

1965

UA3/3/1 President's Correspondence re: Trade School

WKU President's Office

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April 21, 1965

In any other way, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

Doro G. Downing
Dean of Business Affairs

Mr. Harold H. Huffman
Executive Vice-President
Bowling Green-Warren County
Chamber of Commerce
438 East Tenth Street
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Harold:

Blind cc: Dr. Kelly Thompson ✓

I appreciate the time and attention which you and Carl gave to the discussion held in your office yesterday, and I am especially pleased with the grasp which both of you have regarding the matter of an area vocational school and its value to our geographic area. It is especially appropriate for the Chamber of Commerce to take this as a project at this time since Mr. Martin and Mr. Hilton had talked with you sometime ago regarding the need for a building site at some-time in the future.

I feel that we were on the right track in discussing the possibility of this vocational school being located in the new industrial development area, north of Bowling Green. This new facility could be a decisive factor in the future development of this area, and the location would stimulate interest on the part of industrial prospects who contemplate coming to Bowling Green in the future.

I have reported to President Thompson of your excellent reaction, and he was highly gratified to learn of the progressive approach that you have taken to this matter. President Thompson especially asked that I convey to you his personal interest in the vocational school program and to assure you of the desire of Western Kentucky State College to support your efforts in the establishment of a desirable location in every way possible.

I am vitally interested in this as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and if I can give assistance in this capacity or

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Executive Vice-President
Bowling Green-Warren County
DGD:vbg of Commerce
438 East Tenth Street
cc: Mr. Carl N. Kelley

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Dean of Business Affairs

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Vocational School Sites Proposed

The city and county boards of education and the city-county Chamber of Commerce today announced proposals of sites for a new Western Area Vocational School building here.

* * *

The city board's proposal was for locating the school on a 10-12 acre site adjacent to High Street School.

The county board's proposal was to locate the school on a 15 acre tract on the 50 - acre campus of Warren County High School.

And the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Foundation have proposed locating the school on a campus within the new Industrial Park under development on the Old Louisville Road.

The site proposals were made at a meeting of vocational school officials and other interested persons with Fred A. Martin, director of Trade and Industrial Education, state Department of Education.

Dr. W. R. McNeill, city school superintendent, emphasized that the city board was proposing the site near High Street School as an ideal location, and not as a site which the school board would furnish.

He said that the Urban Renewal Agency has expressed an interest in helping secure the site if the vocational school should decide upon it, and added that the board is willing to cooperate in any way possible.

The site proposed by the county school officials would be part of the present Warren County High School campus.

Although Arthur Reynolds, county school superintendent,

Vocational

Continued from page 1

could not be reached for elaboration, indications are that use of the site at Warren County High would hinge on a consolidation plan for county schools which would not require considerable future expansion of Warren County High's physical plant.

* * *

This probably would mean that a new high school (or schools) would be constructed elsewhere, with Warren County High becoming an elementary school within its present buildings.

Industrial Foundation officials, who earlier indicated a willingness to help find a site for the new vocational school building, have proposed use of a portion of their 190-acre Industrial Park on the Old Louisville Road.

Phillip Hampton, director of the vocation school, said the interested groups have until July 15 to make formal proposals of sites to the State Board of Education.

He said the state must be furnished by local interests, and will be deeded to the state education department.

After the sites are proposed, a committee probably — appointed by the state board — will choose the site, Hampton said.

Construction should be underway by spring of 1966, he said. Latest indications are that the total cost of the structure will run about \$1.5 million, he said.

Approximately 20-24 trades will be taught in the 100,000 square - foot building, Hampton added.

Continued on page 7, column 5

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WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

BUSINESS OFFICE

July 1, 1965

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Kelly Thompson, President

This is to report to you on a meeting which Mr. Largen and I attended yesterday morning at Western Hills Restaurant for the purpose of discussing the construction of a new Western Area Vocational School in Bowling Green or Warren County.

Mr. Phil Hampton presided and turned the meeting over to Mr. Fred Martin who spoke at considerable length regarding the need for new facilities in vocational education and the educational objectives which his department was attempting to achieve. Mr. Martin was most complimentary of Western in his remarks and expressed appreciation for the fact that the College had been so cooperative through the years in the operation of the present facility. He made several statements, the most important of which provided the following information.

- (1) Funds have already been budgeted to construct a new Vocational School in this area in the amount of \$1,200,000.00. Mr. Martin indicated that in his opinion the facility would cost in excess of \$1,500,000.00, and he felt that the additional funds would be made available when the plans were completed.
- (2) An architect has been appointed by the Department of Finance and is prepared to commence work immediately upon the plans for the new Vocational School as soon as a site is acquired.
- (3) A site of twelve (12) to twenty (20) acres will be required for the facility.
- (4) Mr. Martin expressed the belief that the facilities would be doubled within a period of five years and indicated that the original building would be the initial phase of a comprehensive vocational center.

Following Mr. Martin's comments, Mr. Hampton called upon me to make any statement which I felt appropriate in representing Western

Kentucky State College. I made a brief statement expressing appreciation to the appropriate persons and emphasizing the outstanding job which had been done and is being done at the present Vocational School on the Russellville Road. I told the group of our genuine interest in the vocational education program and expressed regret that we did not have sufficient land to re-locate the school somewhere on the Western Campus. I told them of the development of the Master Campus Plan and of the early recommendation that had been made by Johnson, Johnson, and Roy regarding land utilization on the Western Campus.

There was considerable discussion, and it would become too involved for me to attempt to go into greater detail except to mention the fact that there were three offers to give immediate and concrete assistance by providing an appropriate site.

(1) Mr. Charlie Stewart, Chairman of the Bowling Green Industrial Foundation and a member of the Board of Directors of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, made a very excellent statement in which he mentioned the fact that the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Foundation had been studying this matter for several weeks. He gave assurance that the Industrial Foundation would provide sufficient acreage in the new Industrial Park on the Louisville Road or if this location proved unsatisfactory, steps would be taken to provide a site elsewhere.

(2) Dr. McNeill made a statement and proposed that ten (10) acres of land would be made available by the Bowling Green Board of Education at the location of High Street High School.

(3) Mr. Arthur Reynolds stated that the County Board of Education was in position to provide fifteen (15) acres of land in the general vicinity of Warren County High School.

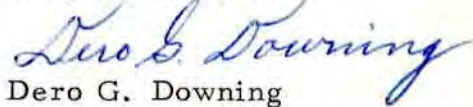
Each organization concerned agreed to prepare a written proposal on the site that was being offered and submit it to the State Department of Education prior to July 15. Mr. Martin stated that the sites would be considered by a committee, taking into consideration all the factors that would serve as reasonable criteria for the selection of a suitable location. The eventual decision would then be made by the State Board of Education, and it was hoped that actual construction could commence around the first of the year.

Following is a list of those who were present:

Mr. Phil Hampton
Mr. Fred Martin
Mr. Ed Brown
Mr. Harold Huffman
Mr. John Hines

Mr. Mike Bardin
Mr. Cliff Coleman
Mr. Preston Miller
Mr. Arthur Reynolds
Mr. Ray Garner
Mr. Claudis Harris
Mr. Basil Griffin
Mr. Denvil Barringer
Mr. Charles Stewart
Mr. Carl Kelly
Dr. W. R. McNeill
Mr. Otto Matti
Mr. Charlie Cherches
Mr. Norman Lewis

Respectfully yours,



Dero G. Downing
Vice President
for Administrative Affairs

DGD:vbq

cc: Mr. Harry Lagen

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

BUSINESS OFFICE

August 12, 1965

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Kelly Thompson, President

You will recall the earlier report which I made to you regarding the meeting held at Western Hills several weeks ago for the purpose of discussing the procurement of a landsite for the Western Area Vocational School. At that meeting, three sites were indicated as being made available should the State Department of Education choose either of them.

- (1) The Industrial Development Site located in the recently acquired Industrial Development Area north of the City.
- (2) Acreage located adjacent to the High Street School was offered by Dr. W. R. McNeill.
- (3) Superintendent Reynolds indicated that the County School System would provide a site on the acreage owned by Warren County High School.

Your attention is directed to an article clipped from the Park City Daily News of August 10 and also to an editorial from the Daily News of Wednesday, August 11. In addition to the difficulties indicated from these articles, I have also been advised that the site proposed by Dr. McNeill cannot be made available. Being confronted with the above problems, Mr. Phil Hampton called me this morning with the request that the College give further consideration to providing land for this facility. He asked several questions about our plans for the development of the acreage on Industrial Drive. I told Phil again of the recommendations that had been made by Johnson, Johnson & Roy^{and} indicated that it was my opinion the College had no choice except to comply with these recommendations by reserving every foot of ground for future development of Western.

Considerable pressure is being placed on members of the Warren County School Board to approve the landsite on the Warren County High School Campus. It will be considered at a called meeting of the Board later this month. Unless the County Board gives a favorable response, I feel certain you will be receiving a request from Mr. Hampton or others to give further

consideration to this matter.

Respectfully yours,



Dero G. Downing
Vice President
For Administrative Affairs

DGD:vbg

Board Rejects Sale

The Warren County school board last night rejected a proposal for the sale of a 10-acre site upon which the planned \$1.5 million Western Area Vocational School could be constructed.

The board failed to give a majority vote to a motion to sell for \$15,000 a plot in the extreme northwest corner of Warren County High School's 50-acre campus.

Meanwhile, some officials here believe the action by the board — unless reconsidered — may mean Bowling Green will face the possibility of losing the school to another city.

Board member Dr. O. L. Avery Jr. moved that the board approve sale of the site for \$15,000 after Supt. Arthur M. Reynolds recommended the site be made available.

Member Frank Truitt seconded the motion but it failed to receive the necessary majority when member Guy Reneau voted against it and board chairman Earl Isenberg and member Raleigh Phelps abstained from voting.

Three sites for location of the new vocational school originally have been proposed in a meeting here June 30.

In addition to the proposed use of the Warren County High campus site, the Bowling Green city school board had proposed locating the new school on a 10-12 acre site adjacent to High Street School.

And the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Foundation proposed locating the school on a campus within the new Industrial Park under development on the Old Louisville Road.

But indications are that the High Street School area site is no longer under consideration

since the amount of land necessary for locating the school there could not be secured.

Phillip Hampton, who directs the Western Area Vocational School at its present location on a Russellville Road portion of the Western State College campus, said he has been told by sources in Frankfort that cities other than Bowling Green are being considered as the location of the vocational school if a suitable site for relocation cannot be found here.

Sources close to the county board have indicated that there is a possibility the action at last night's meeting may be reconsidered when the board holds a special session Aug. 19 to consider school consolidation plans.

But should any reconsideration by the board fail to be affirmative, the vocational school could be located in another city or on the proposed site in the 190-acre Industrial Park on the Old Louisville Road.

The final selection of a site for the schools relocation will be made by a committee appointed by the state Board of Education, Hampton said.

And although Hampton said he has a neutral attitude concerning what site is selected as the location of the new facility, he indicated that he feels the Warren County High campus site is the most ideal of the proposed sites.

Especially a problem with the Industrial Park location, Hampton noted, would be student housing and transportation.

He said many of the school's students do not have cars and must walk to school. The location in the Industrial would present a problem because it would be nearly five miles from the Western State College campus area, where many of the students reside in student rooming houses, he added.

However, the Industrial Park site has been offered by the Industrial Foundation of the Chamber of Commerce for use without cost to the vocational school.

The county school superintendent said today that considering the county system's financial status, the school board could not furnish the land at no cost without being subject to severe criticism.

Reynolds also said he doubted that the state Department of Education — which in essence must approve both the sale of the land by the county school board and its purchase for use as the vocational school site — would allow such a transaction unless the county received a reasonable sum in payment.

Along with a possible reconsideration of last night's action on the proposed site for the vocational school, the school board at its special meeting Aug. 19 must consider a consolidation plan for the county's high school.

The state board has given the county board until September to adopt an official attitude on two surveys recommending consolidation of the system's five high schools.

The superintendent last night presented to the board members a 'working proposal' for a consolidation plan.

The proposal — which Reynolds emphasized was only a starting point — would provide the following.

1 — Build two new high schools — one north of the Barren River and one south of the river. The sites would be determined by the county and state boards. The two schools would be built out of the bonding capacity of the county board with only the main building to be constructed, at the present time leaving out gymnasiums.

2 — When funds become available, build new elementary schools at Bristow, the Greenwood - Mt. Victor area, and Rockfield. Five to seven classrooms could be added at Rich Pond, as could a cafeteria and library.

3 — North Warren School would remain as an isolated 12-grade center. North Warren and/or Oakland would be added to according to the demands of increasing population.

4 — Renovate existing school center an elementary centers where feasible, and add home economics, shop and non-vocational facilities for seventh and eighth grade students.

August 11, 1965

Editorial

Trade School Must Not Be Lost To City

The Warren County Board of Education may or may not have had good reason to reject a proposal to sell a 10-acre plot as a site for a new Western Area Vocational School.

But surely this is a proposal which deserves further consideration. The new trade school is too important to the welfare of Warren County to permit it to go to another county.

The proposal called for the board to sell a tract in the extreme northwest corner of Warren County High School's 50-acre campus as a site for the \$1.5 million structure to house the vocational school for this section of the state.

Sale of the plot was recommended by the superintendent of the county school system. But this recommendation failed to win the endorsement of a majority of the school board, thus resulting in rejection.

This is unfortunate, for apparently the site on the Warren County High campus is the one preferred by those with the responsibility of decision in the matter.

There is the belief held by some that the county board will reconsider its action at a special session later this month.

This is a development that should be encouraged.

But if this plan again should be rejected by the county board, it still will behoove Bowling Green and Warren County to take whatever steps are necessary to make available another site acceptable to trade school authorities. The Western Area Vocational School is too valuable an asset to permit any other course of action.

August 30, 1965

MEMO TO: Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Industrial Foundation Executive Committee
Mayor Walter F. Weis
County Judge Basil W. Griffin
Dr. Kelly Thompson ✓
Dr. W. R. McNeill
City Clerk Emmon R. Shaw
Vocational School Director Phillip C. Hampton
Presidents of Banking Institutions

MEMO FROM: Carl N. Kelley, 1965 President, Chamber of Commerce

For quite some time a location for a new area vocational school has been discussed and only one location has been offered to the state for this \$1.5 million operation, that being a part of the new Industrial Park, offered by the Bowling Green-Warren County Industrial Foundation, Inc. The property is located north of Bowling Green on the Old Louisville Road.

In discussing this location with the powers-to-be, it is our feeling that the group that has the responsibility of selecting the location would desire a location close in; in specific, close to the Industrial Park located between Emmett Drive and Dishman Road.

It is our belief that an operation of this type is important to our economy and should demand your undivided attention by being present Thursday, September 2, at 2:00 p.m., at the Chamber of Commerce office, 438 East Tenth Street.

Please make every effort to attend.

HHH:ac

cc: Mr. Harold H. Huffman
All news media

Mr. Fred A. Martin, Director, Industrial & Distributive Education,
Frankfort, Kentucky

9-15-65

Land Made Available For School

The County Board of Education last night voted to sell 12 acres of land on Warren County High School property for use as a new Western Area Vocational Training School construction site.

The board set a price of \$25,000 for the land, which is adjacent to the Little Federal League baseball diamond.

The unanimous board action followed an appeal by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce that the board make the site available. The board last month rejected the sale of 10 acres of land at Warren County High School for a construction site for the facility.

Dr. O. L. Avery made the motion for sale of the property.

The Chamber of Commerce representatives, O. H. Wallace, president of Wallace Motor Co., and Charles Campbell, owner of Campbell's Markets, told the board prior to its action that local funds are available for purchase of the site.

The new school proposed for the Bowling Green area apparently will be housed in facilities built at a total cost of about \$3 million, they said.

Wallace and Campbell said they have been informed a \$1.5 million expansion program is planned for the school almost immediately after completion of initial construction.

The state has said \$1.5 million is available for the initial construction of the facility.

The two chamber representatives said location of the facility in Bowling Green would boost the community's industrial development.

They said Russellville and Glasgow are among other communities seeking the school, but said state officials have indicated that they prefer it to be located here.

The two said state officials have indicated a site on Warren County High School property would be acceptable for construction of the school and the Chamber of Commerce representatives asked the school board to make it available.

Board Chairman Earl Isenberg noted that the board is barred from giving away the land, but Wallace and Campbell said funds are available locally for its purchase.

They said the state has indicated it prefers a 15-acre site

Land

Continued from page 1

for the new school, and noted that an alternate site in the industrial park proposed for location of the school has been rejected by the state.

"We don't want to lose this great asset to the entire community. We've got it and we can keep it, but the school must have the property it needs," said Campbell.

Campbell and Wallace said a Chamber of Commerce committee they represent is studying the possibility of other county locations for the school, but said the site at Warren County High apparently is the most desirable.

During the regular session the board decided to visit newly constructed high schools in the Warren County area in an effort to secure construction information.

State Board Chairman Roscoe Miller last week suggested the county board visit such schools to see first hand educational progress being made in other counties of the state.

The state board for several years has sought consolidation of Warren County high schools and has given the county board until December to accept one of two surveys recommending consolidation or to begin its own survey.

In other action the board: —Employed James C. Redden as a second general supervisor for the system and employed Mrs. Nelda Wheat to succeed Redden as guidance director for Alvaton and North Warren High schools.

—Voted to begin efforts to sell recently-closed Boyce School this month.

—Discussed but took no action on possible increases in prices of lunches served at county schools.

—Decided to study the possible purchase of a cold storage food locker for the system.

—Decided to attempt to make available to the Westside Water District a small section of land on Alvaton High School property if it is needed for water line work.

—Accepted the resignations of two teachers and voted to employ additional substitute teachers, bus drivers, substitute bus drivers, cooks and custodians.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
Department of Education
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
FRANKFORT 40601

September 30, 1965

Mr. O. H. Wallace, Chairman
Site Committee, Western Kentucky
Area Vocational School
Chamber of Commerce
550 East Tenth Street
Bowling Green, Kentucky

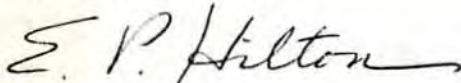
Dear Mr. Wallace:

Mr. Mason and Mr. Ray have made their report on available sites for the proposed new facility for the Western Area Vocational School, and have expressed their appreciation of the courtesy shown by your committee.

Before final purchase is made of the site, the state engineers should also approve the selection. Mr. Bill Ray, of our office, and Mr. Keith Ashby, of the State Engineers staff, plan to be in Bowling Green, Monday, October 4, to make the final selection. They will be contacting you as soon as they get to Bowling Green.

After the engineering staff has reviewed the selection, we will be ready to proceed in securing the property.

Very truly yours,



E. P. Hilton
Assistant Superintendent
for Vocational Education

cc: Dr. Kelly Thompson
Mr. David Pritchett
Mr. William McConnell
Mr. Fred Martin
Mr. Harold H. Huffman
Mr. James Melton
Mr. Paul Thurman