



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Existing OHS Citizens' Task Force Recommendation to School Board**

*Owatonna, MN*—The Existing OHS Citizens' Task Force brought their recommendation regarding the current Owatonna High School site to the Owatonna Public Schools School Board during the work session on Monday, April 11.

The Task Force recommends the District:

- own and operate the C Plaza, gymnasium/locker room spaces, and VoAg building, as well as support spaces such as parking to support functions currently housed at 515 W Bridge Street and 115 E Rose Street.
- enter into a Development Agreement with Paul Warshauer of Grande Venues / Former Owatonna High School (FOHS) LLC to explore potential redevelopment of the remainder of the building/complex as outlined in the proposal dated March 9, 2022.
- provide regular updates to the Task Force as the process with Paul Warshauer of Grande Venues / FOHS (Former Owatonna High School) LLC progresses.
- call Task Force back to action when more information is available (anticipated to be near the end of 180 day time period requested from developer) before final decisions are made by the School Board.

Due to the complexity of the redevelopment project, the developer requested 180 days to fully vet possibilities and find partners. The Task Force put forth the following suitable use criteria for redevelopment:

- Project should be financially responsible and consider leveraging a variety of funding types
- Project needs to benefit the community as a whole
- Project must be beneficial to the surrounding neighborhood (safety/security, quality of life, property values), etc.

The new Owatonna High School is scheduled to open in Fall 2023. In November 2019, the Owatonna community passed two bond referendum questions for a new high school campus to be constructed and to re-purpose the current high school building/campus. The twenty-five member OHS Citizens' Task Force began meeting in November 2021 to explore re-use of the current campus and prepared their recommendation to the School Board at their last meeting on March 22, 2022.

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