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## Board hears heating options

By *MATT MANNING*  
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FREMONT -- The Fremont City School Board examined options for heating and cooling systems for the proposed new middle school during a special meeting Friday morning.

The board brought in Timothy Lehman, a senior associate of Fanning Howey from Celina, who was chosen out of four other firms to design the middle school, at a July board meeting.

Lehman discussed several options for the building using a Power-Point presentation to illustrate positives and negatives of each of the systems and answered questions from members.

"This is an overview of things to look at down the road," Lehman said. "As we went on there are some things I'm sure that sparked your interest ... It's up to the district on what direction you want to go in."

Board members also offered their concerns.

"I don't want to sacrifice kid comfort or air quality," Board President James Fails said.

Fremont Superintendent Traci McCaudy and the other school board members established what they expected out of the new systems.

"(From the beginning) our goal was to construct the most cost-efficient building," she said.

Treasurer David Chambers said the new building will be an estimated 124,503 square feet, and will be constructed near the high school.

Fremont City Schools is one of 11 school districts in the state that has been awarded funding by the Ohio School Facilities Commission's Exceptional Needs Program. The ENP award, valued at \$8.8 million, is earmarked to replace the existing middle school which was built in 1891. The city's middle school was ranked first on a list of buildings most in need.

In June, McCaudy said the district has one year to raise local funds, estimated to be about \$18.7 million for the project.

The district is putting a 2.1 mill bond issue and a 1.35 mill permanent improvement levy on the November ballot. The district is renewing, yet reducing, the current permanent improvement levy from 2 mills to 1.35 mills, which was passed in the March 2004. The permanent improvement levy money will continue to be used for technology upgrades and repairs for the district's current buildings.

The district can build the new middle school with the additional 1.45 mills. The bond will be paid with a 5 percent interest rate per year over the next 28 years.

McCaudy said the board will continue to discuss the heating and cooling options in detail and narrow the list during upcoming meetings.