

For Immediate Release

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State College Area School District Board of Directors selects architect for District Wide Facilities Master Plan Update and High School Schematic Design

State College Area School District Board of Directors selected Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, Architects, to lead the process for updating the District Wide Facilities Master Plan and designing a plan for modernizing the district's high school campus. With this selection, the board further directed the administration to begin negotiating contract terms with Crabtree Rohrbaugh.

This selection process has been underway since December 2011 when an ad hoc committee was formed to assist in the identification and evaluation of potential architectural firms. A request for qualifications (RFQ) for this specific project was initiated in December, attracting 22 potential firms. The committee then narrowed the field to six firms who each received a request for proposal (RFP). Through a public interview process earlier this spring, the committee narrowed the choices to three firms. Those three firms were further vetted, and committee members toured a completed school building project designed by each firm. Following the building tours and further in-depth discussion by committee members and district administration, two separate recommendations were brought forward to the Board of Directors. Upon receiving those recommendations, the Board participated in much greater discussion, including the addition of a special board meeting, to further prioritize the key factors in the selection process and come to the point where they felt they were prepared to vote and make a final decision in this very important process.

This firm's background includes extensive school building construction experience in small, medium and large projects, entailing both new construction and renovation. School districts working with Crabtree Rohrbaugh in the past have consistently reported positive working relationships and a commitment to client satisfaction by the firm.

Dr. Bob O'Donnell, Superintendent, stated, "The process included a thorough, collaborative effort between community members and our district. We appreciate the time and dedication of the Ad Hoc committee as they carefully considered the selected firms and provided thoughtful feedback. The board has selected a firm with a proven track record of designing quality educational facilities that are on budget and on time."

"We look forward to engaging our community throughout this multi-year process and know we are moving forward with a firm that will be responsive to our educational needs at a time when cost is a very significant matter for us to contain."

The district has and will continue to post all information relating to the high school construction/renovation project on its web site (www.scasd.org).