

USD 415 board discusses Hawthorne House repairs

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha School Board continues to ponder the future of the Hawthorne House as they move forward with some repairs to the home that was once part of the historic Hiawatha Academy.

Director of Maintenance Chris Morey Monday evening reviewed an estimate of \$27,000 for repairs to the exterior of the house located on school district property---including tuck pointing, porch repairs and drainage work.

Discussion was held regarding which repairs to prioritize and which repairs can be completed in-house.

The Board directed Morey to have district employees handle as much of the drainage work as possible and hire a local contractor as needed. The drainage work includes removing concrete slabs on the left side and rear corner of the house and adding topsoil to direct water away from the house's foundation.

The Board voted to put the tuck pointing work out for bid.

The historic home and land was deeded to USD 415 by E.N. Morrill for the use of education. The land cannot be sold, but the house can be given away and moved off the property.

The Board again discussed possible future plans for the house, but made no decision.

Board members do not want to see the house torn down, but don't believe the district should be in the rental business as well.

Board member Ian Schuetz said he thinks its worth exploring the possibility of moving the house to another lot and making it a home remodeling project.

In other business, discussion was held regarding improvements at the Hiawatha Elementary School parking lot. The board asked Morey to look into creating a direct entrance to and exit from the parking lot on Miami Street. A virtual special board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 16th at 10:00 in the morning to discuss the new plans.

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