

# RSMPP News

A Periodical Insight into the Award-Winning Rochester Schools Modernization Program



*George Mather Forbes School 4*

All Photographs provided by Flood & Flood (MBE)

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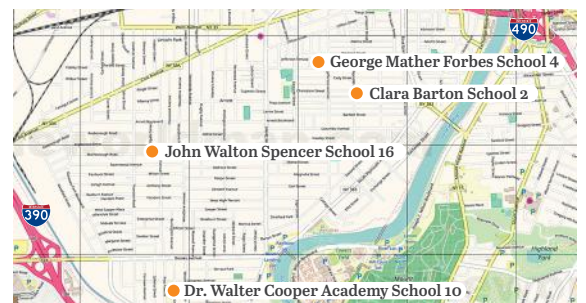
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## Modernization Comes to the Southwest Quadrant!

Located in the Mayor's Heights section, George Mather Forbes School 4 and Clara Barton School 2 represent two modernized educational and community landmarks, each with a focus to serve as model 21st century facilities that inspire their students and raise neighborhood civic pride.

The modernization of these two schools, in addition to the 19th Ward's John Walton Spencer School No. 16 and Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School 10, give the SW Quadrant of Rochester four completely modernized facilities that will comfortably accommodate the educational needs of Pre-K thru Grade 6 students who attend them for decades to come.

Due to the unprecedented spread of COVID-19 and the pandemic's impact on the Rochester City School District's decision to suspend normal in-school operations for students, the grand opening celebrations to formally welcome students and the community to School 2, School 4 and School 10 has been postponed until an appropriate time in 2021.





GEORGE MATHER  
FORBES

School 4

Originally constructed in 1935, George Mather Forbes School 4 is a two-story facility in the Southwest Quadrant that received extensive reconstruction. Building infrastructure (i.e., mechanical/electrical/plumbing) work included significant roof replacement work, masonry and parapet rehabilitation, the replacement of interior finishes, floors, ceilings and doors, and toilet room renovations. The historic gymnasium was completely restored, including a new sound system, hardwood floors, backboards and scoreboard.

Due to urban campus site constraints, a non-ADA accessible 1970 classroom addition was demolished to accommodate the construction of a five-classroom 17,800 square foot addition built on the same north-side footprint. Within that addition is a new

makerspace room that is not only technology-rich, but can be sub-divided into two full-sized project classrooms.

A special feature of the enlarged 70,723 square foot facility is a lower level with increased daylighting that houses the kitchen, cafeteria, servery area and art room. To provide users a visually inspired learning environment, adorning the walls are mounted canvases of informational and photographic displays identifying monumental events and locations in the history of Rochester and honoring famous people of color who made significant accomplishments locally, nationally and globally.

To accommodate the need for expansion of on-site parking and a separate bus loop, action is already underway to cooperatively acquire adjacent properties, relocate their residents and raze the houses on them in anticipation of creating a vibrant urban campus in the upcoming RSMP Phase III.



Key: 1. School Building 2. Classroom 3. Makerspace 4. Cafeteria 5. Library 6. Gymnasium



# CLARA BARTON School 2

Clara Barton School 2 is a two-story 60,000 square foot facility whose modernization has resulted in creating a transformative 21st century teaching environment. Originally built in 1959, the School received extensive renovations and a new two-story addition to accommodate a three-strand Pre-K thru 6th grade elementary program. Reconstruction included complete updating of the building infrastructure (i.e., mechanical/electrical/plumbing), interiors, roof replacement and a new curtain wall windows. Upgrades include the replacement of all interior finishes, classroom millwork, technology, unit ventilators and the addition of air conditioning. Since the original school lacked any auditorium-like space, a stage was added to create a multi-use gymnasium.

The new 18,375 square foot classroom addition on the south side houses eight classrooms, including self-contained special education and resource rooms. It also includes a new, two-story, technology-rich ‘makerspace’ that allows flexible furniture layouts for student projects as the true essence of dynamic learning experiences. The makerspace completes a new



courtyard that has been transformed into an outdoor classroom with dramatic pedestrian scaled lighting, walkways and seating.

Site improvements include an on-site bus loop off Reynolds Street, a new 45-car parking lot on the Southwest corner, new playground equipment and safety surfacing.



Key: 1. Bus Loop 2. Cafeteria Kitchen 3. Cafeteria 4. Makerspace 5. New Addition 6. Courtyard at twilight 7. Library 8. Classroom



# James Monroe High School Mural Unveiled



The James Monroe High School campus, which has undergone a complete re-development as one of the initial schools included in the RSMP Phase II, was selected to become the community setting for a painted mural that now serves as a truly inspiring work of art.

Sarah C. Rutherford, a Rochester-based mural artist, collaborated to create “We Rise as Tomorrow,” which illustrates students’ journeys of self and creative evolution while featuring elements that incorporate the suggestions made by a diverse team comprised of students, staff, executive and community members. The 1,100 square foot mural located in the School’s newly re-constructed cafeteria embodies the rich diversity of the wide range of stakeholders that comprise the Monroe ‘community’, while visually encouraging each to achieve their aspirations.

As the mural progressed, there was a consensus of agreement among onlookers that the right artist had been commissioned for this project when they observed how Rutherford embraced with care and consideration her role as a public artist. Her professional ethos is to respond with sensitivity to external environmental factors or community characteristics, and as Monroe’s users are already appreciating, produce a final result that celebrates the space and school as essential to those who encounter the work on a daily basis.

Monroe Student Body President, Kaiya Thomas, provided the inspired quote which served as a guiding theme for the mural’s visual context: “I refuse to settle for where I am now, when I know I have greater within me.”

# Edison Tech Ribbon Cutting Event

Edison Career and Technology High School hosted an incredibly successful ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the transformative renovations the RSMP has brought to the campus. Held in the newly reconstructed Critical and Timely Education (CTE) wing, the standing-room only crowd of students, staff, alumni, dignitaries, administrators, business leaders and news media proudly cheered the special occasion held at the largest school in Monroe County, with more than 1,800 students.

One of Principal Jacob Scott’s primary goals is to re-establish the school’s reputation. “The thing I want parents to know is that we have the most options of any school,” he said. “You can go to college, or you can go right to work and make not just a good living, but a great living.”

Mayor Lovely Warren concurred adding, “We’re letting the children know: We see you, we care about you, and we’re going to see that you get what you need to do your very, very best. What is happening at Edison needs to happen all across the District.”

The complete interior reconstruction of the southwest portion of the building was completely reorganized/reconstructed for instructional programs, and additional projects for the campus are in the plans for Phase III.



# Abraham Lincoln School 22 Celebration



The City of Rochester was a key destination in the legacy of two greats of American history who shared the same goal of eliminating slavery in America - President Abraham Lincoln and the world-renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The artist, Rochester’s Shawn Dunwoody, has nurtured multiple local and international collaborative relationships that have allowed him to place inspiring pieces of art across Rochester enriching the community livelihood.

The RJSCB commissioned Dunwoody for a full-sized bronze-toned bas-relief sculpture at Abraham Lincoln School 22 depicting an interpretation of one of the many encounters between Lincoln and Douglass. The initiative seeks to meld the arts into facilities being modernized as a visual learning tool, aligned perfectly with the artist’s vision to capture a significant historical moment to serve as a backdrop to the goals and accomplishments that students of the school will aspire to and achieve.

The unveiling event was welcomed by excited School 22 students, Principal Clinton Bell and his faculty, local dignitaries including Mayor Lovely Warren and other community leaders and members of the RJSCB to reveal this beautiful artwork located with distinction at the front entrance lobby.



# MLB Cleaning M/W/D/SBE Featured Business



Some of the best referrals to gain new participants for the BOP’s Instructional Series (IS) have come from previous graduates who have encouraged other business owners to join. Michelle L. Brown, CEO of MLB Cleaning Services, also received this recommendation and has not been disappointed as she gains tangible results that help her business thrive.

Ms. Brown started her business in 2016, and quickly realized that her janitorial business could attain greater growth by pursuing public sector clients. She submitted applications for various certifications and successfully acquired all that she qualified for: Minority, Women, Disadvantaged and Small Business Enterprise (M/W/D/SBE). But it was through participation in the BOP where she truly learned how to maximize the potential those certifications could bring. After being recognized for her persistence as a graduate from the IS Cycle 5, she then enrolled in

the BOP’s Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP) where she feels she gained the most benefit sharpening her business skills with specific tutorial assistance from The Pike Company.

With the M/W/D/SBE certifications in hand and 15 employees, MLB has found success as a subcontractor and a prime on RSMP project including the contract fulfilled last summer to clean Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School 10 for its grand re-opening. Likewise, participation in the MPP has contributed to the company securing four commercial COVID-19 disinfection contracts through RSMP networking. Ms. Brown continues to welcome constructive advice and training from BOP and Pike. Now she helps advocate recruitment for BOP offering referrals to others while advising, “You must have determination and be willing to work before and after the classes in order to succeed. But hard work pays off!”



## BOP Instructional Series

# CONGRATULATIONS CYCLE 7!

- Cleanaholics
- D.B.I. Management Group, LLC
- Ebony Nicole Smith Consulting, LLC
- G.M. Cleaning
- Handle With Care Moving Services
- Haynes & Associates, Inc.
- Major Idea Consulting
- Rashakim Abmilechh, LLC
- Recovery Houses of Rochester, Inc.
- Somerset Consulting Services
- The Crazy Lab Boutique

The Rochester Schools Modernization Program (RSMP) congratulates the eleven participants in Cycle 7 of the BOP Instructional Series! These businesses dedicated 18 weeks of



their time and energy 2-nights a week to enhance their business operations through instruction on various topics such as social media marketing, strategic planning, estimating, costing & pricing, planning & scheduling, contract basics, human resources and business banking. Among the dignitaries attending the Completion Ceremony were: RJSCB Chair and City Commissioner Norman Jones, while presenting certificates of recognition were the Director of Special Projects & Education Initiatives for the City of Rochester, Sandra Simon and Patricia Anthony representing State Senator Joseph Robach. We certainly recognize the commitment they have made to their emerging businesses, so please join us in congratulating the successful class!

*The Business Opportunities Program (BOP) is designed to utilize the resources of the RSMP to enhance the potential growth of Minority, Women, Disadvantaged and Small Businesses in the Greater Rochester area. It is intended to increase the number of certified M/W/D/SBEs capable of successfully competing on a variety of business pursuits, and improve the general business owner's organization and management skills by exposing them to best practices and teaching them strategic tools to enhance the growth of their company.*



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