



**For More Information:**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **EAST PEORIA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RETURN WITH A NEW LOOK COMING**

Renovations to High School to Begin September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**(EAST PEORIA, IL, Friday, Aug. 15, 2008)** – A fence has gone up and a sign's come down at this city's public high school, two telling changes its students will encounter when they begin the new school year Monday.

The day will be the first since 1972 that East Peoria Community High School's students won't enter through its main doors, now blocked by a chain-link fence 6 feet high.

Those changes signal the start of major, long-awaited renovations and additions at the school, designed and supervised through construction by Principal Construction Management + Design (PCM+d).

A wholly owned subsidiary of Cullinan Properties Ltd. of Peoria, PCM+d has committed architects and construction managers to the project since the school's District 309 Board chose the firm over two other final competitors in September 2007.

Not just the school's community, but all of East Peoria will be proud of the results," said Principal Paul Whittington. A two-story glass "curtain wall" will surround a new school Commons area and cafeteria, providing natural light for students and seemingly inviting the community into its main education center.

PCM+d "brought the idea of making the school open and welcome," Whittington said. "We feel the school is a flagship of the community." The PCM+d design "sends that message, and it will allow students to feel more involved in their community."

"The goal is to instill community pride in the school and to provide a quality learning environment with plenty of daylight and openness," said PCM+d architect Terry Poplette.

Phase 1 of the project, at an estimated \$8.5 million cost, will also include a new two-story wing housing 17 classrooms, a new fine arts/chorus/computer lab area replacing the former cafeteria, and a new secure main entrance on the school's east side.

Site preparation for the new Commons/cafeteria and classroom wing, along the school's west side where the main entrance was located, will begin soon after Labor Day, Whittington said. N.E. Finch Co. of Peoria was awarded contract for the work last week. PCM+d President, Jim Lemon, said he expects building construction to begin in December. When it does, the firm will supervise the effort through completion.

"PCM+d will manage all contracts for construction ensuring quality adherence to the firm's designs and overseeing expenses said Construction Manager, Jeff Zogby.

PCM+d, working with the district, produced a construction schedule designed not to disrupt students' class schedules over its estimated 14-month span. Phase 2, to include replacement of the school's nearly 100-year-old "A Building" with a new physical education center, is tentatively set to begin following completion of the addition and renovations.

#### **MORE**

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The project is made possible by a unique partnership between District 309 and the City of East Peoria, which this month formally pledged about \$6 million generated by city sales tax revenue over 20 years. The decade-long lack of a state capital project budget prompted the partnership.

Whittington will be available to media at the school Monday, when heat-schedule classes begin at 6:52 a.m. For more information, call 694-8300.

PCM+d architectural renderings are available by contacting architect Wil Helmick at [whelmick@pcmplusd.com](mailto:whelmick@pcmplusd.com).

Principal Construction Management + Design (PCM+d), a wholly owned subsidiary of Cullinan Properties, LTD, is a design-build firm providing architecture and construction management for projects in retail, office, government, healthcare and education sectors.

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