



NEWS RELEASE

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Honey Dew Elementary School renovations continue ***Future use and timeline to open school yet to be determined***

January 20, 2009—Renovations at Honey Dew Elementary School continue as the school is modernized for future use.

Renewal of the school, located at 800 Union Ave NE, Renton, was part of a bond measure approved by voters in 2003. The construction project is on time and on budget. Many elements of the existing building are being reused to save money and be environmentally friendly.



Construction workers set reinforcing bar to prepare to pour a concrete floor.

District soon to review when Honey Dew School might open

Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel soon will convene a committee to review current and projected student enrollment data, along with budgetary considerations, to determine when the school will open.

No date has been determined for opening the school.

The new school will feature 16 general classrooms and 3 kindergarten classrooms. Each classroom will have computer workstations networked through a server. Other building

elements include a music room, library/media center, gymnasium and cafeteria which can be used as a student performance space. The existing courtyard will become a functional space that will serve the library as an outdoor reading area and provide relief for the classroom areas.

Considerations for opening a new school

The committee's work to determine if Honey Dew Elementary School should open next school year will include reviewing current and future enrollment numbers and patterns. Although Renton's student enrollment continues to increase slightly each school year, those new students are spread out in schools throughout the district, not concentrated solely in the Honey Dew service area.

Finding funding for a new school within the current budget is also a concern. It is estimated that opening a new school will cost about \$2.5 million. The district would need to determine where that money would come from as no additional funding from the state is provided to the district to open a new school.

The committee will also determine the boundaries for Honey Dew Elementary School. The expectation is to create a boundary that allows neighborhood students to walk to the new school. Currently, students who live near the school attend neighboring elementary schools.