

To: Board of Education

From: Kevin Harrell, executive director, student support/special education  
Lori Stithem, assistant director, special education/secondary  
Donna Patton-Bryant, special education facilitator  
Tony Barron, executive director, facilities & operations

RE: Report on special education transition services for students who are 18-21 years of age and East Heights Renovation for Community Transition Program (Benchmark Construction)

Date: January 18, 2018

Background:

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Lawrence Public Schools (LPS) must consider and include special education transition services in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for students, beginning the IEP year in which the student turns 16, and update it annually thereafter. In addition, upon meeting graduation requirements, students with an IEP due to a disability, may be eligible for transition services through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the school year in which the student turns 21, as determined by the IEP team. In Kansas, the IEP team is required to add the transition plan to the IEP, to include an age-appropriate transition assessment of the student, (measurable and reasonable) post-secondary goals, anticipated course of study and the skills, interests and preferences of the student, in the IEP year in which the student turns 14.

According to IDEA [34 CFR 300.43 (a)], Transition services are defined as a "coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate the child's movement school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education vocational education, integrated employment, (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation;
- Is based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's strengths, preferences and interests; and
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation".

At the January 8, 2018 meeting, the board approved an agreement with Gould Evans to provide architectural/engineering design services for renovation at East Heights Elementary School to accommodate the Community Transition Program. The improvements will include renovation of the existing kitchen to a teaching kitchen with six stations and a commercial washer and dryer, conversion of restrooms for ADA compliance and conversion of two classrooms to studio apartments with one having a kitchenette, restroom, and shower. The next step in the process is to secure a construction company to perform the renovations.

Bids and Specifications:

During the specification and design development, building administrators and staff were consulted. The requests for construction bids was distributed to multiple local and regional construction companies. A summary of the bids are as follows:

Benchmark Construction	\$402,945
BA Green	\$412,000
GSR Construction	\$448,000

A 5% contingency is being requested for unforeseen costs associated with this project.

Report:

This report will focus on transition services provided by LPS to students who have met graduation requirements and are 18-21 years of age and will include the following:

- State and federal requirements for transition services
- Description of transition services at our high schools, Community Transition site and Project Search sites for our young adults who are 18-21 years of age and continue to require transition services.

Recommendation:

The Facility Planning Committee recommends board approval of a contract with Benchmark Construction, for the renovations at East Heights Elementary, to accommodate the Community Transition Program in the amount of \$402,945 plus a 5% contingency in the amount of \$20,150 for unforeseen costs to be paid from the Capital Outlay Fund.

Motion:

I move the Board of Education approve a contract with Benchmark Construction, for the renovations at East Heights Elementary, to accommodate the Community Transition Program in the amount of \$402,945 plus a 5% contingency in the amount of \$20,150 for unforeseen costs to be paid from the Capital Outlay Fund.”