

List of transportation center sites trimmed

By **Laura E. Winchester**

Suburban Correspondent

Published: February 15, 2012, 12:00 AM

- Updated: February 15, 2012, 6:30 AM

The Grand Island Board of Education has informally winnowed five possible sites for a new transportation center to three.

At a meeting Monday in the Middle School Little Theater, Superintendent Robert Christmann asked the seven School Board members for their thoughts on the five sites that had been under consideration in a study prepared by Cannon Design.

The three prospects the board favors for a “short list” are 13.9 acres on Stony Point Road, south of Whitehaven Road; 18.7 acres, also owned by the town, at 1600 Whitehaven Road, behind the water tower; and 27 acres at Sidway Elementary School, 2451 Baseline Road, owned by the district.

The other two sites are 98 acres behind the middle school on Ransom Road owned by the district, which could impact existing athletic fields; and 8.8 acres that are privately owned at 2596 Grand Island Blvd., which the district would have to buy.

Board members Paul Krull and Tak Nobumoto both noted the need for enough acreage to house not only a new transportation center but also eventually the buildings and grounds department.

The district set aside \$800,000 in its capital reserve fund for the project, which is subject to a referendum. State building aid would be available for the project if it is built on district-owned land. The district and the Town Board are exploring scenarios regarding possible use of the two town-owned sites including purchase for a nominal sum and leasing.

In other business, the board:

- Voted, 5-1, to hire Harter Secrest & Emery for general district legal issues, with Nobumoto voting no and Donna Tomkins abstaining.
- Indicated its willingness to drop the \$20 registration fee for hall walkers in the next school year because there are no instructional costs involved.