



Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blaster”

January 16, 2006

School construction investigations in full swing all over state

The OCC’s lead school-construction investigator Al Adams reported to the OCC Board during its Jan. 12 meeting that he has been busy in recent weeks – and plans to remain busy in the coming months – looking into school construction projects around Ohio.

Adams continues to push for local action, including a lawsuit, on the Gibsonburg High School project, in which contractors hired under the Ohio School Facilities Commission program are to blame for faulty and costly roof and plumbing installations. The OSFC has not been able to close out the project, and they are attempting to do so without the approval of the architect, Craig Stough, and the mechanical engineer, Bud Bernsdorf.

Adams is investigating an allegation by Rieck Mechanical, a union contractor out of Dayton, that it had signed a contract with the Dayton School District for the HVAC work at Stivers High School, but the OSFC forced the school district to award the contact to GM Mechanical, the low bidder. While GM was the low bidder, Rieck is a local firm and the OCC had provided information to the school district about GM Mechanical’s previous faulty work on OSFC projects.

Adams also intends to review school construction projects at Wellston, Goshen and Western Brown school district, all in southern Ohio. Wellston is a 1998 project that has yet to close out because of pending litigation; Western Brown also has a lawsuit pending; and Goshen just recently closed out after many problems. BMA Media has put Adams in touch with a reporter from the Cincinnati Enquirer who is interested in investigating the myriad problems with OSFC projects in Cincinnati and the entire southern Ohio area.

To **REPORT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES** in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255.

‘New’ OCC presentations ready; local jurisdictions are asked to schedule

The OCC is now prepared to make formal presentations to interested industry parties on the planned formation of a “stronger, more inclusive and improved” OCC. The “new” OCC will focus on being an educational entity for decision-makers and the public at large on a broader, more statewide level.

If you would like a presentation about the “new” OCC to be made to your industry group, organization or association, please contact Bob Verhoff, executive director of Union Construction Industry Partnership, at 440-366-4003.

More legislators send acknowledgments for Prevailing Wage booklet

The OCC has received two more letters from Ohio State legislators in response to the OCC’s informational booklets on Prevailing Wage sent to every Ohio state senator and representative at the end of September: Democrats **Sen. Kimberly A. Zurz** of the 28th District and **Rep. John Boccieri** of the 61 District wrote the OCC to thank it for providing the information contained in the booklet.

Republicans Sen. David Goodman, 3rd District, and Rep. Jim McGregor, 20th District, in December had sent letters of appreciation for the booklets.

The OCC asks that all those interested in the welfare of the state’s construction industry contact their local senators and representatives to make sure they have received and reviewed the booklet! For copies of the booklet (which you also should distribute locally) and more information, contact Calvin Jefferson at BMA Media Group at cjefferson@bmamedia.com or 1-888-445-8255. (An **electronic version** is available, also, enabling you to print the booklet whenever needed.)