

A district with two homes

C'ville debates headquarter move

By MAURIE WALKER

The Clarenceville school district is in somewhat the same position as a homeowner who wants to move. They know where they want to move to, the new location is all picked out. The big questions: What can they get for the present property; and will it be enough to cover the price of the new?

Eight Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The district hopes to move into the Clarenceville Junior High School building on Middlebelt.

To renovate the junior high building would cost approximately \$300,000 with an additional cost of \$170,000 to build a new garage area for the school buses and to install necessary drainage.

This was the figure presented to the

school board Thursday night by Daniel Redstone of Redstone Architects.

In 1972, the school district received an appraisal on the property of \$300,000. It is expected that with inflation, the property would have increased in value, the board was told.

The board gave the go-ahead to Supt. David McDowell to "explore all avenues of selling the building and property."

McDowell said the minimum offer the school district could accept would be \$480,000.

"We have no building and site fund so that in order to move, we either have to sell the property for the price we need or ask the voters for a bond issue," McDowell said.

He explained the district wants to move because of the cost of maintaining on the present building, about \$25,000 a year. It was originally a school.

"The roof will need repairing and the heating equipment leaves much to be desired," McDowell added.

Should the board get the price needed and give the "go" signal for renovating the junior high, the school district's new headquarters would eventually be located in the south end of the junior high school.

Redstone explained, while presenting plans for the renovation, that the offices would be separated from the school area.

Besides a reception area and the superintendent's office, there would be an office for the superintendent's secretary, bookkeeping and payroll departments would be on the window

side. The present woodshop room would be moved to the other side of the school's gym. This would allow for a lounge and lunch area. There would be a large conference room off the lobby.

Because of children getting off the bus at the south end of the school building, Redstone suggested a canopy cover the walk from the side door area to the front door.

The maintenance area would be south of the building. It would include stalls for buses, tractors and other equipment. A parts area would be on the second floor. The building would also have an office for the garage superintendent, lunch area and rest rooms.

Redstone said a 1,000 foot drainage system would be necessary which accounts for about \$10,000 of the \$170,000 cost for the maintenance area.

The board of education offices have been in the present building about 14 years. Before that, the building was a school with a portion of the structure dating back to the early 1900s.

This brought some concern from some board members who feared a purchaser might want to destroy the building.

"If I vote for the sale and the building is destroyed, my wife will leave me. She went to school here," one trustee laughed.

Another mentioned that it was an historic site but it was agreed a move was necessary and the only answer is to sell the property as soon as possible—if the district can negotiate a reasonable price.



The Clarenceville Board of Education, which has its administrative offices in this building at 28830 Eight Mile in Farmington Hills, may be closed. Officials would move to vacant classrooms in a junior high. (Staff photo)

State legal eyes confirm open meet

State Atty. General Frank Kelley has confirmed the opinion of Clarenceville Board of Education Attorney John Shantz that the board of education doesn't have to hear grievances in closed sessions.

The board had sought the opinion of Kelley who said grievances didn't have to be heard in closed sessions. Another opinion had been sought from Kelley after the learning center specialists had sought a closed hearing on a grievance.

Kelley explained that the open meeting law was designed to require the meetings of public bodies, with exceptions, to be open to the public.

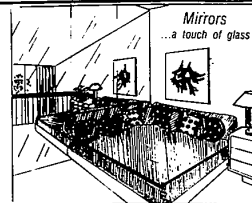
"Section 9 (a) of the Open Meetings Act clearly allows a closed session of a

public body such as a school board to consider the dismissal, suspension or disciplining of or to hear complaints or charges brought against an employee when the person requests a closed hearing," Kelley said.

He added that a section of the law was designed to allow discussion of a collective bargaining agreement. However, he said that the grievance hearing was being sought before the Clarenceville board "pursuant to the provision of a collective bargaining agreement."

"Obviously, the contract has been negotiated and ratified and thus the provisions of Section 9 (c) of the law no longer can apply to that type of situation."

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