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Kimberly Center to be remodeled

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By Sheena Dooley | Monday, January 14, 2008 | [3 comment\(s\)](#)

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The Kimberly Center as it stands now below a sketch of the projected renovations. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Davenport's alternative high school will undergo a facelift after school board members approved renovations to the building.

The board voted 6-0 during its regular meeting Monday night to spend \$350,000 to remodel the front of the Kimberly Center, 1002 W. Kimberly Road. The project will create a central location for the offices, a commons area for students and a large conference room for community and school district use.

Board member Ralph Johanson did not attend the meeting.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Cathy Bosco, program administrator for the Kimberly Center. "It's not

everything we need, but it's a good first step."

The district will use money raised from its 1-cent local option sales tax to pay for the project. The 10-year tax, which is set to expire next year, is earmarked for such construction projects. Until now, every school has benefited from the dollars except for the Kimberly Center.

Construction on the project will start at the end of the school year and be completed by August when students return to the classroom, said Donna Neppi Cooper, operations supervisor for the school district.

Nearly 270 students attend the alternative high school at the building, which also houses the district's Early Head Start and day care program. Another almost 100 students are enrolled in those programs.

The approved plans call for eight new offices at the front of the building, providing a central space for administrators from the school's east and west programs. That will allow for more collaboration between the two and a smoother transition for students who move between the programs, Bosco said.

Neppi Cooper also said the renovations will improve security, mainly in two areas. The addition of a commons area will take students out of the hallways and into one area where they can be better supervised, she said. Also, the building will have two front entrances that flow into office areas, allowing staff to better monitor who comes into the school.

"Right now you can walk in, and you don't have to go through the office," Neppi Cooper said. "With this, they will be forced to go to the office to check in. That's an important security feature for us. We will also be adding

windows to the front of the building that will allow us to see what kids are doing and improve the looks of the building.”

Sheena Dooley can be contacted at (563) 383-2363 or sdooley@qctimes.com.

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