

Parish School Building Update #4

Our work with Mid-America Transplant Services (MTS) has continued over the past month on a possible long-term lease for our Parish School Building. As previously mentioned, their interest in the Parish School Building is for the development of apartment units for transplant patients awaiting organ matches.

MTS has contracted with Fox Architects to develop preliminary plans for the conversion into apartments. Fox has visited the building on three separate occasions over the past 60 days taking measurements and photos of the building.

The President and CEO of MTS will be visiting the School Building later this month. We believe this is a positive development which affirms their interest in the building.

Our facility team has been working hard to get the building cleaned up and ready for the MTS visit or to be shown to any interested party. It's critical to the parish that we develop the school building into a means of revenue generation.

As part of our clean-up activity, we have decided to discontinue the collection of paper and used clothes to be recycled. Although these items have historically brought in a small amount of revenue, this area has become increasingly difficult to keep clean and in repair. In addition, the clothes bin has become a regular makeshift shelter for homeless individuals. The recycle bins, the jet ski and the Parish float will all be removed from this area and the parking spaces will be reinstated. It's critical that we do everything possible, to market the possible lease of the school building.

Part of our preparation for a possible lease includes assessment on impact to our Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC). In the event that we need to move the ECEC to the ground floor, we have met with Connie Jansen and Katie Ryan to develop a preliminary set of requirements for the center. In addition, we have a very preliminary plan to move the ECEC to the Parish Office Building basement during construction.

MTS has shared that their timeline will be to complete their feasibility study by the end of this year. If they approve moving forward, the following six months will be discussions on requirements and negotiations.

During that time, we will continue to pursue other possible tenants and look for other revenue opportunities for the building.

We will continue these regular updates in the bulletin in addition to an open discussion at our August Parish Community Meeting. As a side note, the Community Meeting was scheduled for July but moved to August in hopes of having the tour, however the CEO's calendar opening fell after our meeting date. This is intended to keep the entire Parish tied in to the progress with MTS. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at parishcouncil@stjamesthegreater.org.

John Kelley

Parish Council - Chairperson