

ELIZABETH KENT

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR
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ONEIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT #351
195 S. 300 E.
MALAD, ID 83252

January 20, 2020

Re: Lease & Purchase of the Building located at 195 S. 300 E.

Dear Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

The Oneida School District is currently leasing the building located at 195 S. 300 E. (Forrest Service Building). The purpose of this lease was to accommodate the teachers of the Idaho Home Learning Academy (IHLA, or the virtual school). Due to the steady growth of IHLA, the space being used within Malad High School has become insufficient.

Currently, this leased building (195 S. 300E.) houses the offices of seven IHLA Special Education teachers who serve students virtually. With the addition of office cubicles, there is enough space to accommodate the Oneida School District office employees as well as the seven teachers from IHLA. There are 13 office areas, some of which are shared space.

Last month, the Oneida School Board approved the purchase of this building. With this approval, this new building will become a center for IHLA as well as become the Oneida School District offices. There needed to be a new space to accommodate the growth of IHLA, and instead of having another lease, this new building will be a better use of the school district funds.

Our maintenance staff has inspected the building, and they have found the facility to be well cared for and in good condition. It is approximately 3,750 square feet. The purchase price for this facility would be \$400,000. The square footage cost is \$106. This amount is significantly less than the current rate of new construction, which has been recently quoted to be over \$250 per square foot. The details of this sale are currently being worked out with the owners. In the meantime, the district office is in the process of moving from above US Bank to this new location.

Funding for the purchase of this building will also be explained. In September 2019, the final payment was made on the auto shop. "Lottery Funds" were used to build the new auto shop. "Lottery Funds"

are limited in their use. One approved use is the purchase of properties for school use. The School Board has committed the “Lottery Funds,” which have become available for the purchase of this new building. A short-term, low-interest loan for approximately three years could be used to pay the full price of the property in conjunction with these “Lottery Funds.”

The District would like to express gratitude and thanks to the Malad High School Football Team for helping us with moving the district office. They worked extremely hard. We thank the coaches who also came and gave time, labor, and supervision—Jason Dahlke, Brady Price, Jerry Goddard, and other coaches who participated. Kurt Davis, Kevin Price, and the district office staff went above and beyond in the effort as well.

We invite you to come and visit.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kent
Public Relations Coordinator
Oneida School District #351