

Vacant Kroger will be new home for Educational Service Center

By Lindsey Hilty, Staff Writer

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HAMILTON - The Butler County Educational Service Center has found a new home.

Today, Oct. 8, during a special meeting, the board will vote on the purchase of the vacant Kroger building on Ohio 4.

If the board approves the purchase and the financing, officials will immediately begin plans to renovate the 400 N. Erie Blvd. building, located north of High Street in Hamilton. The current facility at 1910 Fairgrove Ave. is across from the Butler County Fairgrounds.

“We’ve outgrown our office,” Superintendent Dan Hare said. “Currently we will double square footage.”

The new building, which would be purchased for \$925,000, came down in price from a year ago, he said. The first item to address will be the roof, which must be replaced. Then, he said, the inside will be remodeled based on whatever the staff and architect develop. There is a possibility some of the building will be available for lease to another agency, he said.

The financing for the project, not to exceed \$3 million, will come from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials. In the long term, Hare said, the new building will save up to 24 percent of what the service center is paying to lease for the old building. And, the new facility will provide parking for up to 300 people along with a conference room for up to 200 people.

“It gives us an opportunity to do more staff development, because of that,” he said. “It keeps us centrally located, because we have clients from all reaches of the county.”

Contact this reporter at (513) 755-5067.

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