



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

### **CH-UH Outlines Ongoing Facilities Planning Efforts**

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OH** – At its October 4 meeting, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board of Education discussed and approved contracts for master facilities planning services and a cost and constructability analysis with three architectural firms and Regency Construction in Lakewood, Ohio.

Funding for these services will come from the District's Permanent Improvement fund, which can only be used for this kind of planning, equipment, or actual construction. No operating fund will be used for these services.

"School and community leaders worked diligently for more than a year, performing a facilities review and laying the foundation for future facilities planning," said Superintendent Doug Heuer. "We were charged by the board of education to continue that work. After undergoing a lengthy and careful selection process, we have a team of experts who will be able to work with this community to come up with the best long-term comprehensive facilities plan for our students and the community."

According to Heuer, "There are many steps between today and a comprehensive master plan, and we will continue to engage the community throughout the entire process. During the first year's phase, it was a challenge to get community members beyond those who were actually on the committee to show up and participate," he noted.

"We know that, in this next phase, it's going to require a much more active approach, and Studio Techne is going to play a major role in helping us engage the broader community, not just the same faces we see at all the discussions," stated CH-UH communications director Angee Shaker. "Everyone in this community needs to follow and participate in this master planning process, regardless if you have children in our schools or not, because the outcome will shape the future of this community."

The engagement process will include: community and teacher workshops, focus groups, surveys, social media, blogging, community meetings, and fireside chats – smaller informal meetings without agendas at which community members can talk freely and openly. The district will continue to post all the details on the website [www.chuh.org](http://www.chuh.org).

The architectural firms the districted has contracted with:

- Fielding Nair International Architects, Minneapolis, MN
- Fanning Howey, Dublin, OH
- Studio Techne Architects, Cleveland Heights, OH

Cost and constructability analysis will be performed by:

- Regency Construction, Lakewood, OH