

Suggestion shared with the District from community member Mary Shultz.

From: Mary Shultz

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Subject: Location Suggestion for Central High School

Unit 4 Board School Board Members,

As a possible location for a new Central High School, I would like to suggest the area of Randolph Street (W), to Walnut (E), Vine Street (S) to Bradley Avenue (N). Unit 4 already owns some of the property in this area (unfortunately, Stratton is in the center). Many of the surrounding residential and commercial properties are falling into disrepair, so their owners might be willing sellers. The city also owns the southeast corner of Neil and Bradley, which last I knew, they were accepting development proposal for.

Just recently, the city council voted to prioritize the beautification of Neil Street as a main entryway into Champaign. Building a state-of-the-art high school with some athletic facilities there would go a long way toward accomplishing that goal. Since an attractive high school campus would be a valuable link between Downtown and Market Place Mall, perhaps the city would be willing to help with the demolition costs of the blighted properties and/or beautification - both of which they recently approved for the Midtown development linking Downtown to Campustown.

Please pass this recommendation on to the new facilities committee and Mr. Fitzgerald, so they can consider it. I believe it is an interesting option – potentially reviving blocks of inner city property, walkable for many students, and a plus for the city as a whole. (Being right off 74 would also be very convenient for extracurricular travel!)

Thanks for passing this idea on.

Mary Shultz