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Press Release

January 31, 2007 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Dana Schafer, Coordinator of Community Relations - Osceola School District - 407-870-4007  
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**NEW PROTOTYPE SCHOOL TO BE BUILT AT HARMONY**

HARMONY, FL - At the Osceola County School Board Workshop held last night, **Joseph Toth**, a Schenkel Shultz representative and Principal of the architectural firm, provided details on the new prototype elementary school to be built at Harmony. Schenkel Shultz is one of the area's foremost experts in school design.

In the summer of 2006, the School District directed Schenkel Shultz to thoroughly re-evaluate the District's two-story prototype design, and challenged the Architect to re-think the existing design. This was done with the intent of simplifying the elements of construction and bringing functional clarity and organization to the layout of the building. The new prototype design, to be forever called "The Osceola Plan", has been created through a collaborative effort between the Osceola School District, Schenkel Shultz Architecture and Harmony Development. "This design is the result of many months of evaluating how to 'enhance the quality of education by increasing efficiency, flexibility and accessibility for the community-oriented school'", said Mr. Toth.

Highlights of the evening included a summary on:

- Construction - reducing costs and making the building more efficient by:
  - Reducing from 122,000 to 100,000 square feet
  - Reducing and simplifying circulation and mechanical space
  - Simplifying the structural bay spacing
  - Reducing lobby square footage
  - Reducing cost through repetition of structural members/architectural components

Site Planning – optimizing site usage by:

- Building flexibility into current Bus Loop for multiple uses
- Organizing site for community after-hours access and use
- Creating an iconic signature building for the surrounding community to enjoy

Toth stated that this prototype could be built on other sites in multiple phases, even though the Harmony site will be completed all at once. **The estimated savings to the School District by using this effective design is over \$2 million, and could be potentially greater based on the simplicity of the design layout.**

**Eric Houston**, Assistant Superintendent, in charge of Facilities and Maintenance for the Osceola School District, told the Board Members he felt this prototype will be copied by school districts throughout the State. Houston praised the Harmony Development team for their input and help over

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