

**FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME**  
SERVING ALL CEMETERIES

*New*  
**OPEN**

www.forestlawnomaha.com

YOUR DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES

## EDUCATION

[Omaha Metro](#) [Nebraska](#) [Iowa](#) [Crime & Courts](#) [Military](#) [Politics](#) [The Record](#) [Dataomaha](#) [National](#) [World](#)

# OPS board indicates support for Central High addition with space for new library, theater


**Database: Search Nebraska school performance ratings**

Story **Comments**

Print Font Size:

Like 11 Share

News Alerts G+1

POSTED: TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015 12:30 AM

*By Erin Duffy / World-Herald staff writer*

The Omaha school board got its first chance Monday night to weigh in on a proposed 45,000-square-foot addition to Central High School.

School board members didn't vote on the proposal but seemed generally supportive of the concept. Several members did ask how the district would pay for its share of the project, which would include renovating 25,000 square feet of existing space for special education and English language learners' classrooms.

The addition, which would be built on the east side of the historic high school, would create new spaces for a library, black box theater, visual and performing arts, instrumental and vocal music and drama classes.

The current classrooms for those programs would then be repurposed for student support programs and special education and English language learner classes. Space for those classes is cramped; special education students currently take classes in two converted loading docks, which is a turnoff for some parents and students considering



### Related Stories

**Central High proposal includes addition for new library, theater**

**Omaha-area school districts**

**Elementary schools in Omaha area**

**Middle schools, junior highs and high schools in Omaha area**

**Omaha-area colleges, universities and medical schools**

**Southwest Iowa schools**

**Mentoring clubs and programs**

TWITTER

Central, board member Marian Fey said.

“We’re a very popular high school, and we don’t have the room to meet all the needs in our high school,” said Principal Ed Bennett.

The cost of the addition is estimated at \$15 million to \$21 million. The Central High School Foundation would privately raise \$12 million to \$15 million, and OPS would be asked to contribute \$3 million to \$6 million for the repurposing of classrooms for special education, English language learners and other programs.

The current library could be divided into several classrooms, the band room could house special education classes, and art studios could be turned into tutoring rooms, said Mark Brim, a principal with the DLR Group, a design and architectural firm.

The addition would be designed to blend in and not cover up the edifice of the east side of Central, which was built at the turn of the previous century and is on the National Register of Historic Places, Brim said.

“I just don’t want 75 percent of the funds to get raised and then we have to come up with \$6 million in a year,” board member Justin Wayne said.

The district could include the funding in a second bond measure, which could come before voters in 2017, or save money in a building fund over several years.

“Pursuing it for the second bond would probably be smart,” board member Tony Vargas said.

Fundraising and construction of the addition could take several years, Bennett said, and the classroom renovations could be phased in, giving the district time to come up with its contribution.

### Contact the writer:

402-444-1210, [erin.duffy@owh.com](mailto:erin.duffy@owh.com)

Copyright ©2015 Omaha World-Herald. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, displayed or redistributed for any purpose without permission from the Omaha World-Herald. To purchase rights to republish this article, please contact The World-Herald Store.



Posted in Education, OMAHA METRO on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 12:30 am.

#owhed



NElovesPS  
@NElovesPS

16 Dec

Did you know: Nebraska ranks second in the nation for high school graduation rates – #owhed [omaha.com/news/education...](http://omaha.com/news/education...)

Show Summary

NElovesPS  
@NElovesPS

8 Dec

ICYMI: Goodfellows will provide \$12,000 to @OmahaPubSchool to keep children warm this year - #owhed [omaha.com/goodfellows/go...](http://omaha.com/goodfellows/go...)

Show Summary

NElovesPS  
@NElovesPS

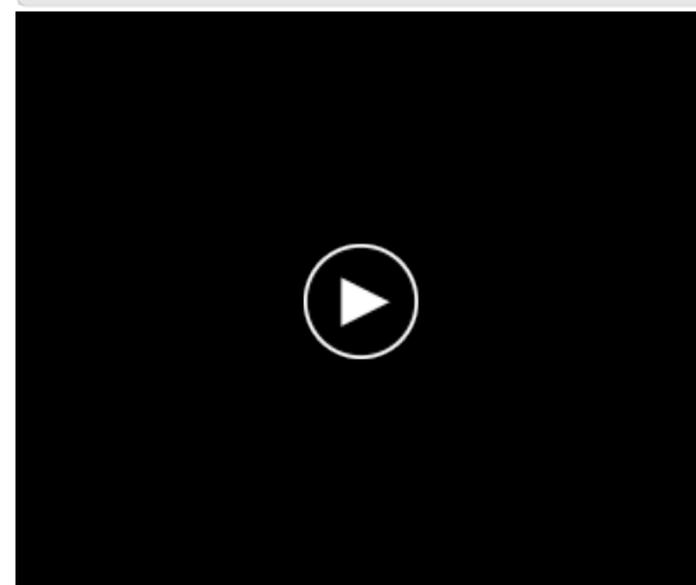
29 Nov

ICYMI: @OWHNews shared a story on personalized learning. See what it looks like: #owhed [nelovesps.org/story/one-chil...](http://nelovesps.org/story/one-chil...) [pic.twitter.com/l3f3tyfyfR](http://pic.twitter.com/l3f3tyfyfR)



Expand

Tweet #owhed



More videos:



**DailyDealOmaha.com**  
Owner's Pride  
\$195 for Half Off Car Detailing Memberships to Owner's Pride  
**BUY NOW!**

FINDIT »

Find Local Businesses

Search  GO

### Arbor Day Farm

Enjoy a meal in Lied Lodge's on-site restaurant, the Timber Dining Room. Local, sustainable food is served under soaring timbers and alongside...

[more »](#)

### West Broadway Clinic

Welcome to West Broadway Clinic. Our physicians are Diana Rabadi Marar, MD; Isam Marar, MD Scheduled Appointments Monday - Friday from 8:00 am...

[more »](#)

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **Awaiting pilot, passengers were stuck at Eppley for more than 10 hours**

---

- **2015 Midlander of the Year: Bruce Lauritzen**

---

- **With a little help, 3 Omaha men bought and donated 8,064 diapers to Lydia House shelter**

---

- **Where to recycle your Christmas tree**

---

- **Tinsel & traditions: Archive photos tell the stories of holiday traditions of yesteryear**

---

- **These Vegas transplants bought a small-town Nebraska schoolhouse and let their artistic flags fly**

---

- **McKewon: Run-heavy gameplan produces big gains for Nebraska**

---

- **Nebraska's ground game turns the tide, then defense sews it up**

---

- **Nebraska's fourth title team brings back most key players — with some interesting additions**

---

- **Ex-Husker Petteway sparkling in sixth man role for NBA Pacers' D-League affiliate**

### PHOTO GALLERIES »



12/29/2015: Donald Trump campaign rally in Council Bluffs, Iowa



1/1/2016-Year in animal photos

Archive:

( Choose a slideshow )

Can't find what you need? [Click here for site map »](#)

# Omaha.com

Search this site...

[Copyright](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Help](#) | [Apps](#)

[webmaster@omaha.com](mailto:webmaster@omaha.com)

© 2015, Omaha.com. All rights reserved.