

New Hartford school district looks to purchase properties

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NEW HARTFORD —

The New Hartford Central School District is looking to purchase two properties, which could lead to future expansion.

Robert L. Bradley Elementary School and New Hartford Senior High School have no room to grow, limiting expansion possibilities, according to a news release from the school district.

“Any opportunity to acquire adjacent properties, such as the ones at 29 Oxford Road and George Avenue, is important for additional room to grow as well as provide increased flexibility for the long-term needs of the district,” according to the release.

The district currently has no plans for the properties, Superintendent Robert Nole said.

“Right now, this is essentially an opportunity to acquire adjacent property,” he said.

A referendum to purchase the properties will be on the May 15 ballot along with the district’s budget.

The cost of purchasing the properties is not to exceed \$270,000, including purchase price and estimated acquisition costs such as legal fees and site-work expenses, according to the release.

“Funds will come from the end-of-year balance and will not increase the tax rates,” according to the release.

Both properties are owned by Ashford-Clinton Corp., of Utica.

The George Street property is a vacant piece of land, said Laura Ruberto, Ashford-Clinton’s vice president.

The property’s full market value is \$18,395 and was purchased by the corporation in June 2009 from St. John the Evangelist Church, according to Oneida County real property records.

The Oxford Road property is a house being used by the school district for its business office, Ruberto said.

It has a market value of \$147,654 and was purchased by Ashford-Clinton from Autumn Enterprises LLC in December 2010, according to county real property records.

The school leases the Oxford Road building for \$28,000 a year, so purchasing the property would save money, Nole said.

If the sale is approved by voters, the building will continue to house the business office, he said.

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