

Sabrina Garrett

Special to The Chronicle

Wilson County Board of Education tabled the subject of using the former Lebanon High School facility on Harding Drive for a middle school at Monday night's meeting.

Under the recommendation of Director of Schools Mike Davis, Chairman Don Weathers proposed to "defer any action" until the board can determine the best use of the facility. He added that parents, teachers and the public would be given "30 days' notice" before action is taken in the future.

The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with board members Wayne McNeese and Bill Robinson voting against it.

The subject was initially brought up during a school board meeting in late 2012 and received criticism from many parents and teachers at the three schools that would be affected – Southside Elementary, Carroll Oakland Elementary and Tuckers Crossroads Elementary. The original plan investigated using the Harding Drive facility for grades 6 through 8 to alleviate crowding at the three elementary schools.

During two public meetings held in December, parents and teachers voiced their concerns about the condition of the building. The Board of Education stressed that, if the plan was approved, they would only be using the newer portions of the facility built in the 1970s and 1990s – and would not subject Wilson County students to the older or unfit portions of the building.

For the time being, the board voted to pull \$78,000 from the system's fund balance to lease three portable classroom building for Carroll Oakland. Each portable would hold two classrooms, adding six classroom options in total.

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