

ESPLOST EXPLORER



Parsons, Inc., the firm which provides program management services to the School District, is proud to present this newsletter with information related to ESPLOST construction projects.

Reaching Out to Our Community

PARSONS



Vanguard



THOMAS & HUTTON

June 2016

Volume 3, Issue 1

PENNY POWER II: “Team” Building



Islands High School Gymnasium Addition
Completed August 2015

The ESPLOST Construction Program is building student productivity in the classroom and beyond. Strengthening academic performance and contributing to extracurricular gains, the initiative is literally having ground floor impact in ways only dreamt of previously.

In high school basketball, winning seasons can be elusive treasures. They are often the stuff of tarnished dreams buried deep in the chests of wishful players in need of a miracle. Such was the case for the Islands High School Sharks—before ESPLOST II delivered the foundation for much more solid footing this year.

A number of opponents found it unexpectedly challenging to swim with the Sharks in the 2015-2016 season. Both the girls and boys squads enjoyed an impressive string of wins, after a bleak history on and off court that had left players and their schoolmates discouraged. The teams (that respectively had a 0-27 and 11-16 record last year) produced noteworthy winning seasons. In a recent on-campus interview, players credited the school's new gymnasium with sparking a turnaround that enabled them to make enormous splashes throughout the county.

Center Alejandro Cabrera feels the new gym had a significant impact on the teams' success.

“The court, it’s hardwood, so there really wasn’t much slipping; there wasn’t dust on the court as there was in the old gym,” he said. “And the lighting is a lot brighter than the other gym. The new one felt like a whole different environment when we were actually playing.” The junior believes that finally having a regulation-size court facilitated practices and conditioning. He said being able to run full-length distances enhanced preparation.



IHS Sharks

[L-R: J'Mya Cutter (PG), Alejandro Cabrera (C), Justin Cave (SG), Trae Broadnax (PG), Hugh Durham (SG), Elizabeth Sierzant (SG)]

Guard Justin Cave pointed out another significant change. “The new gym attracted new fans, so we had a better fan base.” He said having so much support felt sensational and enabled them to go undefeated at home. “It motivates me to get better for next season, to continue the streak.”

Cave’s teammates agree that the surges of energy produced by a packed house boosted their play. Echoing his sentiment, Cabrera recalled the home game against BC. “It was a really close game, but once we took off, it was super loud in there, and it just felt good having the encouragement of our fans; I felt like it made us play better.”

As incoming freshmen, guards J'Mya Cutter

Inside this issue:

“Team” Building
(cont.) 2

Subcontractor
Profiles 3

Board Member
Perspectives 5

Contract Breakdown 6

Project Updates 7

Faces of Progress 11

PENNY POWER II: “Team” Building (cont.)

and Elizabeth Sierzant practiced in the old gym once during the summer. Both of them winced when recalling that the floor’s condition caused the squad great concern. Sierzant said, “The floor was so bad. It was dusty and had stuff all over it. And a big lump on one side.”

Cutter believes that being able to step onto a new home court allowed them to set safety concerns aside and quickly improve practices and game performance. She said, “We gelled as early as the second game of the season.”

Also, in the old building, dim lighting made play more challenging, and sparse seating made attendance uncomfortable when visiting teams drew larger than normal crowds. Sierzant said, “Last year (when she was a spectator) Windsor brought their fans and there weren’t enough seats.”

As for the 2013-2014 season when the boys won only two games, many times the Sharks endured demoralizing performance-related experiences.

“It didn’t feel that good; we were like the laughing stocks of the county,” guard Hugh Durham said. He and his teammates recalled being laughed at whenever they walked into a few other schools during JV games and warmups. Cutter and Sierzant said the girls team felt unsupported at the beginning of the school term. And, in some instances, they felt disrespected.

This year the girls had a 15-12 season, and the boys won 74% of the time, boasting a record of 20-7. Members of both teams say, as a result, they went from being perceived by some as pretenders to being respected by many as real contenders. Unanimously, they believe the

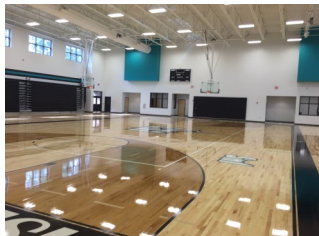


IHS Weight Room

distinctive difference is their coaching staffs (headed by Karl DeMasi and Jamie Salas respectively) could realize greater productivity with the tools the new facility provides. The IHS addition also includes a state-of-the-art weight room—making standard strength and conditioning equipment readily accessible.

For both squads, shaking a losing reputation was galvanizing—for players and fans alike.

“Having so much support is really exciting,” freshman guard Trae Broadnax said, agreeing with his fellow Sharks about the electricity of the 2015-2016 season. It’s an atmosphere these athletes clearly feel even when walking through common areas at Islands.



On the way to the gym (at interview time), a quick pause at the cafeteria netted Justin Cave high praise and a promise from custodian Melvin King. “I’m coming to some of your games this year ‘cause I like the way you shoot,” King said. “He’s going to light it up, and I’m going to be in the stands to support him. Nobody’ll beat ‘em at home ‘cause they’re good like that. It’s awesome; they’re going to stand by that new gym.”

With both teams losing only one player to graduation, the Sharks say they’re prepared to continue their winning ways next season.

“Nobody’ll beat ‘em at home ‘cause they’re good like that. It’s awesome; they’re going to stand by that new gym.”

Melvin King
Islands High Custodian



Did You Know?

- The old Islands High School gymnasium is being converted into a 450-seat auditorium.
- The new Garrison auditorium building will have classrooms for band, chorus, theater, and a new piano lab.

INVESTMENT IMPACT: Subcontractor Profiles

CLIFTON CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Site preparation specialist Gina Clifton Mincey measures the value of ESPLOST II in job procurement possibilities. She says, “Opportunity, to me, means everything. That’s what it’s all about.”

For the head of Clifton Construction, Inc., the schools improvement initiative provided a much-needed infusion of contract revenue during very challenging times. Mincey says the program kept her Savannah-based company afloat when its future was most uncertain.

In 2007, after 12 years of successfully completing an array of local contracts (involving clearing, demolition, erosion control, grading, excavation, site utilities, site concrete, paving, and material hauling), Mincey bought out her sister’s partnership interest and financed the purchase of several pieces of new equipment. Then in 2008, when the national economy fell into crisis, she says the work spigot virtually turned off. Her business saw jobs drop by 50%, triggering a workforce cut from 60 to 20. With revenue only trickling in and the banks on its heels, Clifton was in dire straits.

Spurred by her faith and dedication to her work family, Mincey refused to see her business fail. With her husband and children by her side at the office, she searched for ways to overcome the drought. “I had family (what Mincey considers her employees as) counting on a paycheck every Friday.”

Practically born into the business, Mincey sought direction from her father, Harold Clifton, who had owned construction-related concerns for decades. One of her favorite quips is “Instead of having a mobile over my crib, I had 20 dump trucks in the backyard.” She grew up helping her parents with office work and eventually became integrally involved in managing daily operations.



Gina Clifton Mincey

Her father reassured her that, in time, an answer would come—as long as she didn’t give up.

So Mincey continued to search for a solution. Eventually, she strengthened her enterprise’s standing by following guidance offered by certifications specialist Arneja

Riley. Clifton Construction (solely owned by Mincey) became a certified woman-owned business, positioning it to prove its worth on projects requiring contractor diversity. And Riley encouraged Mincey to network at the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center.

Ultimately, in early 2011, Clifton won the complete site work award for Chatham County’s largest ever capital improvement project—the detention center expansion.

Completed on time and within budget, the contract buoyed the company, enabling it to contend for and win a number of ESPLOST II awards. And, over the course of the SCCPS program, Clifton has performed work at Coastal Middle, Gadsden, Heard, Islands, and Low. Currently, it’s handling a 1½-year-long project at May Howard.

Because of Clifton’s ESPLOST II involvement, Mincey sees a much brighter future. “I can tell you how thankful I am that the school board has given my company, my family (employees), the opportunity. It kept me in the ball game! I still have a long way to go, but I am still standing!”

“Opportunity, to me, means everything. That’s what it’s all about.”

Gina Clifton Mincey



May Howard Rendering



Coastal Middle Gym Addition

ESPLOST investments stimulate local contractor development.

B&B DEMOLITION & CONTRACTORS

For Bobby “Sarge” Adams, battling adversity is nothing new. A disabled Vietnam veteran, he had fought through many a challenge long before confronting the uncertainties of entrepreneurship.

During his over 20 years in the U.S. Army, he served three tours in Europe and two in the Far East (serving at the same time as the late Attorney Sage Brown). His final military station was Ft. Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, where, in 1986, he retired as an E-7, attaining the rank of master sergeant. Afterward, the Albany, Georgia, native made Savannah home. About planting himself here, Sarge (as he’s widely known) says, “I’ve been in Savannah longer than any other place.”

Fourteen years into his retirement, he started B&B Demolition & Contractors—despite the fact that in 2000, he had to use a wheelchair full-time. For nearly 16 years, in addition to handling demolition, B&B has been meeting a variety of construction needs. Among its early credits is the installation of the African American Family Monument on River Street in 2002. The company not only erected the statue, but also it set the surrounding benches in place.

Steered toward the ESPLOST bidding process by the late Mayor Floyd Adams, B&B’s first award was as a second-tier subcontractor, providing workers for the Garrison K-8 construction project in 2012. Sarge says the mentorship supplied by that job’s primary subcontractor proved invaluable. He counts it as the best ESPLOST II experience he’s had. “The willingness of the first-tier sub to put me under his wings and teach me things was great.”

The Garrison collaboration led to a similar contract with the same company during Beach



Bobby “Sarge” Adams

High’s 2013 replacement—supplying more than 20 electrical, plumbing, and concrete laborers.

Having further established its capacity to deliver, B&B was set to expand its participation. “One of the relationships I made at Beach, turned into a lucrative partnership

supplying steel for Port Wentworth Elementary and being on call to direct steel trucks to the site.” Also, Sarge’s laborers installed cabinets throughout the facility.

This year B&B won first-tier subcontractor awards on the demolition of two elementary schools. On April 4, it began work on Haven. And it was slated to do the same for Spencer on April 11, though the start date was pushed back a week. “Handling both of these was definitely a shot in the arm for my business.”

Sarge is glad to see more local craftsmen being included in the ESPLOST Construction Program. “With ESPLOST II, locals got to participate more as operatives,” he says. “We had more opportunities to make contacts and to display our talents.” He adds that ESPLOST III can even be much better in terms of keeping more of the money in the Savannah-Chatham community.

“With ESPLOST II, locals . . . had more opportunities to make contacts and to display our talents.”

Bobby “Sarge” Adams



Spencer Demolition



Spencer Demolition

The ESPLOST Construction Program spotlights local enterprises’ capacity for quality performance.

INVESTMENT IMPACT: Board Member Perspectives

DISTRICT 1

We had a great year at Hesse and Isle of Hope as teachers, staff, students, and families filled the halls and classrooms of these beautiful, state-of-the-art new buildings with laughter and learning.



Julie M. Wade

We were excited to finish the Heard renovation, the first of its kind for an ESPLOST project. We added a new common area, media center, and cafetorium, and the school looks brand new, at a fraction of the cost to taxpayers. We appreciate the patience of all who lived and learned at a construction site for three years. The result was well worth it.

DISTRICT 3

District 3 will be welcoming a state-of-the-art performing arts center at Garrison K-8 next year. This new arena will provide a broad platform for drama presentations, dance, vocal recitals, and, of course, band and orchestra performances. We are very excited that this ESPLOST II-funded project will create a whole new vista of opportunity for our Garrison students.



Cornelia H. Hall



DISTRICT 4

Staff and students were very excited when we cut the ribbon on the new gym at Coastal and converted the old gym to a performance space, and I was very happy that we could provide these enhanced facilities for our students. It was only through ESPLOST dollars that we were able to get it done. The fact that we brought it in almost \$1 million under budget shows that we are being good stewards of the tax dollars entrusted to us.

At Islands, the new gymnasium and renovated cafeteria have gone a long way towards making the former middle school building into a proper high school, and I know that the Islands community is looking forward to being able to use the new performance hall being built in the old gym. These projects are great examples of why ESPLOST has been such a boon not only for the schools in District 4, but all of Chatham County.

DISTRICT 5

ESPLOST II construction projects have had a positive impact in our area. Hodge is completed and Haven is being rebuilt.

Work is continuing on the baseball/softball fields at Beach. DeRenne has received a paved sidewalk from Clinch Street up to the school building. This



Shawn A. Kachmar



Irene G. Hines

promotes safety as students walk to school daily. And, finally, plans are being drawn for the new wing at Largo-Tibet. Thank you, Savannah!!!

DISTRICT 8

Thank you Savannah-Chatham County for voting for ESPLOST II. The pennies have added up. Rice Creek 3-8 School in the Rice Creek and Rice Hope communities is a beautiful school built with ESPLOST II funds. It is a beacon in the northwest portion of Chatham County, accommodating the children from Port Wentworth and surrounding areas. The faculty, teachers, students, parents, and I are so proud of the new school.

Brock Elementary is also a beautiful new school being built on Stratford Street in West Savannah. It will be completed and ready for occupancy August 2016. The community, faculty, students, and parents are overjoyed about the new school; and so am I.

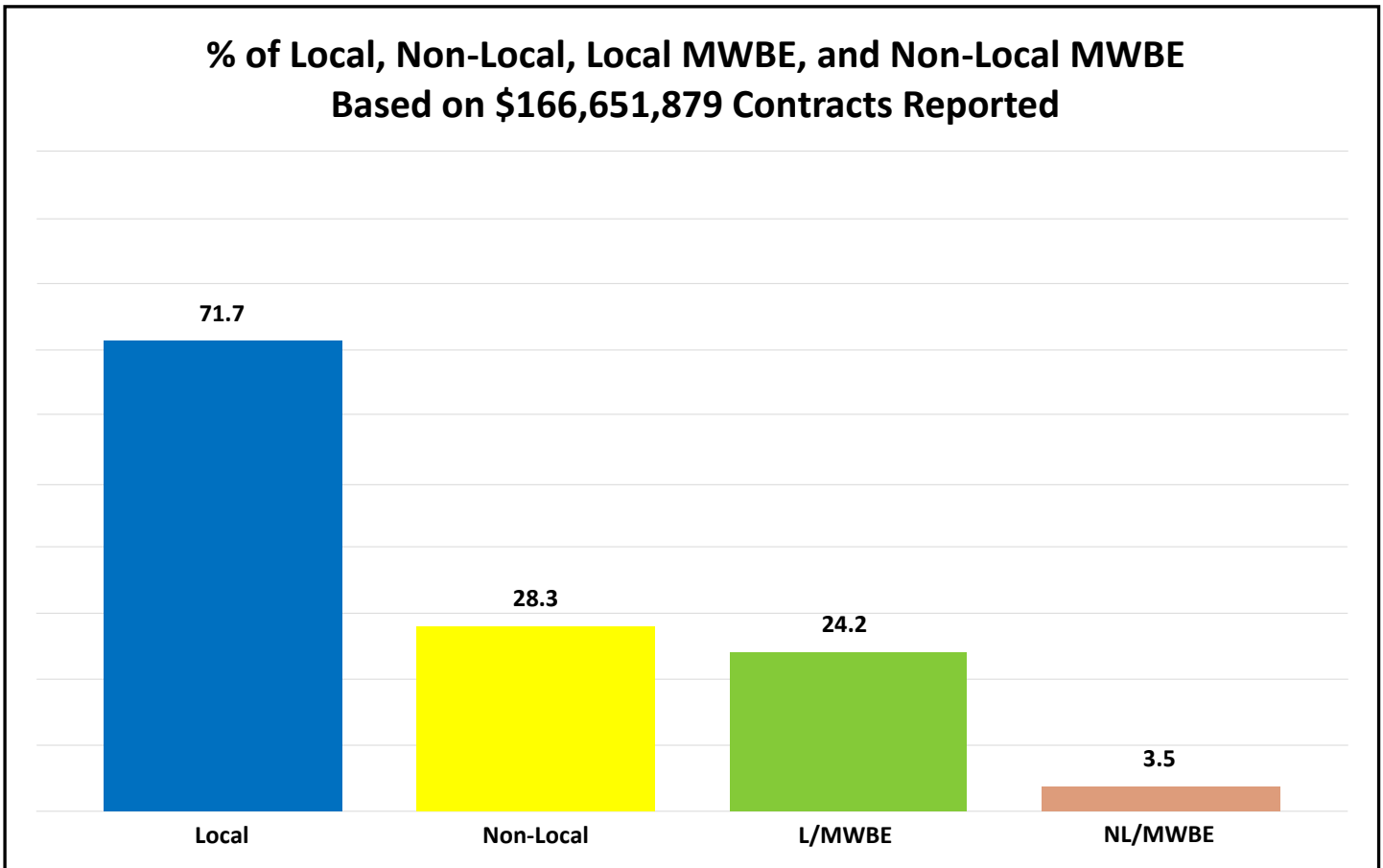
One of the best schools in the nation (with a 100 percent graduation rate), Woodville-Tompkins Technical & Career High School will be getting some new laboratories for Safety, Aviation, Welding, Automotive Services, and Collision Repair, as well as some general classrooms. The campus is already beautiful but will be more so when the additional work is completed June 2017.



Ruby D. Jones

Every new school promised in ESPLOST II will be delivered.

ESPLOST II CONTRACT BREAKDOWN REPORT - May 2016



This graph is a summary of all EPSLOST II construction, design, and engineering contracts and subcontracts reported to the Program Manager. Each contract or subcontract is reported as either a local or non-local business contract and as a local or non-local Minority Women Business Enterprise (MWBE). Local is defined as a business located in Chatham, Bryan, or Effingham County.

Did You Know?

- By standardizing and bulk purchasing all ESPLOST II-related furniture, the district is projected to save up to \$3,120,000—as compared to individual school furniture purchases.
- The new cafeteria at Hubert will have long-lasting vinyl tile—in keeping with the district’s goal of sustainable construction.

ESPLOST II PROJECT UPDATES

COMPLETED SCHOOLS

Hodge



New K-5 School for 650 students
90,600 square feet

43 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
Occupied in January 2015

Total Cost \$17,512,000
Completed under budget

Hesse School

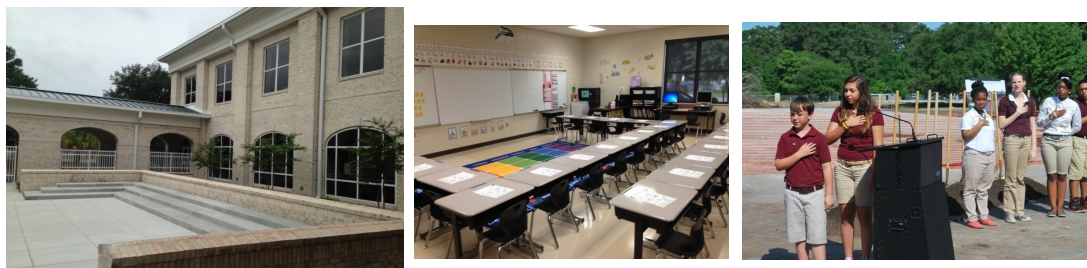


New K-8 School for 1,150 students
145,500 square feet

69 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
Occupied in August 2015

Total Cost \$28,400,000
Completed under budget

Isle of Hope



New K-8 School for 800 students
124,700 square feet

50 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
Occupied in August 2015

Total Cost \$22,900,000
Completed under budget

Rice Creek



New 3-8 School for 1,000 students
142,600 square feet

61 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
Occupied in August 2015

Total Cost \$28,970,000
Completed under budget

Coastal Middle



Addition and Renovations
17,500 square feet new

New Gymnasium seating 800 & Performing Arts Room Renovations
Occupied in March 2015

Total Cost \$3,670,000
Completed under budget

Islands



Addition and Renovations - New Gymnasium seating 1,240; New Science Classrooms, Locker Rooms, Weight Room; Remodeling of Cafeteria

34,800 square feet new

Occupied in August 2015

Total Cost \$8,950,000

Completed under budget

Heard



Addition and Renovations
Phase I - New Classroom Wing
Occupied in March 2014

Phase II - New Cafeteria & Classrooms; Media Center & Office Renovations
Occupied in January 2016

33,700 square feet new

Total Cost \$9,430,000

Completed on budget

SCHOOLS IN PROGRESS

Brock Elementary

New K-5 School for 650 students
93,500 square feet
43 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
On Schedule to Complete August 2016
Total Cost \$20,780,000



Hubert Middle

Addition
11,700 square feet new
New Kitchen and Cafeteria
On Schedule to Complete August 2016
Total Cost \$4,830,000



May Howard Elementary

New K-5 School for 750 students
106,100 square feet
48 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
On Schedule to Complete August 2017
Total Cost \$25,150,000



Haven Elementary

New K-5 School for 650 students
 93,731 square feet
 43 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
 Projected Completion - August 2017
 Total Projected Budget \$21,150,000



Low Elementary

New K-5 School for 950 students
 128,550 square feet
 62 Classrooms and Instructional Areas
 (including a wing for medically fragile students)
 (students from Thunderbolt Elementary will attend also)
 Projected Completion - August 2017
 Total Projected Budget - \$30,189,130



Garrison K-8

Addition
 Performance Arts Center seating an audience of almost 600
 26,416 square feet new
 (including arts classrooms, set design space & box office)
 Projected Completion - Summer 2017
 Total Projected Budget - \$8,384,676



Woodville-Tompkins

Addition
 Technical Lab
 30,020 square feet new
 (including 2 general classrooms to complement lab classrooms; classroom additions for Public Safety, Aviation, Welding, Automotive Services & Collision Repair)
 Projected Completion - Summer 2017
 Total Projected Budget - \$6,272,500



Did You Know?

In preparation for the demolition of its old buildings, Low Elementary School was successfully moved during Spring Break to a modular campus, which was set up next to the school. It will remain in the modulars for the 2016-17 school year and occupy its new facility in August 2017.

FACES OF PROGRESS



Voting to approve ESPLOST III will be in November.



Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

www.sccpss.com

Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education



Superintendent of Schools
Thomas B. Lockamy, Jr., Ed.D.



Ms. Jolene Byrne, Board President



Mrs. Julie M. Wade
District 1



Dr. Dionne L. Hoskins
District 2



Mrs. Cornelia H. Hall
District 3



Mr. Shawn A. Kachmar
District 4



Mrs. Irene G. Hines
District 5



Mr. Larry Lower
District 6



Mr. Michael Johnson
District 7



Ms. Ruby D. Jones
District 8

Parsons Program Management Team

The Parsons Program Management Team remains connected to the Savannah-Chatham community. Our goals are to communicate expectations for all phases of ESPLOST II Construction Projects, to ensure that the latest project information is readily accessible, and to respond to questions and concerns in a timely fashion. We remain committed to providing the best available project updates.

PARSONS

**Savannah-Chatham County
Schools Program Management**

208 Bull Street, Room 316
Savannah, GA 31401
(912) 395-1326



Vanguard



THOMAS & HUTTON

We are committed to ensuring that “the power of pennies” is having a positive impact throughout the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.