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New Prototype School To Be Built At Harmony

"The Osceola School District has found a true partner in education with Harmony Development Company. They continue to set the bar high for how a developer can work hand-in-hand with a public school system to ensure that schools are the cornerstones to vibrant communities," said Osceola School District Superintendent Blaine Muse.

Harmony's President, **Jim Lentz**, also praised the District for their attention to detail and willingness to take into account how this facility will impact the community.

Board members were very enthusiastic and wanted to know when this prototype would start construction. School Board Member Tom Greer stated the general contractor is slated to be selected next week.

Toth provided the Board with a timeline, which anticipates construction to begin in July 2007 so the school can meet the August 2008 opening schedule. The site will front Schoolhouse Road and be directly accessible to Highway 192/441.

The facility will initially house grades K-8 until a new middle school is constructed in the area. At that point, this facility will become a permanent K-5 school. Currently, a satellite campus for Hickory Tree Elementary School is open in Harmony.

"One of the most important things we can do as a business is support education through this type of partnership," said **Jim Lentz**, president of Harmony Development Company. "It's a win-win situation for everyone. We appreciate the School District's ability to work with us for the greater good of our children; they deserve a stable educational foundation."

As part of the final agreement, Harmony Development Company donated the land (10 acres valued at \$4,000,000), will subsidize over \$600,000 to help operate the interim satellite school until the new school is completed, and will provide a \$20,000,000 loan for the new school. This will allow the district to meet the growth needs in this part of the county in a timely manner.

Harmony will have the newest school facilities in Osceola County, housing students attending grades K-12. Harmony High School opened in August 2004.

This isn't the first time Harmony has played a role in bettering education. From various scholarships, sponsorships and land donation for the building of Harmony High School, Harmony has always had education on the forefront of their list of what's important.

For more information on the Town of Harmony, call 407-891-8358 or visit www.HarmonyFL.com. The Harmony Welcome Center is open Monday - Saturday from 10am - 6pm and Sunday from 11am - 6pm.

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