underway to verify the type, age and health of the tree. In addition, site and civil conditions are being evaluated to determine possible alternative options that might allow construction to take place around the tree. Washington Township works to incorporate sustainable aspects into its renovation projects and tries to protect trees as much as possible."

Plans for EW began in 2015 through our Master Facility Planning process. We knew we needed to enlarge the footprint of the school to meet capacity and 21st century needs. Additionally, the master facility planning identified that we needed to add on the front and also to the west side with the Cafetorium.

Our architect, Schmidt & Associates, has hired an arborist to give further analysis. The arborist was on site last week to conduct an evaluation on health and viability of the tree and we anticipate the comprehensive report this month. In addition, Mr. Wagner our Capital Project Manager has been in contact with a representative from the Forest Alliance. The design process for school site has to take into consideration several factors such as;

- Traffic flow to improve vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns
- Nature conservation
- Increase the parking capacity as the student capacity increases
- Account for future site potential
- Manage storm water in an economical way to prevent the need for underground water storage (current site drainage at EW does not meet current code requirements)
- Site logistics
- Most importantly overall site safety

Working through the design process with our professional partners it is anticipated that we have the Eastwood site plans before Spring Break if not shortly after. I encourage you to check the progress of our design process for EW at <https://www.msdwt.k12.in.us/project-schedule/>.