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**Leaders at Three Rivers Community Schools Anticipate Infrastructure Upgrades Will Reduce Energy Costs More than 30 Percent**

***Trane is presenting school district leaders with Energy Efficiency Leader Award***

**Three Rivers, Mich.** (April 16, 2012) – Three Rivers Community Schools recently completed infrastructure upgrades that district leaders anticipate will cut energy costs by more than 30 percent and save more than $197,000 in annual energy and operational costs. The upgrades were launched in July 2010 and completed in December 2011 to reduce costs while improving the learning environment within classrooms and increasing sustainability district-wide.

The district collaborated with Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, to improve the classroom learning environment. In a separate initiative, the district partnered with Grand Valley State University to focus on reading and writing performance in the Middle School. These and other improvement initiatives have already led to double-digit test score improvements and leaders expect continued improvement as cultural and systematic changes evolve.

“Although our district has newer schools and consistently receives good student achievement scores, we always strive for the best for our students,” said Roger Rathburn, superintendent of Three Rivers Community Schools. “The upgrades enabled us to enhance the learning environment while being fiscally and environmentally responsible with our resources.”

The district’s strong financial management allowed it to qualify for an extremely high bond rating for their energy bonds, generating even greater project savings due to reduced interest rates.

In honor of the district’s commitment to energy and operational efficiency and sustainability, Trane is presenting the district with the “Energy Efficiency Leader Award.”

Details of the award presentation:

* Three Rivers Community Schools will be recognized at an award presentation on April 16 at 7 p.m. at the district’s Administration Building, 851 Sixth Avenue, Three Rivers, Mich.
* John Atsma, area manager for Trane West Michigan, will present the award to Three Rivers Community Schools’ leaders Roger Rathburn, superintendent, and Steve Lucas, director of operations.

The improvements represent a major step in transforming district facilities into high performance buildings that tie to the schools’ educational mission. High performance buildings take a whole building approach to performance while creating spaces that are reliable, safe, healthy, comfortable and efficient.

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**Leaders at Three Rivers Community Schools Anticipate that Infrastructure Upgrades will Reduce Energy Costs More than 30 Percent - 2**

High performance buildings meet specific standards for energy and water consumption, system reliability and uptime, environmental compliance and occupant comfort. All standards are set to deliver established outcomes that help building owners and occupants achieve their business missions.

**District Assessment Identifies Best Energy Conservation Measures**

Before identifying energy conservation measures for the district, education leaders worked with Trane to conduct a detailed energy study. They used advanced building modeling software to demonstrate the financial impact of each potential energy conservation measure over the solution’s lifecycle. The board of education then selected specific energy conservation measures that met their financial and strategic initiatives.

Improvements at Three Rivers Community Schools were funded with a performance contract which allowed the district to use future energy and operational savings to finance infrastructure improvements up front. Performance contracting is a funding option that provides measurable business results to support strategic objectives.

Building upgrades included installing energy-efficient florescent lamps and fixtures with occupancy sensors in the district gymnasiums, field house, school classrooms, hallways and common areas. The high-efficiency lighting requires a fraction of the electricity required by the older metal halide lights and provides brighter illumination that was immediately noticeable, especially in the gymnasiums and field house.

The upgrades enhanced district heating and ventilation systems so they provide heated and fresh air only to building areas that are currently occupied, saving money previously spent pumping fresh air into an empty cafeteria or gymnasium. Upgraded building control systems enable facilities staff to more simply program and optimize building systems for occupancy. Systems are energized only when needed, resulting in significant utility cost reductions for the district.

Retrofits included installing variable speed drives on many of the district’s mechanical systems. These drives permit the control system to reduce the running speed of pumps when full output is not needed, significantly reducing use and related costs.

The building control system used within the district’s buildings was optimized to allow for remote access and to ensure that systems run only when needed and at optimum performance. The district also is poised to incorporate Trane Intelligent Services, a revolutionary integration of technology and Trane professionals that monitors, analyzes and acts to improve the performance of the building’s system to help achieve an educational mission.

A Trane Intelligent Services solution alerts facilities staff to potential system issues and ensures performance of regular routine maintenance. It also includes regular review of the district’s energy use and ideas for potential improvement that can help generate greater efficiency and savings.

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**About Three Rivers Community Schools**

Three Rivers Community Schools is located in St. Joseph County in southwestern Michigan. The district educates more than 2,800 K-12 students in six buildings and offers school-linked community health services and adult and community education programs. Three Rivers Community Schools, in partnership with parents and the community, accept the responsibility to educate all students to their highest level of achievement and personal growth, enabling all students to become literate, productive members of society; to provide a safe and supportive environment; and to improve the quality of all offered programs. Strong communities are built around strong schools and Three Rivers Community Schools has a dedicated professional and support staff that believes in the power of education to change the world.

**About Ingersoll Rand**

Ingersoll Rand (NYSE:IR) advances the quality of life by creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and efficient environments. Our people and our family of brands—including Club Car®, Ingersoll Rand®, Schlage®, Thermo King® and Trane® —work together to enhance the quality and comfort of air in homes and buildings, transport and protect food and perishables, secure homes and commercial properties, and increase industrial productivity and efficiency. Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced control. Ingersoll Rand is a $14 billion global business committed to a world of sustainable progress and enduring results. For more information, visit ingersollrand.com.