

MVTHS closes on land for new high school

*Land and bonds to be paid
off by Feb. 1*

BY REANNE PALMER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Taking the next big leap in the process of building a new school, Mt. Vernon Township High School (MVTHS) officially closed on land Aug. 29. The property, located on Wells Bypass Road near Ambassador Road, was purchased for \$1.5 million.

The 82 acres of land was announced in April as the future location of the school. Officials recently issued the \$1.5 million in bonds to acquire the land.

"We closed on it last week [Aug. 29] and everything went very smoothly," said MVTHS Superintendent Mike Smith. "So we've got the land paid for with the bond and that bond will be paid for by February 1. So, in just a few months, we'll have the land and we'll have it all paid off."

According to a previous Sentinel article, the school had no funds to purchase the land for the new school without taxpayer bond money. With the bonds, they were able to purchase the land after completing a series of tests and analyses.

Neikirk Engineering LLC, out of Mt. Carmel, surveyed the land for several items, including utilities, property surveys, biological resources, environmental site assessments, geo-technical preliminary investigations, and archaeological reviews.

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Smith said there were no surprises that came out of the studies.

Mike Neikirk, of Neikirk Engineering LLC added, "It's a favorable site from the civil engineering point of view."

The timeline for the new school is still on track with

construction bids to be done in October and November of 2013. Ground-breaking will then begin in January 2014.



Mike Smith

Smith said that the new school should be open to students in the fall of 2015.

The Finance and Building committees are expected to become very busy soon, and will have their next meeting Monday at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. respectively.

A special meeting of the regular Board is also scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 19 to adopt the budget and the pre-pricing of bonds to be sold in January.

rpalmer@morningsentinel.com

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