

District 60 \$40M makeover ready for first day of school

By Judy Masterson jmasterson@stmedianetwork.com July 24, 2013 9:02PM

Partitions, covered with eraser boards, can separate learning spaces. Pictured are district construction manager Kevin Kruckeberg (left) and construction subcontractor Stacey Bullard. | Judy Masterson~Sun-Times Media

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Glen Flora School Principal Zenaida Figueroa is more excited than usual about welcoming a new crop of students who will arrive on Aug. 19 to find that their nearly 100-year-old building at 1110 Chestnut St., doesn't look so old anymore. "I can't wait for the first day of school to see the kids' faces," Figueroa said on Tuesday as construction workers bustled around her.

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Glen Flora and the district's 11 other elementary schools have been expanded under a \$40 million construction project — the largest in the history of the district.

Begun one year ago, it was spurred by a \$28.3 million state Capital Development Board grant and also funded by \$9.4 million in district funds. The building boom, undertaken in three phases, is on time and on budget, according to district officials.

On Tuesday, Waukegan School Board President Anita Hanna toured the new, two-story addition to Glen Flora with district construction manager Kevin Kruckeberg, general contractor Bob Boller of Waukegan-based Boller Construction, which is leading phases two and three, and Stacey Bullard, of Integrity Developers, general contractor for the Glen Flora expansion.

"Our students are finally getting the space they deserve," said Hanna, as she admired innovations including learning spaces that can shrink or grow, lights that click on when movement is detected, lockers that need no locks and handwashing sinks in the hallway — the latter to cut down on horseplay, Hanna said.

New classrooms will also include desks in pods, mobile computer stations, and Promethean Boards, or "teacher walls."

In addition to Glen Flora, phase two at a cost of \$11.5 million includes Clearview, Greenwood, Hyde Park and North schools. Phase one expansions of Carman-Buckner, Washington and Whittier schools were overseen by Waukegan-based Stuckey Construction. Project architect is Ohio-based Fanning Howey. Phase three includes Glenwood, Little Fort, McCall and Oakdale.

To be completed by the first day of school, the construction will add 116 new, specially-designed learning spaces, allowing more students, who now rely on busing, to attend schools close to home.

“We’re not anticipating a large influx of kids,” Hanna said. “We’re spreading out existing students.”

The expansion has created several hundred construction jobs and helped feed the local economy.

The bid process included local and minority hiring goals aimed at employing people and businesses in Waukegan and surrounding communities.

Bullard’s company will see about \$3.5 million in revenues from its work on the project, which also includes electrical, carpentry, playground remodeling, and landscaping at other schools.

“It’s the largest project I’ve done and I’ve had the chance to work alongside Hispanics, African Americans and women,” Bullard said. “To see women get into a ceiling and pull cable is an awesome experience.

“It’s been a joy to work with the different local firms, including Boller Construction,” Bullard added. “The mentoring has been awesome.”

Hanna also praised the district’s successful hiring initiative.

“Look around and see the diversity on this job,” she said. “That’s what I’m most proud of.”