

An offer to purchase Shattuck Middle School by Neenah-based Investment Creations, LLC was accepted by the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its August 15 meeting.

Investment Creations is owned by Neenah resident Umer Sheikh and has renovated local landmark buildings such as the Marketplace in Downtown Neenah and the Equitable Reserve Building (Lion's Tail Brewing). Investment Creations offered \$500,001 and plans 34-48 apartments in the building, along with 50-60 single family dwellings on the property. It would also keep the Health and Wellness Center and use the gymnasium for city recreational programs.

Sheikh was in attendance at the meeting and answered several questions from the Board, reiterating his passion for the City of Neenah and restoring old buildings. He said he believes the Shattuck building has great potential for continued use.

Sheikh needs to get rezoning for the property to convert it into apartments, similar to the Northpointe Development deal the Board accepted last January. However, in contrast to the previous deal, the rezoning for apartments is not a contingency of this sale. Also, a supermajority from the city council is no longer needed for the rezoning. The first time, seven of nine votes were needed to rezone, but that has changed to five votes. The only contingency on this offer is that the city needs to rezone the section of Shattuck that currently houses the District Health and Wellness Clinic.

City of Neenah Development Director Chris Haese also answered a number of questions from Board members related to the tax incremental financing (TIF) process used by the city and how it could potentially impact the offers. Haese suggested that based on state requirements for TIF it would be challenging for an offer from Lakeside Development to secure TIF funding with their current proposal. Lakeside's proposal included single-family dwellings that asked for a contingency of \$2.6 million in TIF money.

In personnel moves, teaching hires were approved for Jocelyn Tapia at the high school and Leeah Justman and Sarah Kelch at the middle school. Educational assistant hires were approved for Crystal Kronberg at the high school, Johnny Scott and Michelle Cummings at the middle school, Amanda Gazzana and Tiffany Burke at Washington, Billie Jo Huntsinger at the Transitional Education Center and Pascha Zietlow at Coolidge.

Resignations were approved for Tamara Mercier, Kristen Woulf and Grace Davis at the middle school, Samantha Powers as a school psychologist, Jacqueline Brelage at the high school and Abigail Hucke at Coolidge. Educational assistants Lizbeth Epling and Alissa Beyer at Washington also had resignations approved.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 5 at 6 p.m.