

# School Board decides on facilities plan

By **JESSE REEVES**

THE STAR PRESS

Jesse.Reeves@miller-publishing.com

The Springboro Community City Schools Board of Education met Tuesday, June 24, and decided to move forward with a plan to construct new buildings and additions to existing buildings as the district aims to make space for its rapidly increasing student population.

Taking information gained at a community forum held June 10 attended by 250 local residents, the architectural company Steed Hammond Paul Inc., presented to the board the most popular building scenario.

Known as Option M, the plan calls for building additions to the high school and junior high, using Springboro Elementary as a 6th grade only building, constructing two new elementary schools for

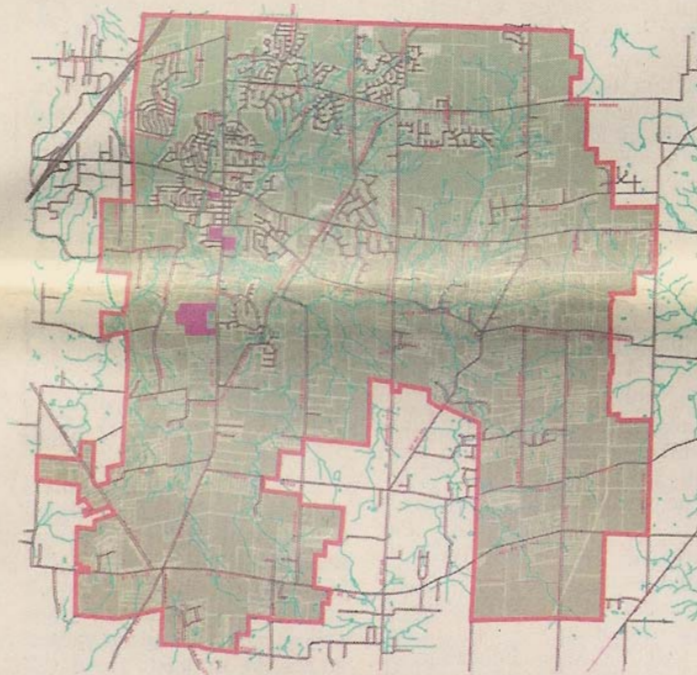
grades 2 through 5 and using Jonathan Wright and Clearcreek as pre-Kindergarten and first grades. The cost is \$58.6 million.

"We came to the conclusion that Option M is the option we should pursue," said Steed Hammond Paul's Steve Schwandner.

Described by Steed Hammond Paul's Todd Thackery as "having a lot of parity, all facilities are used, very efficient and very economical" he went on to say that, "Option M was the clear winner for the recommendation to this board. And most of this information came from the community forum."

At that forum, eight scenarios were laid out for residents to critique. They looked at each one, chose what they liked and disliked, made comments and submitted the sheets to Steed Ham-

See "SCHOOLS" A-12



## SPRINGBORO COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shown is an overview of the Springboro Community School District with the purple blocks representing current school buildings. As plans go forth to construct new school buildings, district officials say they will contact landowners for possible sites.

# Schools

Continued from A-1

mond Paul for analysis.

Nearly the least expensive option (another one was for \$58.3 million), Option M at \$58.6 million is much less expensive than a master plan put forth by the board a few years ago with an overall price tag of \$94 million over 10 years. Part of that plan was defeated last November as a \$43.8 million bond issue was voted down.

Schwandner highlighted a "price sensitivity" in the community, which may have accounted for some of Option M's popularity, but added that the scenario presented without cost was still ranked two out of eight — all were presented to residents at first without cost, graded and graded again with cost. With cost added, it was ranked number one overall.

While not taking a vote — Superintendent Dr. David Baker asked for a consensus to move forward — the board elected to proceed by taking new steps, such as approaching landowners for sites on which to build.

There are still several meetings to be held before a determination is set on when the issue will be put on the ballot. Steed Hammond Paul was hired with the district looking at the November

ballot. To make that deadline, the issue would have to be approved by the board of education in early August, which school officials say is possible.

Also possible, they say, is holding back for the next election if the circumstances are not right.

But time is an issue as the student population is outgrowing the current space available.

With about 4,100 students in the district now, that number could increase to 6,900 in the next six to eight years.

So for Jonathan Wright Elementary School, for instance, the capacity is 550. The 2002-03 population was 729. The projected six-to-eight year enrollment is 1,198.

The relatively new high school with a capacity of 1,220 still has room since the 2002-03 student enrollment was 1,114. But the projected enrollment years from now is 1,841.

Cited by many as the most pressing issue, the junior high with a capacity of 770 had 984 students this past year — accommodated in part in a "fleet of modular classrooms" — and is projected to be at 1,660 in the future.

There are currently five schools in the Springboro district: Jonathan Wright Elemen-

tary (grades K and 1), Clearcreek Elementary (grades 2 and 3), Springboro Elementary (grades 4 and 5), Springboro Junior High (6, 7 and 8) and Springboro High School. Nearly all are at or near capacity and the district looks to additions and new buildings to spread out the overcrowding.

Here is a list of scenarios Option M beat out:

Option N — Build additions to the high school and junior high, use Springboro Elementary as 6th grade only and build two new pre-K through 3rd grade buildings. Cost is \$60.2 million.

Option O — Build an addition to the high school, change the junior high to a freshman only building, build a new 6-8 grade middle school, build a new 3-5 grade building and use Jonathan Wright, Clearcreek and Springboro Elementary Schools for grades PK-2. Cost is \$73 million.

Option P — Build an addition to the high school, change the junior high to a freshman only building, build a new 7-8 grade middle school, use Jonathan Wright and Clearcreek as PK-5 grade buildings, build two or three new PK-5 grade elementary buildings. Cost is \$71.8 million.

Option Q — Build an addition to the high school, change the junior high to a freshman only building, build a new 7-8 grade middle school, use the Jonathan Wright, Clearcreek and Springboro buildings as PK-6 grades and build two or three new elementary schools (grades PK-6). Cost is \$71.4 million.

Option R — Build an addition to the high school, change the junior high to a freshman only building, build a new 6-8 grade middle school, use Jonathan Wright, Clearcreek and Springboro Elementary Schools as PK-5 grades buildings and build two new PK-5 grade buildings. Cost is \$71.6 million.

Option S — Build additions to the high school and junior high, use Springboro Elementary as 6th grade only, use Clearcreek for grades 1-5, build two or three new elementary buildings (grades 1-5) and use Jonathan Wright as a Kindergarten Center. Cost is \$58.3 million.

Option T — Build an addition to the high school and junior high, use Springboro Elementary as 6th grade only, use Jonathan Wright for grades 1-5, build two new elementary schools (grades 1-5) and use Clearcreek as a Kindergarten Center. Cost is \$60 million.