MEMORANDUM No. 17

TO: Kentucky School Architects
FROM: Tim Lucas, tim.lucas@education.ky.gov, District Facilities Branch
DATE: *Revised 3/21/11 changes from the original Memo of February 23, 2011 are shown in bold, italicized print*
RE: School Facilities Inventory and Categorization System (FICS)
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As directed by the General Assembly in SB 132 (2010), the Department of Education solicited Requests for Proposals from firms interested in;

- Developing an evaluation system to review the Commonwealth's school facilities which will be; fair and equitable, consider each building's physical condition and assess the educational suitability of each building
- Provide an evaluation of Category 3 and 4 buildings in the Commonwealth, and those category 5 buildings noted after September 2010.
- Construct a data system that will provide a web based tool to house all of the building information that is robust enough to allow statewide building information to queried and shared and simple enough to allow easy navigation and updating of the information

Over the last few months this effort [School Facilities Inventory and Categorization System (FICS)] has been undertaken by a group with representatives from KDE, Department of Finance, the SFCC and local districts. This effort has resulted in the Parson's Group/MGT having been contracted to undertake this task. Representatives of this group will begin the development of the assessment criteria immediately with the individual building evaluations following in March, 2011. The FICS is scheduled to be in place by the 2012 session of the General Assembly.

A list of the schools in the State to be evaluated was sent to all Superintendents by Commissioner Holliday on February 18, 2011. They were asked to review the list to determine if the buildings in their districts are actually correct and either a 3, 4 or 5. If schools are in better condition than this we will remove them from the list and review them under the second phase of the process. If there are other schools in your district that have not been included as a 3 or 4 and need to be added to the list please let us know. In addition we are reviewing the A/E evaluations and BG-1s that have been sent since the list was compiled to provide an adjustment as well.

With the undertaking of this new effort, as of February 23, 2011, Architects and Engineers are no longer required to evaluate buildings **on the current forms** in the development of the District Facilities Plans (DFP). Architects will still need to;

- *Review the district's buildings to the extent required to assist each district in the development of their DFP and to develop "estimates of probable renovation cost".*

- *Provide new inventories or update the current inventories for each building*
   - *KDE will email any current inventory information for your review on request.*

- *Provide new small scale plans or update the current small scale plans for each building*
   - *KDE will email any current small scale plans for your review on request.*

- ***Provide "estimates of probable renovation costs" to be included in the DFP.***
    - ***As part of the work effort undertaken by the Parson's Group/MGT, building component replacement costs will be undertaken for the buildings selected for study using the R. S. Means cost and component break downs. Once the first phase of the FICS is complete the cost information will be evaluated to see what role it will have in the Needs Assessment. This information will not be completed until toward the end of the year. Until that time we will continue to rely on our Architects and Engineers to provide the necessary "estimates of probable renovation costs" to Needs Assessment determination.***

We at KDE are excited about the possibilities that have been afforded our districts and the Department by the General Assembly. We look forward to being able to allow our school districts and design professionals to have better access to and use of our information.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at 502-564-4326.

Thanks,

Tim Lucas