

Directors OK sale of former school

CSIU purchasing former Watsonstown Elementary building

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TURBOTVILLE — Directors in the Warrior Run School District approved the sale of the former Watsonstown Elementary School to the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for \$610,000 during its meeting Monday night.

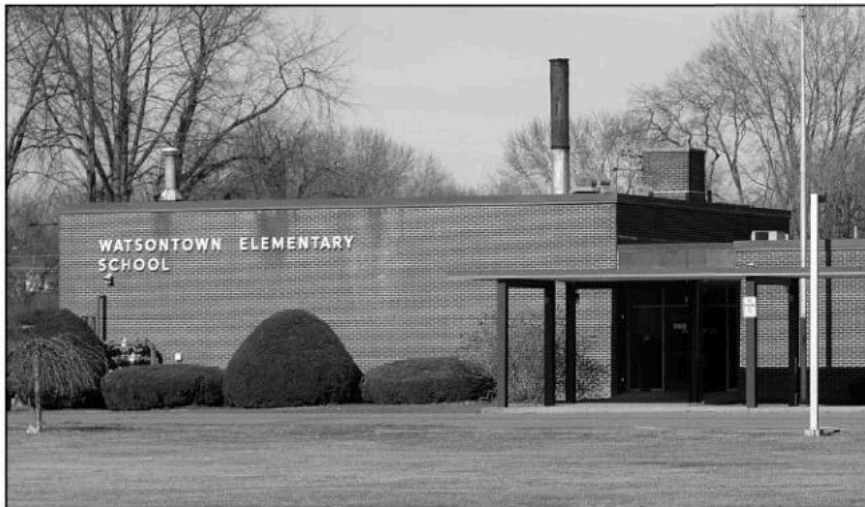
“We are selling the property to the CSIU as a private sale subject to Section 7-707(3) of the Pennsylvania School Code,” said Warrior Run Business Manager Tyler Potts.

“We did not receive any other offers as it is important to the School District to maintain the educational programs that are currently occurring in the building,” he said. “The CSIU will do this and the building will continue to be an asset to the community. The school district had an appraisal completed that supports the purchase price.”

John Kurelja, CSIU executive director, noted that the organization already rents a portion of the building for its early childhood development programs.

“It’s a large chunk of the facility,” he said. “We are also very supportive of Luzerne Community College being on the other side of the building. And that work has a great deal to do with the work we do in workforce development. So it seems to be a very good match. For that reason it made sense for us

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Robert Inglis/The Daily Item file photo

The Watsonstown Elementary School is shown.

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to move forward on purchasing the building when it became available.

“We’re looking to fix it up in the future.”

Expanding some of the CSIU programming in the facility is a possibility, Kurelja said, citing their Head Start programming

and special education programming.

“There are certainly opportunities for us to grow and partner with the community,” he said. “We also hope to grow the community college. That’s a gem for our community that we want to see grow and develop.”

Directors also discussed future plans for Warrior Run High School, either a dem-

olition or renovation. Board President Doug Whitmoyer explained that cost estimates to renovate the high school would be about \$28 million, whereas demolishing it and building a new high school would cost an estimated \$21 million.

Whitmoyer believes that once demolished, a parking lot would occupy the space.