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School 'For sale by owner'

Fremont Middle School available to buy, price unknown

By *LESLIE BIXLER*
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FREMONT -- After residents voted for the new middle school in November, the district is now in the process of selling the current building--an option they were given by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission.

"If no one is interested, we'll consider looking at demolition," said Superintendent Traci McCaudy.

District Treasurer David Chambers said they have three years to sell the property. A price hasn't been determined yet, he said.

The district is waiting for Sandusky County Auditor Bill Farrell to determine a valuation of the property.

If the property sells, the district will keep the profit and use it for the permanent improvement account.

And if the district can't sell it, the state will have them demolish the current building.

The "For Sale" signs are on nearly every corner of the school and were put up just last week.

Farrell said because of the school's condition, "It would sell drastically for a lot less."

He said it would take a great deal of renovation to bring the value back up to par.

If the building doesn't sell, part of that \$8.8 million awarded to the district by the state would go toward demolition. And if they do sell it, the state takes back a portion of the demolition costs. That portion is about \$773,000, that is not part of construction costs and is strictly on hold because of the levy passing last month.

The Exceptional Needs Program award, valued at the \$8.8 million, is earmarked to replace the existing middle school. The cost of the overall project is \$27.5 million.

According to Chambers, the city's board of education members and district officials have not yet discussed any plans on what would become of the property if it needs to be demolished.

"Ideally we would like to sell it because who knows where the economy will be in the next three years," Chambers said, noting they've had a couple of calls about the building and property.

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THE FREMONT MIDDLE School is now up for sale. (Leslie Bixler/ News-Messenger)