



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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The Future of the Mims/Scottsmoor Public Library

There have been unsubstantiated rumors circulating in the community regarding the future of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library. Here are the facts:

The Mims/Scottsmoor Library building is a modular portable structure, composed of 20 separate units, which were moved to the grounds of Pinewood Elementary School in Mims, and reassembled to create the library. The School Board leased the land for the library, and was allocated 5,100 square feet of the building for their needs (the remaining 9,100 sq. ft. was for the Mims/Scottsmoor Library).

The structure was designed for lifespan of about 20 years. The building is now 27 years old and the County has been looking into options to replace the existing building. Three options were considered: 1) building a new library at Cuyler Park; 2) building a new library on the existing site; or 3) building a new library on a new site. The County has determined that option 2 is the best option and within the financial means of the Library Services Department and is my preferred location.

It was determined after recent discussions with School Board officials that the school's need for space at the library will diminish over the next five years and they will no longer require space in the library. In light of this fact, the cost to build a new library has substantially decreased. The School Board will provide the County a long-term lease on the property. The Library Services Department will utilize multiyear budgets and potential state grants to fund this project without taking on debt.

The preliminary plan, which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval, will be to build a new library on the parking lot of the existing library. According to Brevard County Facilities department:

- The library can remain open during construction (parking shifted to the South side of the building).
- An approximately 8,000 sq. ft. building could be built in the existing parking lot.
- Construction would take about 8 months.
- The Library would need to close for up to 90 days to move into new building, demolish the old building, and construct a new parking lot on the site of the old building.

- School space, amounting to about 800-1,000 sq. ft. would be created in the new library building, but would be designed so that, when vacated by the school, it can easily be converted into public meeting rooms for the library.

TWO-YEAR PLAN

- Year 1: BOCC approval, all design work and contract award (FY 2016).
Year 2: Construction (FY 2017): Library opens in fall of 2017

The proposal to build a permanent Mims/Scottsmoor Library at Pinewood Elementary School, for the benefit of the North Brevard community, must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions about rumors that you hear in the community.



Robin Fisher
Brevard County Commissioner
District 1