

Rich High District 227 Administrative Offices to relocate, purchase office facility

Ilandus Hampton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, responds to questions about the move

Why is it necessary for the district to purchase a separate building for the administrative office?

“In 2006, due to the need for additional classroom space at Rich Central, the district office was forced to secure a temporary location, with the intent to purchase a permanent location at a future date. That temporary location—where the district offices are now located—included an initial lease for three years. That lease was subsequently extended for two additional years.”

What is the cost of the building?

“The purchase of the 18,000 square foot building, along with the necessary renovations (upgrades to mechanical systems, electrical systems, HVAC systems, grounds, etc.) architectural/construction management fees, furniture, equipment, and technology upgrades is estimated at \$4 million.”

Since the district is attempting to cut costs, where is the money coming from?

“Currently, the district pays \$210,000 annually for fees associated with the leased property. In fact, over the past five years, we’ve spent nearly \$950,000 in fees and costs associated with the current property. By purchasing a building, the \$210,000 spent annually on the rental property will become available in the district's operating fund.”

Who will be housed in the district office building and when will the move occur?

“The purchased property will accommodate the district administrative and support staff. The move is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2012.”

Will this affect other items that require funding or student curriculum or programs?

“No. The purchase of the building will be paid from the district's bond fund, which does not adversely affect other current or future financial obligations. Therefore, **there will be no increase to taxpayers**. Accordingly, there will be no impact on students as a result of the purchase.”