



Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blast”

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www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org

O.C.C. PRESENTATION, BUCKEYE CENTRAL SCHOOLS WILL ADOPT RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTING

Buckeye Central Local School District in New Washington (Crawford County) will have Responsible Contracting requirements in place when it begins building its new, \$25 million kindergarten-through-12th-grade building next year, thanks to local union members and the O.C.C.

I.B.E.W. Local 688 (Mansfield) Business Manager Carl Neutzling and President Lance Biglin, who also are local residents, worked to arrange for the O.C.C. to make its presentation on the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission’s new Responsible Contracting criteria to the Buckeye Central School Board. Patty Camacho showed the board the PowerPoint and gave an informational talk in June on behalf of the O.C.C.

“Buckeye Central has approved adding the Responsible Contracting language to the upcoming project,” Mr. Neutzling reported to the O.C.C. “I am positive that the O.C.C. presentation from Patty made the difference. We thank you and are looking forward to using this method in the future.”

Buckeye Central School Board member Bernie Kessler saluted Local 688 and Responsible Contracting in the local newspaper, The Bucyrus Telegraph Forum: “One of those changes is that schools will no longer be required by the Ohio School Facilities Commission to go with the lowest bidder but the best bidder for the job because of some of the shady companies that are out there.”

The state will pay 80 percent of the cost for the Buckeye Central construction through the O.S.F.C. program.

The O.C.C.’s presentation explains the new O.S.F.C. Responsible Contractor guidelines and their benefits to local school officials. O.C.C. representatives are making the presentations to individual school districts around the state as they come up for O.S.F.C. funding eligibility. The approximately 15-minute PowerPoint presentation includes video and media documentation of poor work at schools around the state and thorough explanations about how Responsible Bidder language can help districts avoid such problems.

To have the O.C.C. make a presentation to a school board in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at 1-888-445-8255 or cjefferson@bmamedia.com, or Bob Verhoff at 440-366-4003 or rverhoff@lorainccc.edu.

O.C.C. BEGINS VIDEO DOCUMENTARY OF POOR SCHOOL WORK

A camera crew from the O.C.C.’s communications company, BMA Media Group, spent the day at Frontier Local School District on July 27 to record the poor construction work done on the district’s new schools under the Ohio School Facilities Commission

The footage will be used as part of an O.C.C. documentary that will make construction users aware of the pitfalls of doing work without Prevailing Wages or Responsible Contracting in place – on any and all types of construction projects. By highlighting poorly constructed school projects around the state completed under the O.S.F.C. without Responsible Contracting rules, the O.C.C. will use the video to make school districts more aware of the new O.S.F.C. responsible bidder guidelines and how to properly take advantage of them.

And in the future, the documentary will be used to help protect Prevailing Wage laws and promote Responsible Contracting.

Frontier Local School District, located in southeast Ohio, had two new elementary schools built and its high school renovated four years ago, but before the doors even opened on the \$24.7 million buildings, major construction flaws were discovered and the board has been trying to get them repaired ever since.

The district recently saw some progress in having the problems corrected, as the long-awaited re-construction on the roofs of all three schools began in mid-July after the district was awarded \$1.7 million in state funds for the repairs. Mansuetto Roofing, a union-signatory contractor in Martin's Ferry, is doing the repairs.

REPORT POOR CONTRACTORS TO O.C.C. FOR LEGISLATOR

At the request of Ohio State Rep. Matthew Szollosi, the O.C.C. asks that all affiliates report to the O.C.C. any "non-responsible" contractors they know of that will be or are in the process of bidding on O.S.F.C. projects.

The request comes after Szollosi, a non-voting member of the O.S.F.C., blocked a contract award that was about to be made by the O.S.F.C. to R.J. Martin Electric. The contractor is under investigation for activities on Cleveland Schools projects.

The O.S.F.C. was unaware of the allegations and was about to award R.J. Martin another multi-million-dollar contract for more work in Cleveland.

Please contact Calvin Jefferson at 1-888-445-8255 or cjefferson@bmamedia.com to report non-responsible contractors!

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