



**News Release**  
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*District's Elementary School Renovation Plan Moves Forward with  
the Purchase of a Building*

(Council Bluffs, IA) – The Council Bluffs Community School District will move forward with a plan to modernize its elementary schools with the acquisition and renovation of the St. Albert primary building at 2912 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The building will be used to temporarily house students from identified elementary schools that will be renovated as part of the district's plan to provide modern elementary schools for all students in the next several years.

According to Superintendent Martha Bruckner, acquiring this building provides the opportunity for the district to move forward with its ambitious plan to provide optimal learning environments to positively affect student achievement.

"This represents a true win-win for education in our community," Dr. Bruckner said. "This building will provide a safe and comfortable setting for our students as their schools are being updated to meet modern expectations."

St. Albert President Jim Rouse agrees.

"We are pleased the Council Bluffs School District has the need to use this school that has served our students well for the past two decades," he said.

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According to Bruckner, the sale will be final within a few months and renovations will begin this summer. The first school to be temporarily located in the building will be Rue Elementary, which will likely move for the second half of the 2009-10 school year.

The district previously utilized this building as DeForest Elementary until it was sold to St. Albert Catholic Schools in 1987. It was closed as part of a district re-organization of school boundaries prompted by changes in student population.

The building will be needed for the district's facilities improvement plan for at least five years. District officials will determine the long-term use of the building upon completion of the elementary school improvements identified in a master facilities plan.

Funding for the project was made possible by a \$407,000 grant from the Iowa West Foundation in its ongoing initiative to improve educational opportunities for residents of Council Bluffs.

"The Iowa West Foundation has made significant investments to improve educational attainment in our community," said Todd Graham, the foundation's President and CEO, "and this is another example of our efforts."

The building purchase price is \$350,000. The renovations will be funded by \$90,000 from one-cent sales tax revenues to the district and \$57,000 from the grant.

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