

## **New 21st-Century Schools Feature:**

- New air conditioning and controls
- Updated heating system and controls
- Current air-quality standards
- Upgraded electrical wiring to current codes
- New elevators where necessary
- Compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act codes
- New roofs where needed
- Tuck-pointing on existing structures
- Updated restrooms
- New interior finishes
- New security system
- New fire-alarm system
- New energy-management system
- Revamped playground areas
- Updated library
- New music classrooms where needed
- Updated classrooms for special education
- All-day kindergarten rooms with restroom facilities
- New Reading Recovery® rooms
- New or updated kitchen
- Wiring for technology and Internet connections
- Mitigation of hazardous materials
- Developed community areas
- Updated administrative and support offices
- Improved site and traffic flow

## **Other Important Information**

- Our web site has updated information on all school construction. Go to **[www.des-moines.k12.ia.us](http://www.des-moines.k12.ia.us)** and click on the Schools First tab.
- Two new schools were opened in August 2001; these were the first schools remodeled or rebuilt using the one-cent local sales tax. Brooks-Lucas and Monroe-Rice elementary schools were renamed with input from the community and school organizations. The schools were named Capitol View Elementary School and Monroe Elementary School, respectively.
- The former Rice Elementary School property will be maintained as a park and practice field for neighborhood groups.
- Buses for students attending a “swing” school during renovation will continue to pick up children at neighborhood locations.

**Schools First**

### **The 10-Year Community School Facilities Action Plan**

**November 2001  
Update**

Dr. Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent



[www.des-moines.k12.ia.us](http://www.des-moines.k12.ia.us)



## Moving Ahead!

It has been just a little under two years since the voters of Polk County took an historic step into the future and approved the local sales tax to fund school construction in every school district across the county. In the intervening months, we have made huge and important strides in the Des Moines Public Schools.

We have initiated all the Phase I projects for the schools we pledged to do first. The new Monroe and Capitol View Elementary Schools opened in August 2001. During the 2001-2002 school year, Moulton, Greenwood and Mann-Watrous Elementary Schools are being remodeled or rebuilt. Six more schools are working with site-based design teams and architects to develop their schematic designs. We are following the plan that was developed with community involvement, adopted by the school board and referenced on the ballot.

We are on schedule and within budget. All of the local sales tax revenue is being spent on school construction projects as defined on the ballot and in "The 10-Year Community School Facilities Action Plan," and we are designing 21<sup>st</sup>-century schools. This is an exciting and important time in our community.

## Current Projects

Construction is underway in three elementary schools: Moulton, Greenwood and Mann-Watrous. They are scheduled to open in August 2002. Six more schools will be under construction during the 2002-2003 school year. The following is a summary of each project that has been presented to the school board.

- **Moulton Extended Learning Center** is being renovated and will become a kindergarten through eighth-grade school. It is located at Eighth Street and College Avenue in the old North High School building. Moulton is a year-round magnet school; students from all over the city may attend there. Construction began in June 2001. The students are attending classes at Samuelson School during the 2001-2002 school year. This construction project will tie in the older existing building with a new wing to accommodate the middle school program.
- **Greenwood Elementary School**, located at 316 37th Street, is now being renovated. This historic building was originally constructed in 1901. Its site-based design team decided to retain the beautiful, old building and make complementary additions to it. The historical significance of the building will be maintained. Construction began in June 2001, and Greenwood students are attending classes at Mann Elementary School until Greenwood is ready.
- **Mann and Watrous Elementary Schools** will merge into one, larger building at the current Watrous site, 6430 S.W. 14th Street. The Mann building is being used as a temporary school while other buildings are under construction. Mann-Watrous students are attending classes in Kurtz School, while their building is being remodeled.

## Summary

- **River Woods Elementary School, the first new school in over 20 years, opened in August 2000 on the south-east side of Des Moines. The finances to build it came primarily from a bond issue approved by voters 10 years ago. The cost was \$4.6 million.**
- **Two new schools opened in August 2001: Monroe and Capitol View Elementary Schools. These were the first schools built using the one-cent local sales tax. Monroe's cost was \$6.5 million; Capitol View's, \$6.2 million.**
- **Three elementary schools are being rebuilt/renovated during the 2001-2002 school year: Greenwood (for \$5.8 million), Moulton (for \$6.5 million) and Mann-Watrous (for \$6.6 million).**
- **Six other schools have started site planning meetings for construction during the 2002-2003 school year:**
  - East High School**
  - Callanan Middle School**
  - Weeks Middle School**
  - Willard Elementary School**
  - McKinley Elementary School**
  - McKee and Douglas elementary schools, which will merge into one building on the Hoyt Middle School site**