



Pasco County Schools

Providing a world-class education for all students

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

Watergrass Elementary Proposed Cell Tower



Overview

We were contacted by a company interested in placing a cell tower on the Watergrass Elementary School Campus. We followed our usual procedure of putting out a bid. Two companies responded and we have selected Vertex to potentially move forward with placing a cell tower on campus.

Pasco's History with cell towers

Existing School Sites with Towers:

- Bexley Elementary – approved, to be constructed
- Cypress Elementary – constructed 2017
- Gulf Trace Elementary – constructed 2013
- Sand Pine Elementary – constructed 2017
- Seven Oaks Elementary – constructed 2016
- Dr. John Long Middle – constructed 2009
- Fivay High – acquired with the property in 2007
- Rushe Middle / Sunlake High – constructed 2012
- Land O' Lakes High / District Office – constructed 1980's
- Vacant Property on Meadow Pointe Boulevard – acquired with the property in 2010

Potential Revenue

- Revenue is currently split between the school and the district – 50/50
- Year 1 = \$9,900 to Watergrass
- Year 30 = \$17,600 to Watergrass (for 1 carrier)
- District revenue goes to the operating budget
- For all of our towers, the district as a whole currently receives approximately \$225,000 per year

Possible Tower Location

Shown here is a 50' x 50' compound and access easement toward the southern portion of the campus. This location allows for minimal disruption to daily operations and ease of access for the wireless carriers.



Conceptual Tower Design

The cell tower shall be designed to have close-mount antennas to accommodate all regional wireless carriers.



Safety

- As the construction of our first cell tower was nearing completion on the campus of Dr. John Long Middle School, the school district hired an engineer specializing in this field. The engineer reported on the radiofrequency electromagnetic field exposure (RFR) at various sites on and around campus both before and after the cell tower was activated. The study showed no significant increase after the tower was activated.
- Other information can be found here:
 - <https://www.fcc.gov/engineering-technology/electromagnetic-compatibility-division/radio-frequency-safety/faq/rf-safety>

Process and Timeline

- Pending parent feedback, a proposed contract will be presented to the School Board for their review and potential approval
- Tentative School Board Date – 07/07/2020
 - Parents are able to speak and provide input
- If approved by the School Board, Vertex would move forward with obtaining the necessary county approvals. This typically also has opportunity for public comment.
- Once approved, Vertex would move to construct the tower. Target completion date is Summer of 2021

Questions and Comments

Please direct questions or comments,
prior to June 24, 2020 to:

Chris Williams

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