

Dear Board of Education:

After meeting with my executive committee, the high school principal, maintenance staff, alternative school principal, and reviewing the high school faculty improvement plans, I would like to propose that the Alternative program move to G building next year. The basis for this recommendation are as follows.

- * Closer proximity of resources such as resource staff, counseling staff (scheduling for successive years), resource officer, nurse, media center, technology staff, etc.
- * Closer proximity of administration and ability to collaborate about students that will be transitioning to and from the high school setting.
- * More space than we now have. We have teachers currently sharing rooms.
- * Better facilities. We were without restroom facilities in two rooms for over a month and the current facility is maxed out in electrical outlets. The current electrical system is not adequate.
- * ORHS students would have access to credit recovery during the school day through a computer lab to be established at no cost in G building
- * Ability to improve the overall graduation rate through better use of credit recovery programs.
- * Space for the establishment of an Emotionally Disturbed class. In the opinion of our Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Director of Special Education, high school principal and high school staff, the ED class is definitely needed to serve students better.
- * Alternative program "school of choice" student would have access to other classes not now available such as vocational, foreign language, etc
- * More effective and monitored transition for students as they return to ORHS.
- * Ability of Alternative students to access classes required for graduation that are not now available.
- * Gives students who participate in Credit Recovery easier access. This would improve the graduation rate by allowing students who do not have transportation to CR access.

- * It would allow an easier transition mechanism for students in special education.
- * The problem of getting books, materials, resources from the high school would be lessened.
- * We would have more options available in working with students with complex IEP issues by providing larger curriculum options.
- * Would allow us to do transition of students in a more flexible manner resulting in serving all students better.
- * Would allow a student to do a graduated or part time alternative program schedule.
- * Emotional support services would be available without a change of placement.
- * We would not be paying approximately \$14,000 for rental of facilities.
- * Ability for special education staff to monitor incoming middle school special education students and then assess needs and place in most beneficial program and the least restrictive environment.
- * Ability and space to provide for service learning, alcohol and drug counseling, etc.
- * Will have space to provide for time out (de-escalation) for students.
- * Ability to utilize the cafeteria. Students now do not have access to hot foods or variety of selections nor do they have access to the breakfast program.
- * Recent discussions of the Daniel Arthur Building being used for other purposes. Twice there have been potential situations that we would have to vacate the Daniel Arthur building as it was being considered to be sold. Karen evaluated potential space and it was well beyond the current \$14,000 we pay for the year.
- * Concern that G-building if not used for education will become an area not conducive to people occupying at a later date without major expense in clean up etc.
- * Potential for vandalism will be greatly increased if G building is left unoccupied.

- * We have access to resources now with the current builders and our staff working together to provide for the essential connections to be in place for the start of school next year. If done later this will require significant dollars. We can do this now at minimum costs and we have worked this out in the current budget.

Our staff believes this is the right time and the right thing to do to serve our students in the middle/high schools programs and in the alternative program. I respectfully request your review of this recommendation. I am asking your support to allow me to make this happen so our students can be ready to be served in a facility that provides an appropriate educational environment with better access to resources to serve them. Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Bailey