



Southwestern Ohio
Educational Purchasing
Council



PRESS RELEASE

Wilmington School Board Approves \$220K Contract for HVAC Project Scoping

WILMINGTON, Ohio — The Wilmington City Schools Board of Education has approved a \$220,000 contract with AGM Energy Services to oversee a districtwide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrade project.

Curt Bone, the district's director of business operations, said the agreement was reached through the **Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council's design-build program**, which streamlines public construction procurement.

The initiative is part of the district's 2026 HVAC and controls upgrade project and its five-year capital spending plan. Bone noted that many of the schools' automated environmental controls have not been upgraded since the 1980s. The upcoming multiyear project will impact more than 460,000 square feet of building space, with a primary focus on the district's elementary schools.

Under the contract, AGM Energy Services will provide criteria engineering services. As an independent firm, AGM will establish the technical requirements and foundational scope of the project before it is sent out for competitive bidding.

"AGM Energy Services is going to put together the scope of the work for us," Superintendent Tim Dettwiller said during the board meeting.

Bone said the energy firm will help the district prepare specific documents to present to companies prequalified through the educational purchasing council.

The \$220,000 engineering fee represents 3% of the total estimated project cost, which school officials project could reach \$8 million.

Dettwiller told the board that hiring an outside firm to outline the project's technical parameters would protect the school system from future budgetary issues.

"We need to do this. It's beyond any of our abilities," Dettwiller said. "We definitely need to hire them to put this together for us so we can get good bids."

He cautioned that moving forward without a strict engineering blueprint often leads to expensive change orders that drive up costs.

"If you don't do something like this, then you're just kind of guessing and could end up asking for a change order," Dettwiller said. "So we don't want to have that."

The district has not set a formal timeline for bidding or construction, noting that work will be spaced out across several years to limit disruptions to students.

"It will be a multi-year project to try to minimize the effect on the classroom instruction time," Bone said. "After the scope and selection of a company, we will better understand timelines with their scope of work and equipment lead time."

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