

Demolition of old high school, elementary buildings approved

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STRASBURG – The high school will be demolished.

By a 4-1 vote Strasburg Board of Education members approved the demolition of both the elementary and high school buildings once the new campus is completed in June 2010.

Voting for the demolition were Chris Beck, Wes Hostetler, Peter Angelo and Ed Yackey.

Susan Samsa voted against tearing it down. She said a feasibility study should be done to find out all the options, such as if it would be cheaper to keep the high school building intact or keep the south wing of the elementary to renovate.

The board also voted, again 4-1 with Samsa voting no, to investigate costs involved in renovating the south wing structure. It would provide space for administrative offices, a health and fitness area, maintenance and storage along with meeting, conference or training rooms for staff.

Ted Shetler told the 50 people attending the meeting

there is a group of six individuals who wanted to save the high school, make it into a community center and allow businesses to locate in the rooms. He said they had about 75 percent of the funds to place in escrow to tear down the building if the venture did not pan out for the group. He said there were petitions with about 250 signatures wanting to keep the school.

He said the group was not prepared to present the facts until the September meeting, and the board could vote again once it saw a proposal.

Board President Yackey said the board would not vote again.

Jack Pottmeyer, architect at MKC Associates Inc. at New Philadelphia, said the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission will not allow the district to use state funds to build a superintendent or treasurer's office or any additional classrooms. He also gave a summary of what would need to be done to turn the high school into a business, rather than a school.

Yackey said the OSFC will pay for asbestos removal at the south wing, and permanent improvement money will be used to renovate it.

"The south wing will be renovated at no additional cost to the district. The middle

school and high school project came in at \$3 million under budget so we will be upgrading items in the high school such as floors and equipment," Yackey said.

The board thanked community members for their input on the matter and sharing their concerns.

In other news:

- One year supplemental contracts were awarded to Ryan Zimmerman, instrumental drum line instructor, and Chelsea McLandsborough, instrumental horn line instructor.

- Donations accepted were \$2,900 from Allied Machine and Engineering Corp., \$1,000 from Hensel Insurance, \$500 from Village Insurance for Project Lead the Way.

- The board adopted the elementary, junior high and high school student handbook for 2009-10.

- The bleachers for the elementary gym will be installed by the weekend. Junior high basketball games possibly will be played in the gym if a scoreboard is in place.

- The first day for students is Aug. 24, and breakfast will be served to students in (morning) kindergarten through 6th grades. The new carpet for kindergarten through 3rd grades is expected to be installed Monday.