

School board considers remodeling south building

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Since opening the addition and renovation to Brady's school building in the fall of 2007, the district's south campus facility has served as little more than a storage unit.

Questions last month from residents interested in renting space for woodworking projects led the board to consider options for the south building located next to the Get-N-Go.

What they found may be the answer to a long-time need for a bus barn.

During Monday's regular monthly school board meeting, superintendent Bill Porter shared rough sketches of how the south campus building might be remodeled as a bus barn, accommodating not only the district's four buses but also the 15-passenger van and two Suburbans.

Porter gave two options. One would retain the front classroom area, gut the remainder of the building and add garage doors for vehicle entrance.

The other would remove the classrooms and allow bus entrance straight from Market Street with smaller vehicles using garage doors in the alley.

"When we had the building appraised so we'd know what it could sell for, I decided it probably wasn't going to bring much," Porter said. "When we got to looking at it closer and measuring, I realized there's plenty of room for all the buses."

In August, the school board considered a proposal to build a bus barn north of the school in the student parking area.

It turned out the cost was prohibitive.

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But Porter said remodeling and adding large garage doors to the south building will be far cheaper than new construction.

“It’s a better use of taxpayer money,” he said.

Plus, moving the buses from where they’re currently parked north of the school will open additional parking for students and activity visitors.

The board authorized Porter to seek bids on both remodel options.

In other business, school board members learned that laptop computers purchased for all students in grades 9-12 will be

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