



For Immediate Release

Owner / Client:

Tea Area School District
Jerry Schutz
Superintendent
(605) 498-2700

Project Location:

515 W. Brian St.
Tea, SD

Architect:

Koch Hazard Architects
Keith W. Thompson
Project Manager
(605) 336-3718

Construction Manager:

Parsons
Cheryl Badinger
Project Manager
(612) 656-7015

Tea Intermediate School remains under budget, on schedule

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 - TEA, SD - Construction on the new Intermediate School in Tea is progressing steadily and is on track to meet the original schedule and remains under budget goals. Originally estimated at a total cost of \$9.9 million, the project budget currently stands at \$9.165 million.

Wall framing, exterior masonry, windows and roofing are nearing completion, allowing for a weather-tight enclosure for work to continue inside the building over the winter months. Site grading is nearly complete and the new parking lots will have the first lift of asphalt paving this fall. Mechanical and electrical systems are underway throughout the building, drywall installation and some interior finishes will be starting soon. The project remains on track for substantial completion in May 2010, with students starting classes in the fall of 2010.

"With any construction project, there are additive and deductive changes," says Cheryl Badinger, project manager with Parsons, the construction management firm. "These changes are anticipated within the budget. Currently, the project is experiencing minimal changes, and the project is on budget. We anticipate the schedule and budget to stay on track in the upcoming months."

The new Tea Intermediate School, designed by Koch Hazard Architects of Sioux Falls, will serve grades 4-6 in the rapidly growing district. Located just south of the high school/middle school and north of the elementary school, it will create an educational campus serving nearly all of the district's students.

Jerry Schutz, Superintendent of Tea Area School District, is excited about the new project. "Our new intermediate school is something that the Tea Area will be very proud of. The use of locally-produced building materials provides a showcase for the quality products produced in our region. State-of-the-art technology integration into all of the classrooms will make this facility a great place for our students to get a world-class education. The enhanced security features in the main entry will enhance our ability to keep our kids safe. The music rooms, gym and commons are designed to provide sufficient room for enrollment growth."

The building is designed to complement the adjacent high school in scale and material. A spacious commons runs the full width of the school, allowing the main entrance on the west while creating an inviting presence facing the primary approach from the east. Gymnasium and music spaces are located north of the commons, with the principal's office, library and classrooms to the south. The school is planned for a variety of expansion options as the district continues to grow.

"This building will be a striking addition to the Tea Area Campus, providing this community an amazing capacity to sponsor major educational, athletic and community events for the region," added Schutz.

"Due to the good stewardship of the board and community, we are getting a quality facility at a reasonable cost. We are building at a great time right now, as the economic downturn has enabled us to secure favorable bids, which means the district is getting more building for the money," he said.

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