



Franklin County Career and Technology Center's scaled-down plans for additions may be approved this week by Chambersburg Area school board

By KEITH PARADISE Staff writer

CHAMBERSBURG -- A revised \$9.5 million renovation plan for the Franklin County Career and Technology Center could be voted on as soon as this week.

The Chambersburg Area school board was presented with the new plan for the district's academic wing at the center and proposed renovations at the center. Construction Projects Manager Kevin Weller said the board could vote on the revisions as soon as Wednesday's meeting.

The district was originally proposing a 97,000-square-foot academic center to be built at the center for Chambersburg students at a cost of around \$22.6 million. Operating in a budget deficit due to the economic recession, administrators decided to scale back the project.

The most recent version of the expansion will have about 60,000 square feet of space and is

expected to cost the district about \$9.5 million.

The modifications have trimmed the price of the project and should also qualify it for reimbursement from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Weller said the original plan did not qualify for full reimbursement through the state as a comprehensive high school because it was going to be one facility with two separate administrations, one for the Chambersburg students and another for the remaining Career Center students.

"That was where we ran into the snag," Weller said.

The latest plan will include 18 classrooms, two science laboratories and will all have the same technology that the renovated senior high school will have.

The facility will also have a gymnasium in order for the students to take physical education classes. The gym will also double as a cafeteria for students, because the Department of Education says the facility can share a kitchen facility with the Career Center but must have a separate dining area.

"It has to be a stand-alone high school," Weller said.

The Career Center's renovations have also been scaled down in proposed cost from almost \$15 million to roughly \$13 million. The cost of the renovation was decreased by eliminating a

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proposed 10,000-square-foot construction area where students from the masonry, carpentry, heating and air conditioning and plumbing classes could build something as high as two stories. Weller also said that not every department that was originally expected to be renovated will be in the scaled down project.

Should the project be approved by the school board and the Career Center's Joint Operating Committee, the plan would then go into the design and development phases in addition to meeting with Department of Education about the project.

The construction of both phases of the project is expected to take about two years.

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