



PRESS RELEASE:

Contact:

Mr. Brad Pollitt
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FEMA Addition to S-C Junior High to be Unveiled to Public

Sedalia, MO, March 4, 2010 – The Sedalia community is invited to attend a walk-through of the FEMA building, a new addition to the Smith-Cotton Junior High School premises, on Monday, March 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The school board session will take place in the Junior High Media Center at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Sam Winn, Architect, and Sedalia School District Administrators will be providing information about the new facility to all in attendance.

The FEMA Shelter was approved on 09/26/07 allowing a three-year window for completion. Hurricane Katrina's devastation delayed the start of the construction process. By the time the district received an official letter of acceptance from FEMA, one year had passed. The district was then in the middle of the new high school construction and transition phase. In an attempt to avoid more confusion, construction on the new FEMA project was put off until 3/1/2009.

The new 33,000 square foot building has been partially subsidized by FEMA. The Sedalia School District is funding 25% of this project, leaving the remaining 75% to FEMA.

The new building consists of two separate construction areas. The FEMA building has been designed to provide shelter from inclement weather conditions for the Sedalia community. Meanwhile, the facility will house a new Junior High practice gymnasium and the cafeteria seating area for Sedalia students. The second non-FEMA portion of the facility is attached to the FEMA structure and has been designed to house the kitchen equipment and operations. Additional coolers have been installed and attached to the already existing Junior High geothermal unit.

The shelter has been designed to accommodate residents within the protection zone of one square mile from the site. The building capacity is in excess of 4,000 people.

A 30-page document defining the shelter operations has been defined and forwarded to FEMA for consideration and approval. Once approved, this document will be posted on the Sedalia School District website and the community will be advised of its availability.

FEMA has until 9/26/2010 to close out the final documentation before remitting their final payment to the district. This will not, however, delay the right to occupancy. The shelter will be utilized once essential personnel, both professional and volunteer, are identified and ready for service.

FEMA Addition (continued)

Mr. Brad Pollitt, Assistant Superintendent and coordinator of this project states, "We hope to begin using this wonderful new facility as an approved tornado shelter by the first of April, 2010."

The Sedalia School District will NOT be tearing down the Junior High cafeteria building once the new FEMA structure is complete. Once the current construction project is complete, multiple proposed uses for the old cafeteria will be considered.

Pictures are attached for your reference and use.

Submitted by:

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Non-FEMA portion that houses Kitchen personnel and equipment



Another FEMA area to the west of the gym and north of the cafeteria



Looking at entire cafeteria seating area from NE corner of café/SE corner of practice gymnasium



This is a walkway from mid-east entrance into Junior High main building. A walkway and banister has been constructed for safer travel and access into FEMA building.



Practice Gym