Columbia Public Schools to pursue purchase agreement for site of future elementary school

Columbia, MO -- Columbia Public Schools has been actively searching for land to build an elementary school on the east side of Columbia for the past nine months.

This morning, at its regular work session, the Columbia Board of Education authorized the school district to seek a purchase agreement with Boone Landholdings, LLC for a 26-acre site located off Columbia Gorge Parkway next to the Vineyards subdivision.

The estimated cost to acquire the land is $832,000 or $32,000 per acre. Development of the site is estimated to cost $1.7 million. Development includes installation of necessary infrastructure and connecting roads around the school site.

The school district’s Long-range Facilities Planning Committee and the Board of Education have been meeting to discuss available properties and review land proposals options for the location of the school. A total of 24 land options were reviewed and the selection was narrowed to three possibilities. The recommended site was chosen based on a number of criteria including available acreage, location in the east quadrant of Columbia, location of sewer, major roads, level of site development and the owner’s willingness to sell. A listing of some of the site evaluation criteria is below:

- Site location
- Size and shape of property
- Sewer
- Water
- Telephone
- Cable TV
- Gas
- Electric
- Storm sewer
- Storm Water Management
- Site Topography
- Sinkholes
- Wetlands
- Environmental impairments
- Cultural resources
- Floodplain
- Jurisdictional streams
- Climax forest
- Current zoning
- Annexation
- Necessary offsite improvements
- Encroachments
- Legal lot status
- Compatibility of adjacent property owners
- Traffic signals
- Assessor’s Real Property Summary
- Maps
The new school is set to open in 2018 and is being funded with bond funds approved in the April 2014 bond issue election. The building design will mirror the two additional elementary schools currently under construction – Battle Elementary School opening this fall and Beulah Ralph Elementary School set to open in 2016.

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