



New LPS Early Childhood Center – ‘A World of Exploration’

A joyful and engaging place for young children to learn and grow. That’s the idea and the dream behind Livonia Public Schools’ new early childhood center, set to break ground this spring.

Rising from the 55-year-old former Dickinson school site on Newburgh, north of Six Mile, the Early Childhood Center will be an all-inclusive, state-of-the-art facility that will house early childhood programs including childcare and preschool as well as multiple special education programs for preschool-aged children.

“Every element of the design is child- and family-focused,” said Superintendent Andrea Oquist. “From the ‘mud room’ areas at each entry, designed for ease of families during arrival and pickup, to the demonstration kitchen where children can develop their culinary curiosities, the new ECC will be a beautiful world of exploration for our youngest learners.”

The 72,000-square-foot facility, designed by TMP Architects, will occupy the current footprint of Dickinson and four “pods” will staircase across the property, stretching northwest from the current footprint.

“The current footprint of Dickinson is set back from Newburgh Road, but this design brings the building in a natural flow, closer to Newburgh, utilizing that front space of the property,” said Phillip Francis, assistant superintendent of district services. “People will really notice this stunning building as they pass by on Newburgh.”

The ECC will house 28 rooms for instruction, a library area, large motor skills areas, spaces for occupational and physical therapy, family activity areas, a demonstration kitchen, mud rooms with lockers and benches, built-in visual and sensory features throughout the building, four entry points, conference spaces for parents and staff meetings and, of course, outdoor play structures.

“This is a vision that our district has had for quite some time,” Oquist said. “To see it come to fruition is just amazing and truly exciting for us. We

2021. It is the first new-build in Livonia Public Schools in more than five decades. Current programming housed at the Jackson Early Childhood Center will move to the new facility and the district is currently brainstorming how to best utilize the Jackson property once the ECC is open.

“There have been a lot of intriguing ideas, already, of how our district can utilize the Jackson Center,” Francis



know that this is a significant investment in our community, our school district and most of all the children we serve. We cannot wait to welcome our families in the fall of 2024.”

The Early Childhood Center is made possible through the 2021 bond issue that was approved by voters in May

said. “We will continue to explore those ideas as we move through the construction timeline for the new center.”

LPS will announce the groundbreaking date and invite the community to come and celebrate this new addition to Livonia Public Schools. Stay tuned!