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# Corbett plans relocation of students amid safety concerns

👤 Teresa Carson   📅 December 27 2019

**Reynolds School District selling unused building for Cardinals' middle school nest**



(<https://pamplinmedia.com/images/artimg/00003660225528-0788.jpg>)The Corbett School District plans to buy a mothballed building from the Reynolds School District and move its middle school students there to get them out of the unsafe Corbett Middle School.

"This is a good temporary solution," said Randy Trani, superintendent of the Corbett School District.

Corbett intends to buy the Natural Resources Academy from Reynolds for \$500,000 in "as is" condition.

"It is the fastest way to get the middle school students out of this dangerous building," Trani said.

The Natural Resources Academy, at 31600 E. Woodard Road, Troutdale, is about 2.5 miles southwest of the Corbett schools main campus. It sits on 3.5 acres with a low-slung 14,158 square foot building and several outbuildings.

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Trani said the district plans to take out a loan to buy the building and do some renovation.

Corbett expects the middle school students will begin attending class there next fall.

"There are lots of factors that impact that," he said.

The building will not require a great deal of renovation, since it had been used as a school in the past.

The Corbett district then hopes to do a small bond of between \$3 and \$6 million with a short life of about five to six years to repay the loan and make repairs to buildings at the main campus. Eventually, the district would like to pass a larger bond to construct a building on the main Corbett Schools campus.

But the district has been unable to convince voters to approve a bond in the past. Bonds failed in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

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Corbett Middle School is considered dangerous.

A 2012 structural report by Associated Consultants Inc. said, "In the event of an anticipated earthquake, this building does not have adequate strength and load paths to resist forces. The masonry walls may fail and there is a chance that the building will collapse."

In addition to the earthquake dangers, the middle school contains lead and asbestos and does not comply with laws requiring accessibility for people with handicaps.

In July 2016, the Reynolds School Board declared the Natural Resources Academy surplus and eligible for sale. It rejected a similar offer by Corbett to buy the building in 2017.

"It's a new superintendent and board," said Trani, when asked about the reversal from Reynolds.

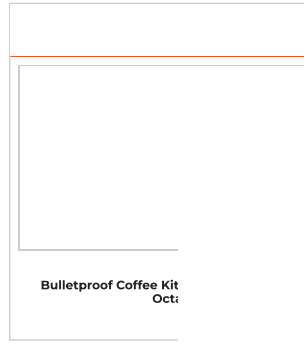
Reynolds bought the Natural Resources Academy property in 2002 from the U.S. Forest Service for \$320,000. It was appraised at \$600,000 to \$850,000 in 2018. Both the Reynolds and Corbett school boards cleared the way for the sale at their meetings Wednesday, Dec. 18.



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