

Why hasn't the old C.S. Johnson building and lot been considered for a new high school? The property could be purchased for a small sum, and is so located that it would not be necessary to construct a new stadium because it would be only a block or so from the present Centennial stadium which both Central and Centennial use presently.

There must be a good reason that I haven't heard anything about using that property, and i would be most happy to hear about it.

Congratulations to the school board and the facilities committee for the systematic and open way they are conducting their deliberations.

Sincerely,

Roy Van Buskirk

Dear Mr. Van Buskirk,

Thanks for your kind words about the current Unit 4 facilities discussions, and for reaching out to us with your question about the C. S. Johnson property.

You are correct that the proximity of this site to Centennial would allow for easy sharing of the Unit 4 football stadium located at Centennial. However, both current and past school boards have encountered significant community resistance to merging our two existing high schools into one school. These two sites are so close to each other that they would effectively function as one school, especially since most of the athletic fields used for P.E., marching band, and school teams (besides football) would continue to be located at Centennial (due to the comparative lack of space at the C. S. Johnson property, only 8-1/2 acres or so). While Centennial does sit on a larger site, much of the green space adjacent to it belongs not to Unit 4 but to the Champaign Park District -- so they too would have to be willing to support a one-campus model.

We are hopeful that the current facilities process will lead to a recommendation for a long-term facilities plan that has the community support necessary to move forward in the near future.

Best wishes,
Kathy R.