

CG facility to move to new elementary site

By PAIGE E. WASSEL
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
pwassel@thejournalnet.com

An operations center for Center Grove buses and maintenance will likely go near the new Maple Grove Elementary School location in the southern part of the school district.

School board members said they would prefer the center be built at the southeast corner of the property by Whiteland and Saddle Club roads in a 4-1 vote on Monday.

The board considered two other sites for the center, looking at whether they should put it in the northern part of the county by Sugar Grove Elementary or look for another central location.

Currently, there is no room for expanding the facility where the buses are housed in the central part of the district, which is already tight on parking space.

Transportation director Mike LaRocco offered the board estimates about what it might cost to

run bus routes from the different sites.

Moving the center further south to the new Maple Grove location would add 400 miles per day to the fleet's mileage and probably cost the district around \$22,000 to \$23,000 per year at first, based on budgeted fuel costs for next year, LaRocco said.

A center located by Sugar Grove Elementary would cost much less in the first year, adding only 68 miles to current bus routes and costing about \$4,200.

But looking to the future, a center located in the southern part of the district might save more money as the school corporation grows to the south, LaRocco said.

He said that building a center near Sugar Grove would also put the building in an already established neighborhood with traffic issues, probably causing more problems than they would solve.

At least two school board members, Jim Copp and Matt Shepherd, expressed concerns

about putting the center near the busy intersection at Whiteland and Saddle Club roads.

Shepherd said he voted no on the proposal because he thought the intersection was too dangerous for school buses.

He said he would prefer to see the center at a 45-acre property owned by the school at Whiteland Road.

The board also voted 4-1 to put that land back on the market to either be sold or traded for other land in the area. Shepherd voted no because he thought that land should be used for the new transportation center.

In December, the board voted to see if it could get more money for the land it had agreed to sell to local developer Mike Duke.

The land was originally appraised at more than \$1.2 million in April, and reappraised at more than \$1.7 million in January, roughly \$39,000 an acre.

Duke said he is still interested in buying the land but wouldn't comment on negotiations.

Smoking

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

comes up for a final vote.

Local tavern owners, even those not affected by the ordinance, are concerned that Greenwood's ordinance is the first step toward banning smoking in bars too, said Jim Johnson, owner of That Place in Greenwood bar and restaurant.

He said he expects the council to consider another ban in a few years to restrict smoking in bars. "If tobacco is that bad, let's outlaw it," he said.

"No one is forcing them to come into my bar."

Jim Johnson
owner of That Place in Greenwood bar, on people who don't like a smokey atmosphere

About 80 percent of That Place's customers smoke, Johnson said. People who go there know smoking is inside, and if consumers don't like it, they don't have to go in, he said.

"No one is forcing them to come into my bar," he said. Tim Couch, manager at the

Blind Pig bar in Greenwood, worries that the smoking ban will cut down on the number of customers because many like to go out to eat, sit down and smoke.

Some patrons would stop going to bars if smoking were banned, he said.

Greenwood City Council members meet Feb. 20 and are expected to give the smoking ban a final vote.

Deer said he is considering asking that a vote on the ordinance be delayed so county government officials can be consulted to see what their plans are in regard to a countywide ban on smoking in restaurants and workplaces.

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Plans

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The project comes after nearly two years of committee meetings, discussions and several changes in plans.

The district will also make about \$800,000 worth of improvements to Webb Elementary and build a facility for about \$50,000 to house the district's technology infrastructure.



FILE PHOTO
Renovating Franklin's high school for seventh- and eighth-graders would cost about \$33 million.

THE PROJECTS

New middle school

(Renovation of existing high school for seventh- and eighth-graders)

Cost estimate: \$33 million

Reopening: By August 2008

Capacity: Could be designed for 900 or 1,100 students. The school board will decide. Seventh- and eighth-grade enrollment is 748. By 2010, enrollment is expected to be between 867 and 1,001.

Features:

- Teachers and administrators want a central media center, a place for alternative education and a design that will allow them to work in clusters of classrooms so they can continue a team-teaching model already in place.

- Designs will address the aging infrastructure and systems in the building and expand classrooms, hallways and stairways.

- Site plans will address keeping passenger vehicle traffic and bus traffic separate and maintaining adequate event parking and green space.

Technology addition

Cost estimate: \$50,000 to \$60,000

Opening: By July

Facility: 24-foot by 44-foot modular building behind the existing administration building designed so that if the administrative building were expanded the buildings could connect.

Features:

- A 544-square-foot room to house the district's servers will include space for equipment and inside-only entry for security and space for storage.

- About 162 square feet will be set aside for an office for an administrator.

- Work space will take up about 290 square feet and include two workstations for computer and server repairs.

Webb Elementary

Cost estimate: About \$800,000

Timeframe: Nearly all work will be done this summer.

The plan: Some air conditioning work will be put off a year. Instead of buying new air conditioning units, the district will salvage the units at the existing high school and use them at Webb. The change will save about \$75,000.

Mark your calendar

Several work sessions and meetings are planned for architects, school board members and district officials to discuss the design and cost of the renovation of the existing high school. These meetings are open to the public.

February

13: Board will approve notice to proceed at its regular meeting.

27: Special school board meeting and work session to review designs

March

13: Regular school board meeting. Discussion of site plans including parking, bus loading and drives and layout of space and rooms inside the building.

27: School board work session to review site plans and designs

April

17: School board will select a design.

24: Review all plans

May

8: Final approval of design

22: Work session to make any adjustments to plans required by reviews from various agencies and discuss details of engineering systems and interior parts

June and July

Board will receive updates on design development.

January 2007

Receive bids

February 2007

Construction begins

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