

# District #34 Updates Oakland and WC Petty Elementary Schools

*Antioch School District #34's Master Facility Plan for 2019-2020*

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Photo Courtesy of Antioch 34

Renderings of Oakland Elementary after construction completion.

**W**ITH THE DISTRICT EXPANDING, ANTIOCH School District #34 proposed a plan to redistribute their school borders to better accommodate all of their students. As a part of this plan, the district was approved to construct \$26 million worth of updates and additions to two of its elementary school campuses - Oakland and WC Petty - after the referendum was passed in April of 2017. This project, known as the Master Facility Plan, has been in the works since early spring of 2016, according to Dr. Jay Marino, District #34 Superintendent.

With the voters approving this referendum, the district is planning to accomplish the following goals: Shift to a K-5 grade level configuration, eliminate portable/mobile classrooms, and create greater equity of learning spaces across all schools.

"In the 19-20 school year, AES will become our early

childhood center. Oakland, Petty and Hillcrest will contain grades K-5. AUGS will remain the same. With these changes, families will now attend neighborhood schools instead of grade level centers. Not only will it be more convenient for families, it will reduce the transportation needs," explains Joanna Gerritsen, WC Petty Principal.

With the district facilities' ages having a large spread - ranging from 15 to 90 years old - the district is looking to update Oakland and WC Petty to provide equivalent resources to the newer Hillcrest Elementary campus.

"The goal of our master facility plan was to ensure greater equity of learning spaces across the District. We didn't want some schools with air conditioning and others without. Some schools have a separate gym and a cafeteria when some schools had a combination gym/cafeateria. Overall, all of our schools will have similar features when construction and



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An aerial view of Oakland Elementary's campus that includes the new addition for next school year.

renovations are complete," according to Marino.

Across the district, there were several portable classrooms that housed music and art classes, but those classrooms are now being incorporated in the school with the new addition. Upon completion, Oakland will nearly double in square footage.

Construction began April 10, with a special groundbreaking ceremony that students attended. Construction ran through the summer until Labor Day when the students returned. The construction will continue throughout the year, and is expected to be completed in fall of 2019 for the new school year.

To accommodate these additions, the district had to alter their traditional school year calendar. To maximize construction time throughout the summer months, they extended the summer break and did not begin the 2018-19 school year until after Labor Day. In order to maximize the time work crews will have next summer, the district still wants to release students for summer break at the same time in May, which will result in fewer days off throughout the year.

"In order to accomplish this, we will not have as many days off during the school year. We will have 2 days for Thanksgiving Break, one week for Winter Break and one week for Spring Break. I believe the only other holiday we will observe is President's Day," Gerritsen stated.

In addition to the general updates to the existing structures, both schools will also be receiving new wings that will hold new gyms, enhanced library and media centers, and other collaborative spaces that students can work in throughout the school.

In addition, there are also new Project Lead the Way (STEM) classrooms, separate band and orchestra spaces, new lighting, new carpeting and new paint in hallways and classrooms. All schools will also have air conditioning at the completion of the project, according to Marino.

"It is much more vibrant, and the students are excited about the changes," shares Gerritsen. Students can look forward to a completely new experience to come in the next year as both schools complete their preparations to modernize their campuses next fall. 7



Photo Courtesy of Antioch 34

After completion at the WC Petty Elementary campus, the building will receive a new external look.



Photo Courtesy of Antioch 34

Construction of Oakland Elementary's addition behind the existing building.

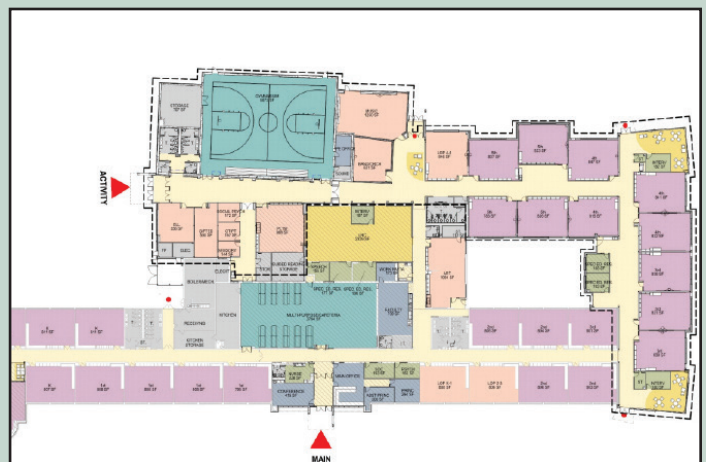


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Oakland's future building map, which includes the new addition.