

LeGRAND: tour gives CCS officials inside look at future home of ECHS and all its possibilities

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very wide and (offered) plenty of space to move about," Melton said.

Holland and Hamrick Architects finished the 145,000-square-foot new Shelby Middle School last year. Although that construction was large in size, this one, Holland said, was more grand in design.

The upstairs conference center can accommodate up to 1,500 guests. An elevated walkway will carry visitors from the parking lot to the upstairs entrance and also serve as a place for outdoor functions. An outdoor pavilion area about 20 feet deep and 125 feet long can also host outdoor events in nice weather.

Inside the entry way to the conference center, its corridors and main ballroom have towering ceilings flooded with natural light from skylight windows.

"Of all the conference centers that we visited we only saw one that allowed any natu-

ral light into the space," Holland said. "I know you've all been to conferences where you've been in the big rooms in the hotels and you don't know whether it's day or night or rain or whatever. In this space you get a sense of that outdoor light in here."

An exhibit hall runs parallel to the conference areas, separated by another skyfold partition. Holland said that the option of opening up the exhibit hall and "pre-function space" to the main conference rooms is another perk that makes the new center unique.

Seven conference rooms, each divided by key-controlled partitions, can be opened up to one large ballroom.

"This room can either be one large space, seven different spaces or any combination that you can imagine with these skyfold walls and all that can be done with the turn of a key," Melton said.

The LeGrand Center's second floor features rooms for the county's economic development offices, a commercial kitchen, a green room with its own bath and kitchenette for those special guests, and a few more conference rooms.

"The next thing we're going to show you is probably going to be the most talked about and so if everybody will come into the bathroom," Melton said, as the tour group laughed.

He pointed out that both the men's and women's restrooms have two doors, one for entering and one for exiting. But there will be another door between the two.

"I guess we've come to the comfort level where now everybody can freely go between the men's and women's bathrooms," Melton joked.

He said that for those events that are attended mostly by men or by women, the door can be unlocked and the restroom can double in size to accommodate the crowd.

Nearly two years in the making, the LeGrand Center has caught the eye and admiration of all three of its owners - CCS, CCC and Cleveland County.



photos by EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Roger Holland, background center, of the architect firm Holland & Hamrick, gives Cleveland County school board officials a tour of the LeGrand Center now under construction on the campus of Cleveland Community College. CCS board member Philip Glover looks up at what will be an impressive glass-encased upper entryway.

In 2010, all three boards voted unanimously to fund the building, each agreeing to share a third of the \$19 million price tag for the center.

It can be a challenge constructing a center that will live up to its calling as a place where education and a thirst for knowledge meets economic development and a county's thirst for growth. It's also a challenge creating something that satisfies three different owners.

"I'm really excited to think that this can have an impact on what we're trying to do in Cleveland County with economic development," Holland said.

The county, its school board and community college seem excited too.

All about the workforce

"A reliable, high-performance IP network supports all voice, video and data traffic

flowing in the building," according to Cisco Systems, an electronics, networking and communications technology company based out of California, whose products will be used in the new center.

Early College High School teachers will have the technological capability of streaming their work on smartboards at the front of the classroom to the screens of each student's computer. The same network will also open the door to "telepresence", virtual reality technology that "beams in" guest speakers (like Skype) from miles away.

"Advanced networking and telepresence technology will help expose students to the technology they will encounter in the workforce," according to Cisco.

And the workforce here is what it's all about. With the emergence of new high-tech jobs in the region and the county looking to attract more industry, an educated workforce seems key.



CCS board member Jerry Hoyle looks into the LeGrand Center's massive grand ballroom.

DAVIDSON: falling roof revealed asbestos, old school closed for now

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Patton Drive, and finance and human resources offices and personnel currently in the Business Center, the old Central School in Kings Mountain.

Supt. Dr. Bruce Boyles said plans are to maintain the Parent Center (2-3 employees) on the ground floor and Maintenance Division II and 22 employees in the current (Central School) location. Office and storage areas for maintenance are located on the ground floor and metal buildings on the North end of the campus house carpentry and storage.

School board members at recent work sessions heard the recommendations from the administration to put on hold the repairs of the old Davidson School building in Kings Mountain.

Yarbro said the alternative school moved out of the Davidson school facility in 2008.

Last January, the Davidson Alumni Association began using the facility for community endeavors and paid the utility bills for the facility. This fall, the sprayed-on ceiling broke loose and began falling and it was determined that the ceiling contains asbestos, so the alumni moved out of the building last November.

Yarbro told the board that an environmental consultant estimated about 3,200 square feet of floor tile containing asbestos would also have to be removed, explaining that the carpet contaminated with asbestos has to be removed-during the ceiling abatement process. Currently the building is unusable and repairs are estimated at \$130,000.

"The system has no plans at this point for use of the building," said Yarbro.

Yarbro said that 79,000 square feet of the old Shelby Middle School facilities will be used for Central Services and about 68,000 square feet for the Turning Point Academy.

He said nearly 10,000 square feet of new construction will connect three buildings and provide Turning Point with a new entrance and corridors. A new transition area in Central Services connecting the auditorium with the board conference room will also serve as a cover for the Communications loading area.

Plans are to retain the oil paintings in the auditorium of the old school. The Sumter Street parking area will be renovated for both bus and car drop-off for Turning Point Academy with space available to park four buses, one per zone, during the day.

The entry area for a C-STOP and Turning Point Academy have controlled access. Homebound students will have a separate entrance. Plans are to divide middle school and high school students in the classroom building. The existing cafeteria will be used for the Turing Point Academy. The gymnasium will remain intact but lighting will be up-

graded.

Mr. Yarbro illustrated for the school board where each department will be located in the Central Services facility. The staff development area will include a computer lab for 40 participants in training, breakout and conference rooms and a large meeting area with retractable walls for subdividing the area. The Office of School Readiness and Technology will share a building. The District server room will be located in this area and equipped with proper cooling equipment.

Capacity of the new Central Services facility will be 250-300 people.

"This new building will make us more efficient and having the alternative students on the same campus with the district administration is a real plus," said Yarbro. "These kids face challenges and we will all be under one roof and we can mentor them, it's exciting."

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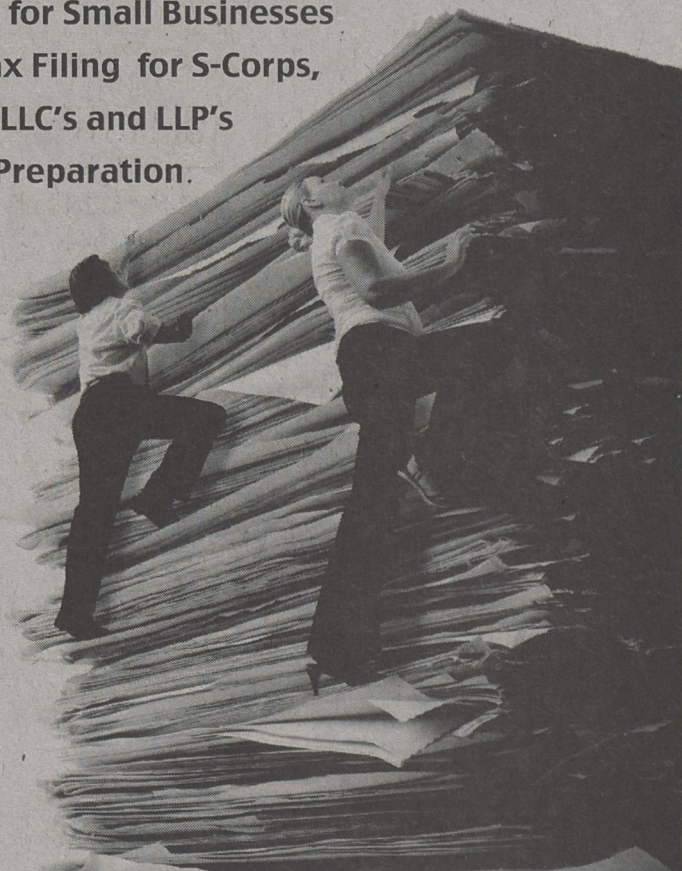
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