

Study shows Wawasee's administrative building should be enlarged, remodeled

By DEB PATTERSON
Staff Writer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Harmon A. Baldwin and Dr. Dean F. Berkley, professors at Indiana University, recently completed a consultant study for the Wawasee Community School Corporation to assist the board in realizing short and long term goals. The study covered enrollment projections, facilities, financing school construction, and a summary and recommendation. This is the second in a series covering the contents of the study.)

Following a study of the Wawasee Administrative Building, Dr. Harmon A. Baldwin, professor at Indiana University, made the following statement: "While the current central office building is well constructed and well maintained, and would be the envy of many other school communities, it is not large enough to house all the needs expected of a school corporation of this size."

Dr. Baldwin suggests an addition of approximately 3,000 square feet, include a new meeting room for the school board with additional space for staff meetings and conferences. "If the addition is constructed, consideration should be given to a minor remodeling of the existing central office space with consideration given to the interrelationship of offices for those administrators and assistants." An example would be the business manager near the business area, not away from it.

The study also suggests the

superintendent should consider relocating to the existing board room.

An estimated cost of the addition should be \$350,000, but does not include any architectural fees, cost of money or other miscellaneous charges. Dr. Baldwin noted the cost estimates represent the best opinion of the consultants at the time the report is filed and "were intended to be generous. Local school personnel should track building costs in the region. Increases are expected in the next 24 months beyond those which have happened in the last two years."

Dr. Baldwin's experiences as a former school superintendent indicate the services rendered by such an office and how the facility can accommodate services expected were reflected in his study of the central office.

He noted the 3,900 square foot building was designed to be an administration building. But, with the two entrances for the public, plus an entry for supplies, a first-time visitor "will find it difficult to ascertain which is the main entry to the building."

He notes the board room is of sufficient size for its purpose as well as its use for meeting of committees or small in-service groups. He also commented on some of the internal modifications of the building with an entry way divided from the work area with a counter and an additional office remodeled.

"Traffic flow in the current building is poor," states Dr. Baldwin, noting visitors can easily be controlled by the receptionist, but they have to walk by offices or open area work desks to reach the office which they wish to visit. Addressing the storage area in the building, a notation is

made that it is too small to serve the needs of the school district.

The general comments made about the building include the building has been well maintained and the esthetics of the building make it a pleasant place to visit or work. Regarding the air conditioning in the building, he notes the age of the system is

such it could need replacement soon and that its capacity is inadequate to handle the heat build-up from the office computer. However, a window air condi-

tioner has been installed to handle that need.

The board meeting room has limited seating for school board meetings (room for approximate-

ly 24 persons besides the board and administrative staff).

General comments also included that the board room is used by the superintendent as a conference

room, and meeting room for various groups having its need.

Dr. Baldwin points out the building is not handicapped accessible except by use of the entry way labeled "non-public" and there is no curb cut for parking near that entry, thus the building does not meet state code.

A pellet gun hole in one window pane and a piece of facing cap missing on the north side of the building was pointed out in the report. Also noted was the fact the storage room not being large enough for instructional supplies and janitorial and other supplies for the school district.

Syracuse police investigate incidents

Syracuse Police investigated the following reports during the past week:

Hubb Wilkinson notified police at 3:01 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 23, that a semi had struck a Northern Indiana Public Service Company Pole with its trailer, breaking a ground wire. The incident occurred at 2:55 p.m.

Arthur Hatcher, Ambler, Pa., driver of the semi, reported he was driving the semi tractor-trailer away from Pacific Molasses when the trailer got against the pole at the intersection. He reported he stopped the vehicle, looked and tried to get away from it. There was damage to the rim and tire on the trailer. He was driving equipment for North and South Lines, Harrisburg, Va.

Theft

Duane Tope, Syracuse, notified police at 7 p.m., Wednesday, that sometime before 5:30 p.m., that evening someone had taken some cash from his home. The exact amount of money taken was not released.

Explosion

There was no damage to the home of Richard Pletcher, Syracuse, after several two liter plastic bottles were placed on his front porch and exploded. The incident occurred around 9:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27. Police were notified at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28.

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