

EDUCATION

# A new home for C.R. schools

District offices moving to modular buildings at Kingston Stadium

By Kristina Andino  
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CEDAR RAPIDS — Working out of modular offices on athletic grounds will be a treat for Cedar Rapids administrators after moving twice already after the June flood.

They're not the Ritz, but you can't beat this supersonic construction schedule.

The finishing touches are being put on Cedar Rapids school administrators' new temporary offices — 35 large trailers — on the north end of the Kingston Stadium field at 707 15th St. SW. From the July 11 groundbreaking to Thursday's ribbon-cutting ceremony was just shy of six weeks.

Workers sped up the process — which otherwise would have been done Sept. 15 — by working 12-hour days, seven days per week.

Construction was rapid because the community needed the buildings so badly, said Milton Haupert, quality assurance inspector for the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps was hired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build the modular village.

"Nice that we had a roof over our head on this rainy day," FEMA's Dick Hainje said.

He was talking to a small crowd of school officials, contractors, government officials and media that had walked the raised wooden walkway between trailers to the event.

The ceremony was in one of the off-white conference and storage-style trailers. They are mixed in with the classic white office-style trailers. They sit on gravel on what used to be 2 1/2 acres of grass.

The trickiest thing when setting up the offices was getting the walkway between trailers set at the same height, said Jim Mosner of the Corps. There are slight height differences along long stretches, which are not obvious.

FEMA covered 90 percent



Jim Slosiarek photos/The Gazette

Associate Superintendent Jay Marino walks along an elevated deck to the superintendent/board secretary office building at the Cedar Rapids school district's new Educational Service Center north of Kingston Stadium on Thursday in southwest Cedar Rapids. The office park of modular buildings was built after June flooding damaged the district's offices along Second Avenue SW.



Carrying a section of the blue ribbon used in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Superintendent Dave Markward looks out a window in one of the offices at the new Educational Service Center.

and the state paid 10 percent of the \$3.7 million cost to get the Educational Service Center set up at Kingston. The district will pay 115 percent of certain costs, such as Internet wiring.

It is not clear what will hap-

pen to the original Educational Service Center at 346 Second Ave. SW — or how long workers will occupy the Kingston offices. The district can approve keeping offices there for six months at a time.

The Second Avenue center was one of five school buildings seriously damaged in the June flood. Some 180 district employees were uprooted.

The central office workers — including the superintendent — set up shop in Jefferson High School. Most moved a second time in mid-August in anticipation of the new school year. Central service departments are now spread throughout the district.

The Educational Service Center at Kingston will contain the usual administrative offices, except for the copy production center and part of technology. Also to be located there will be food and nutrition (formerly at the warehouse on G Avenue), the transition center (formerly at the Roosevelt Hotel, which flooded) and the building and custodial staff (formerly at the Educational Center Annex).

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