

The Elyria Schools passed a bond issue in November 2016 to build five new elementary schools. The plan also included numerous locally funding initiatives, including a new athletic complex.

The OFCC co-funded the project at 67% share. The overall project cost, excluding LFIs, was projected at approximately \$120 million. (More than \$140 million with LFIs.)

When the bond issue passed in 2016, "hardened" spaces like storm shelters were not figured into the cost of the project.

It was determined that the Elyria Schools project would be built over several years in two phases. The first phase included three school sites: two K-4 elementary schools and a PK-8 campus. The second phase was to include the building of the final two school sites: two K-8 campuses. The "hardened" spaces requirement would have effected only the second phase creating disparity among our student population.

Early in the planning and estimating stages, the district and it's design/construction team confronted multiple issues out of the team's control that were leading to significant cost overages.

Among these were:

- Multiple natural disasters (hurricanes, fires) causing supply and demand issues for labor and materials
- General shortage of skilled labor
- Uptick in the economy leading to more new construction by private companies
- OFCC approval of nearly \$1 Billion in new schools construction in FY 2015
- An overestimation of enrollment decline in Elyria (currently up by 300-400 students)
- Cost per square footage costs came in higher than projected
- High construction fees imposed by the city

These issues exposed potential cost overruns of \$30 million more than originally projected.

Add to this a new mandate by the state for "hardened" spaces in the new buildings to serve as storm shelters.

The additional cost of these spaces would have taken the project over budget another \$2 million on top of the overages already projected above.

The district and design team proposed options to the community that included scaling the plan down from five buildings to three. The community objected and asked the school board and district design team to "go back to the drawing board" to find cuts that preserved the five-

building plan and stayed within the original budget which was approximately \$140 million with the LFIs included in the total project cost.

Senator Manning was aware of the full-scope of the dilemma facing the district. She introduced the storm shelter moratorium amendment to relieve Elyria and other districts that were facing the same issues of this additional cost.

Voters in Elyria had passed a bond issue without storm shelters identified in the cost structure so when the additional cost was imposed, there was no additional money locally or otherwise to support it which is why Senator Manning saw a need to intervene.

The district's safety plans already accounted for severe weather and other threatening scenarios without storm shelters.

To relieve the district of this additional cost allowed the district design team to focus on reducing cost overages in other areas so the basics of the plan could be achieved.