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Industry News

Linc Mech. provides funding for schools' HVAC

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh-based Linc Mechanical LLC and Energy Technologies Inc. of Drums, Pa., both members of the Linc Service Network, have partnered to provide a program centered around an infrastructure funding strategy for the facility needs at the Northwest Area School District.

The district is located in the northeast region of Pennsylvania with a student population of approximately 1,400. Linc Mechanical and Energy Technologies provided funding solutions, which did not require an increase in local taxes, for the Northwest Area School District's high school and two elemen-

tary schools' comfort systems that were in immediate need of replacement.

Linc Mechanical and Energy Technologies' Bundled Energy Solutions' project accomplished a "no new taxes" goal by reducing several cost centers in the Northwest Area School District's operating budget, which produced \$5

million in capital funding over a 15 year term. Linc's strategy provides enough funding to address critical comfort system replacements and other esthetic improvements for the betterment of the learning environment. The project, which is scheduled for completion this fall, will accomplish the following:

Northwest Area Middle/High School: New hot water boilers; hot water distribution piping; new classroom unit ventilators; wireless building control systems; recommissioning of the HVAC assets not replaced; and other building upgrades.

Northwest Area Intermediate School (formerly known as Hunlock Creek Elementary School) and the Northwest Area Primary School (formerly known as Huntington Mills): New wireless building control systems; re-commissioning of the current HVAC systems; and installation of high-efficient lighting.

The Northwest School District is located in a rural community with a small tax base. During the past school year, they were forced to close one of their three elementary schools. The school district re-organized the remaining two elementary schools into one elementary and one intermediate school.

Linc's strategy provides funding to address critical comfort system replacements.

Linc Mechanical worked closely with the school district through Pennsylvania's Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) process, which provides government agencies the means to utilize guaranteed savings from their existing budgets to pay for facility improvements as a key alternative to raising local taxes. The Act allows these savings to be used over a 20 year term.

"This has been a great experience for the Linc Mechanical and Energy Technologies team and has been a thorough test of our public finance acumen," said Dan Dowell, Linc Network's director of Energy Solutions for the Mid-Atlantic Region. "The capital needs of the district were great and the amount of available funding initially appeared to be too small. The combined efforts of the district's staff and ours have produced a funding solution that will enrich the learning experience for generations of students." □



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