

**Design Development Update: 1923 and 1957 West ISD Buildings**  
***Community Presentation set for Tuesday, February 23, 2016***

By David Truitt, Superintendent

Back in October, the West Independent School District (ISD) offered a time for the community to come share pictures, yearbooks, and memories about the 1923 school building located on West Shook Street. Representatives from Huckabee, the district's architectural group, were on hand to meet and hear from the community and took pictures and notes from the many discussions and ideas shared by past and recent West High School graduates. This event was well-attended, and Huckabee was able to come back to the District with a design we truly believe represents the building's original architecture, aesthetics, and charm.

The goal of this event was to ensure Huckabee had a true understanding of the importance of this special building to the West community, and how our community could help the District move forward in the design phase of the renovation work in the coming months. West ISD had tasked Huckabee with renovating the building to provide new space for administration offices, technology support, training rooms for district staff, file storage, conference rooms, the district's boardroom, and safety and security updates. During the community meeting, ideas were shared in regard to the boardroom being used for community meetings and events. Community members also shared how display cases could be used to house memorabilia and pictures of the history of the District. The Huckabee representatives heard many suggestions on how the building could look and be used by both the District and community groups.

During the recent February Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Huckabee representatives shared a design development update on the floorplan and finishes for both the 1923 and 1957 buildings. A Board Subcommittee of Mrs. Leigh Crawshaw, Mr. Robin Waters, and Dr. John Crowder met with the Huckabee design team twice to review the plans and possible flooring, paint, lighting, and ceiling finishes.

With this news, West ISD has planned a special community event for **Tuesday, February 23, 2016**, at the 1923 building on West Shook Street. This event will have two offerings. First, any interested community member may tour the 1923 and 1957 buildings beginning at 5:30 PM. The West ISD district leadership team will be on hand to provide hardhats, flashlights, and tour directions. Second, the Huckabee representatives will be on hand to share the site plan, floorplan, renderings, and schedule for the renovation project. There will be a time for the community to ask questions about the project and share more pictures, memories, and stories about the buildings. Refreshments will be served as well. This portion of the community event will take place in the cafeteria; just north of the 1923 building on the temporary West Middle/High School campus on North Marable Street. Parking is available at the West Brethren Church or on the gravel parking lot at the corner of North Davis Street and West Shook Street.

West ISD is very aware of the importance the 1923 building has played over the many decades in housing and educating the students of West. This building has a special place in the hearts and minds of several thousand West High School graduates throughout the many years of its use. The district's main

goal of this project is to do our best to return the building to its former glory. Our hope is that the building will once again be a place of great pride for Trojans everywhere.

Once again, please look through your old pictures and yearbooks and come out to see us next week. West ISD wants this project to be a true community effort. The District believes the finished renovation product will remind former students and teach new students of West ISD's long, rich history of excellence. See you on Tuesday, February 23, at the 1923 building! Go Trojans! Rise up West!