

Tailored to Council Rock's Needs – Douglas S. Taylor

When Council Rock (CR) welcomed Douglas Taylor, the district considerably enhanced the expertise of the "Supervisor of Operational Services" position. Doug brings to CR a strong background in services that have been previously contracted from outside vendors. He has a wealth of experience working on projects in many other school districts. Because CR is engaged in extensive renovation projects, Doug's qualifications are tailor made to help the district by engineering the best value for every dollar spent.

Doug's previous experience was with two firms that are hired by school districts to be the outside professionals for architecture, facilities planning, construction management, capital improvements planning and/or value engineering. The span and scale of Doug Taylor's work experience demonstrates that he is "committed to what he is engaged in." He worked for nineteen years at *KCBA Architects* and as a project manager for nine years at *D'Huy Engineering* out of Bethlehem, PA. As a project manager, he felt that he was the owner's eyes and ears. He was involved from the first meetings and would follow right through to the end of the project, putting on his construction shoes and getting out in the field throughout the process.

Doug Taylor's interest in architecture started in high school when he worked with a firm in his junior year. He doggedly pursued the firm for the internship and his determination was rewarded with a job offer and life long career that he is passionate about. He is a graduate of "*The American Institute of Design*" and continues to pursue certifications to stay on the leading-edge of his field. Doug is an associate member of the AIA (American Institute of Architects) and a member of SAVE (Society of Value Engineering - Value Engineering is a methodology that is used to improve quality, increase efficiency, reduce risk, and/ or enhance safety while reducing cost.)

Doug lives in the Pennridge School District, is married and the father of two girls ages 15 and 19. He is appreciative of his wife's support of his career, which requires many nights away from home to attend various school district, project, and township approval meetings. He also attends monthly meetings on energy efficiency, safety and the green team.

Throughout Doug's broad experiences, he has worked with many area school districts. His experience involved projects from renovating and enlarging existing buildings, planning construction schedules while schools are in session, to the building of a Natatorium (pool complex). He was also a prominent contributor to Northampton Community College's plans for a new campus in Tannersville. All of these valuable experiences will improve Council Rock's inside critical eye on planning, execution and dollars spent for capital projects.

The competition for his Council Rock job was narrowed down through a rigorous and extensive interview process. He started on June 1 and reports directly to the Director of Business Administration, Robert Reinhart. Although CR's organizational chart shows that Grounds Manager Ted Sloan and Facilities Manager Tom Crow report directly to Doug, he believes that they are all part of a team of 35 people, from the building mechanics to the grounds people to the maintenance group.

When asked what he sees as his short and long-term goals, Doug described his approach as someone who likes to "plan the work and work the plan." His short-term goals are to complete projects started before his tenure. He is advancing the "Energy Plan" by focusing on long term cost/benefit analyses of equipment replacement. For example, replacing a completely

depreciated hot water tank with a high efficiency tank might be slightly more expensive in the initial outlay, but within five years the savings pay for it.

In addition to taking over everything that was “in progress,” he started his long term planning by getting to know everyone and every inch of the district. He met with all the principals and attended School Board Facilities, maintenance, building and specialist meetings. He took over the major capital projects at Holland and Goodnoe Elementary Schools. He is committed to doing “due diligence” by researching facilities prior to any construction work; this reduces the unexpected change orders that can increase the cost of capital projects.

The school year started with the weather related challenges of a hurricane and the opening of Churchville, which was still under construction. Without the luxury of time, he successfully made and executed plans for emergency management and opening a school under construction by prioritizing the “impact to education and student safety” as first and foremost in decision making.

Doug’s ability to do comprehensive Capital Improvements Plans (CIP) may be his greatest asset. The district’s last CIP was done by the outside architectural firm “*Hayes Large Architects*” in 2006 and is now 5 years old. Doug has already started on a CIP for Council Rock. The CIP’s format will assess the district’s facilities and make a prioritization based on a matrix that includes a rating scale for safety, educational and economic impacts, and physical conditions of every CR Building. The matrix calculations and information gathered on the age and life expectancy, together with project cost estimates and budgetary availability will lead to the development of a responsible CIP. Not only is Doug capable of doing a yearly in-house updating of the CIP, reviewing the CIP annually will prioritize each year’s allocation of capital project dollars and inform long term capital budgeting. The greatest challenge, even with historically low interest rates for capital bonds, will be funding, especially in this economy.

Citizens For Education congratulates the district for his selection and welcomes Doug Taylor to Council Rock. His knowledge gained from years of experience with firms specializing in education clients will be invaluable in many ways. It will be especially relevant when the district hires outside for architectural and other constructional services; and his in-house expertise is certain to bring savings. Most importantly, Doug Taylor’s years of servicing other school districts are bound to serve students and the residents of the CR district well.