

Scott City Schools

FEMA Safe Room
Visual and Performing Arts Center

Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1 When did the FEMA Safe Room start and when will it be done?

Timeline Information

Early in the fall of 2010, the Scott City School District began work on a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Safe room grant. The grant is designed as 75% FEMA funded and 25% District funded. In December of 2010, the \$1,500,000 grant was submitted to FEMA for review.

On April 16, 2012, the School received official notice from the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) that FEMA had awarded the school district the "Phase I" funds to proceed with the architectural/engineering designs for the facility.

On June 13, 2012, the Board of Education selected Dille & Traxel, LLC, from Poplar Bluff, for the project architectural/engineering services, and Toth & Associates, from Springfield, Mo, as the Project Manager.

In October of 2012, architectural plans for the facility, that were approved by the Board, were submitted to FEMA for review.

On June 21, 2013, FEMA gave approval for "Phase II" of the grant to proceed with bidding and construction of the facility.

In September 2013, the Board received and reviewed the bids that were submitted by contractors. Because 3 years had passed, since the grant had been developed, the construction costs had risen. At that time, the District submitted a request to FEMA for additional funds to proceed with construction.

On April 2, 2014, FEMA notified the District the request for the additional funds had been approved, designating an April 2015 completion date for the project.

With the critical timeline set by FEMA, the Board of Education met in special Session on April 7, 2014, after having met the notice of open public meeting law requirement. The Board voted at that meeting to accept the bid from Zoellner Construction of Perryville, in the amount of \$2,059,000, for the construction of the Safe Room.

On June 16, 2014, a ground breaking ceremony was held.

On June 30, 2014, Zoellner construction began moving equipment to the site for building purposes.

The deadline for the FEMA Safe Room to be occupied is by April 21, 2015. The Performing Arts Center within the safe room is to be completed by June 19, 2015.

Question #2 How strong is the Safe Room and how big is it?

The Safe Room is designed to withstand winds up 250 mph or winds from an EF-5 tornado. The Scott City Safe room is approximately 8900 square feet with plans to house approximately 1,275 people standing shoulder to shoulder in the event of a tornado. The size of the safe room and the number of people it is designated to hold is determined based upon a formula provided by FEMA.

Question #3 Where is it going to be built and why is it going there?

It is being built on the west end of the property between the tennis courts and bus parking lot. For the grant, FEMA required 2 locations to be chosen, a primary site and a secondary site. The construction site was chosen as our preferred or primary site because of the ease of access to the facility. The secondary site was located between the back of the school and the football field. FEMA studied both options and agreed that the primary site, between the tennis courts and the bus lot, was the better choice.

Another site initially considered was the east end of the campus, but we didn't want to use lose access to the elementary playground or the ball field facility. The playground and ball field gets used daily by our students, and the ball field is often utilized by city little league teams.

The primary site was the best choice because the facility is being constructed with the idea that it will be available to community members for emergency situations during non-school hours. In addition, with the Safe Room being utilized as a Performing Arts Center, it will be easier for patrons to access events held at the center. A third reason was that this part of the property was used very little and provided the least amount of disruption to current school activities.

Question #4 In the event of a tornado, can the elementary students get there in time, and will they have to go outside in the rain?

Yes, they will have time. No, they will not have to go outside into the rain. FEMA has approved the placement of the facility, taking into account both of these items.

As a district, we monitor the weather very carefully. As soon as severe weather is threatening or a TORNADO WATCH is issued, the members of the staff are put on alert to remain on campus and be prepared to take emergency action in the event a TORNADO WARNING is issued. Whenever a TORNADO WARNING is issued for Scott County, we immediately move to the "Safe Zone" areas. With technology available today, we are much better able to track storms, which will allow us ample time to move all students to the FEMA Safe room.

A corridor access will be created to the FEMA Safe room in the high school hallway known as West Lane. The new corridor will be located between the high school library and the high

school teachers' lounge. There will be an awning that connects the current building to the FEMA Safe Room, so shelter will exist between buildings for students to walk from building to building. When conditions require it, all students will use this access.

Question # 5 How are we going to get to the football field, the track, the baseball, and softball areas?

To get to a football game or the track facility, once the project is finished, people will walk the same way to the field. A sidewalk will replace the bus lane. During construction, this area may be closed and we will reroute fans.

To get to the softball or baseball field, we will be creating a new road around the FEMA shelter, on the most western part of the property.

Question # 6 How will the public have access during non-school hours in the event of a tornado?

The Scott City Police Department and the Scott City Schools have formed a close partnership over the years. In talking with the Police, a trained storm spotter is generally posted in the area of the school; often times in the parking lot. The Police Department will be given a key for access into the facility which can be used by the spotter to open the facility in the event of a tornado. The Safe Room was designed utilizing the population numbers of people in close proximity to the school, who would be able to access the shelter during an emergency.

Question # 7 What's going to be in the building?

The building will serve the district as a visual and performing arts center. For the performing arts, the building will hold an auditorium with seating for approximately 300 and a theatrical stage. The auditorium will host such things as plays, band concerts, and other special events as well as be used for classroom space for speech and theatre classes. For the visual arts, the lobby area will serve as a gallery to show student art work.

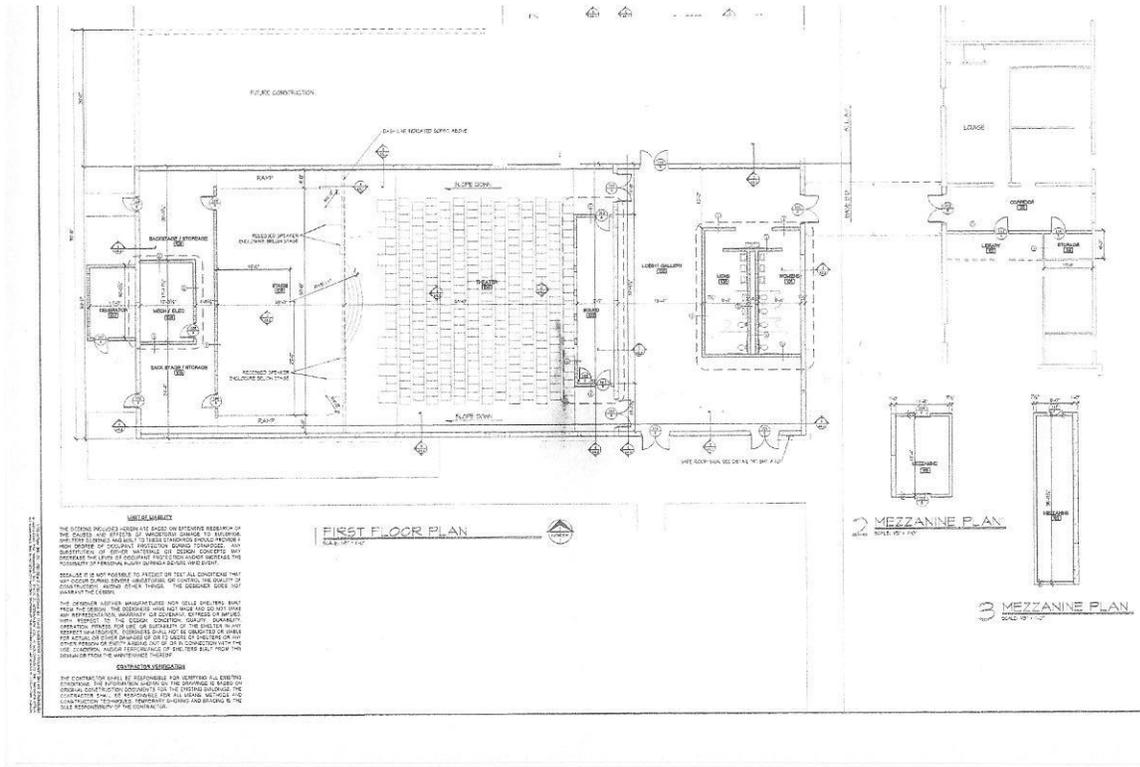
The facility has restrooms for girls and boys and different areas for storage of theatrical sets.

The building, also, has its own generator for emergencies, as required by FEMA.

Question # 8 What will it look like?

Please see the architectural drawings by Dille & Traxel, LLC below:

Floor Plan Picture



Elevation Picture

