

IW Purchases Land

Illini West High School District #307

May 17, 2017

Illini West Makes a Land Purchase

The Illini West High School District #307 recently purchased 54.14 acres located north of Carthage on Highway 94, track 1 of the Vass Farm.

Before the Board decided to purchase the property, they investigated, with the help of the District architect, where the most optimal property would be located.

The architect actually looked at three farms and ranked each farm. The Junk property was ranked #1 and the Vass Property was ranked #2. At that time the Vass property could not be sold as it was in a trust.

The Junk property was within the Carthage City Limits, across from the current high school parking lot. The District made agreements to purchase that property if a referendum was passed by the voters of the Illini West HSD #307.

The District ran two referendums to build on that property. Both referendums failed. That agreement will expire this summer.

After the second failed attempt to pass a referendum to build a new school, the Board asked why people voted no. One of the main reasons that the Board was told was the need to have a more centrally located school. Illini West is 366 square miles.

The Board was also told that there was "FREE" land to the north. In looking at this possibility, there was no "FREE" land. Next, the Board put an ad in the paper looking for land that was more centrally located, no one replied. The Board was also told that the City of LaHarpe had land that the school could build on. The City of LaHarpe does own property, but the land is in a trust and cannot be sold.

This spring the Vass Farm came up for auction and the Board discussed the farm and decided to bid on the farm and see if the District could purchase the property. The farm was purchased, at auction, on May 11, 2017.

It is the Board's goal that the purchase of this property will not only be an optimal location for a new building, but that it will also meet the needs for a central location for the Illini West District.

What Happens Now?

Now that the District owns a farm the question becomes, What now?

For now the Illini West will lease the farm out for the next few years.

Steps to Build a New High School

- Secure Property
- Wait until the State of Illinois begins to fund Capital Development Projects
- Ask the Voters to pass a referendum to build a new school
- Voters say "No" then no school is built at that location
- Voters say "Yes" then the District waits on State Funds
- Once State Funds are received then the District would sell bonds to build a school

When Will a New School Be Built?

The only way a new school can be built at that location is if the voters pass a referendum to build a new school at that site.

There are no immediate plans to have a referendum as the State of Illinois is not funding capital development projects at this time.

Illini West High School District will not have a referendum and will not build a school without state funding.



Architect's Rendering