

Carrollton saying goodbye to three schools

Carrollton Exempted Village Board of Education closes Dellroy and Augusta elementary schools along with Bell-Herron Middle School.

CARROLLTON Students and staff are saying their goodbyes to three neighborhood schools.

Dellroy and Augusta elementary schools along with Bell-Herron Middle School are joining the annals of education history as Carrollton Exempted Village Schools moves most of its elementary education programs into what has been Carrollton High School.

Bell-Herron is closing as the district is opening a new high school/middle school building in the 200 block of Scio Road SW. The new high school/middle school building will open for the 2019-20 academic year.

Today is the last day of classes. The two longtime elementary schools and middle school will be razed.

“They will be done one at a time,” school board member Michael Pozderac said. “Bell-Herron will be first. It will be demolished in July of this year.”

Bell-Herron is in the 200 block of Third Street NE. Dellroy Elementary is in the 100 block of E. Main Street in Dellroy while Augusta Elementary is in the 3100 block of Aurora Road NE in Augusta Township.

“Having everyone under one roof helps, especially with teachers,” Superintendent David Quattrochi said.

School system officials decided against maintaining the three buildings or putting them on the market.

“The buildings are very old for one thing,” Pozderac said. “If anyone wants to buy them, you would have to put hundreds of thousands of dollars in them. You can’t leave a building there to fall down. These buildings were built in the 1920s and 1930s.”

Carrollton Exempted Village Board of Education has a third elementary school, Carrollton Elementary in the 200 block of Third Street NE. That building will not be demolished, but much of the academic activities will be vacated.

“A small portion of it will be used for classrooms,” Pozderac said. “The rest will be used for offices and storage. The classrooms will be used on the first floor.”

The school system was able to construct a new high school/middle school building with funds from a tax abatement agreement between Carroll County government and Carroll County Energy, which constructed an electricity generating plant north of the village.

In lieu of paying real estate taxes, operators of Carroll County Energy are expected to contribute \$39 million over a 30-year period. And the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission is putting about \$15.5 million into the project.

“Carroll County Energy has graciously given us the money to do this,” Pozderac said. “The (local) taxpayers have not paid one single dime.”

Under the state school construction program, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission contributes to the local projects once the school systems come up with their share of the cost.

“Most of our (school) districts go through some sort of levy process,” said Rick Savors, public relations officer for the Ohio Facilities

Construction Commission. “But there are some that are able to get their local share through alternate means.”

Pozderac and Quattrochi said school system officials are working with trustees in both Augusta and Monroe townships on transferring the land to their ownership after the schools are razed.

“We are closing their community schools,” Quattrochi said. “They reached out to us. We are giving it to them for \$1.”

However, the land where Bell-Herron Middle School sits will remain with the school system.

Also, Newell Realty & Auctions is holding an online auction to sell furnishings in the buildings. The bidding closes at 6 p.m. Sunday.

“Basically, it is school desks, teachers desks, cafeteria equipment, tables,” said William Newell of Newell Realty & Auctions.

School system officials have long-range hopes of building a new elementary school and locating it on the campus with the new high school/middle school. But that likely will require a bond issue.

“The taxpayers will have to step up to pay for the elementary school,” Pozderac said. “The amount of money is going to be much less than what the high school and middle school was.”

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