

**School District 2 hopes to close soon on land for new Woodland Park Elementary School****By Frances K. Foster***Staff reporter*

Sheridan County School District 2 hopes to finish negotiations with Whitney Benefits Inc. soon for purchase of almost 11 acres south of Sheridan College to build a new Woodland Park Elementary School, Superintendent Craig Dougherty said Tuesday.

The land, on the east side of Coffeen Avenue, is part of a 97-acre site that the Sheridan City Council is scheduled to consider for annexation on final reading Monday, Dougherty said.

According to a map produced by the city of Sheridan Planning Office for the annexation, the new school site is approximately six blocks north of the current school at 5135 Coffeen Ave.

Assuming the council approves the annexation, the district would "like to proceed with closing" with Whitney as soon as possible, Dougherty said.

Wyoming's School Facilities Commission has approved construction of the new school, so as soon as a purchase agreement is final, the district will begin choosing a contractor, he said.



**Craig Dougherty**  
District 2  
Superintendent



**Julie Carroll**  
District 2  
Facilities  
Director

The district wants to issue bid specifications in late fall or early winter and begin construction in early to midwinter, Dougherty said.

The current Woodland Park School is not large enough to serve all the pupils' educational needs, and some teachers are having to meet with small groups of students in shower areas, he added.

Woodland Park measures about 30,500 square feet, said District 2 Facilities Director Julie Carroll. "It's really cramped," she said.

The district hopes to almost double the size of the new school at approximately 60,000 square feet, Carroll said.

The Facilities Commission has approved a "three-section building," which means there will be enough room for three classrooms for each grade, kindergarten through fifth, and additional space for

administration, Title I and special education rooms, computers, and a music area, Dougherty said.

Major roof repairs and heating and cooling upgrades would be required if the district stayed with the current building, Dougherty said.

Ideally, the district would like to move into a new Woodland Park School in August 2009, he said.

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