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LCASD breaks ground for \$17.7 million construction project

By Brian Roebke
 Editor

If construction goes as well as the groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday afternoon, the \$17.7 million project to enlarge, revamp, and remodel the Little Chute high/middle/intermediate school complex, school officials should be very happy.

After a few words from Superintendent Dave Botz and Craig Uhlenbrauck, vice president of education for Miron Construction, they got 11 people to hold 11 shovels and on the count of three, the shovelers threw their dirt, a loud pop was heard, the band started playing the school song, and blue confetti filled the air in precision-like fashion.

For Little Chute Area School District Superintendent David Botz, it was an exciting and exhausting two years from the beginning of the information-seeking process to Tuesday, when the school district and community kicked off the construction process.

"The vision was for us to remain competitive as a school district, we need to create a building that addresses the needs of our students but also keeps us very efficient and effective."

New construction, to be located where the daytime student entrance and after school public entrance is, is two stories with a secure entrance and consolidated offices for the middle school and high school. A new library media center is planned for the upper floor.

Little Chute has 27 percent of its students open enrolled in from other districts, so Botz feels that is extremely high.



Brian Roebke photo

Confetti filled the air when school task force members broke ground for the \$17.7 million project to enlarge, revamp, and remodel the Little Chute high/middle/intermediate school complex on Tuesday afternoon.

He likes to call the LCASD the premier small school district in the Fox Valley region, and believes the community expects the school district to be bold, innovative, and deliver high-quality learning to all students.

The process got the task force thinking about evolving into the 21st century, creating spaces where students can thrive. "That's building on our blueprint," he said. "That's where that started with our

board then our task force in the community."

The initial plan was for close to \$24 million but Botz didn't think the community would go for that at this time. "So we took a step back

and reflected again and decided this was the best package to do that approach to creating that vision where students are going to thrive and within a budget the community

See Construction, page 2

...district's insurance carrier suffers \$1.1 million loss



LITTLE CHUTE
Area School District
REVITALIZING A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITY

LITTLE CHUTE INTERMEDIATE / MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL Addition & Renovation

EXTERIOR RENDERING OF MAIN ENTRANCE



INTERIOR RENDERING OF LIBRARY



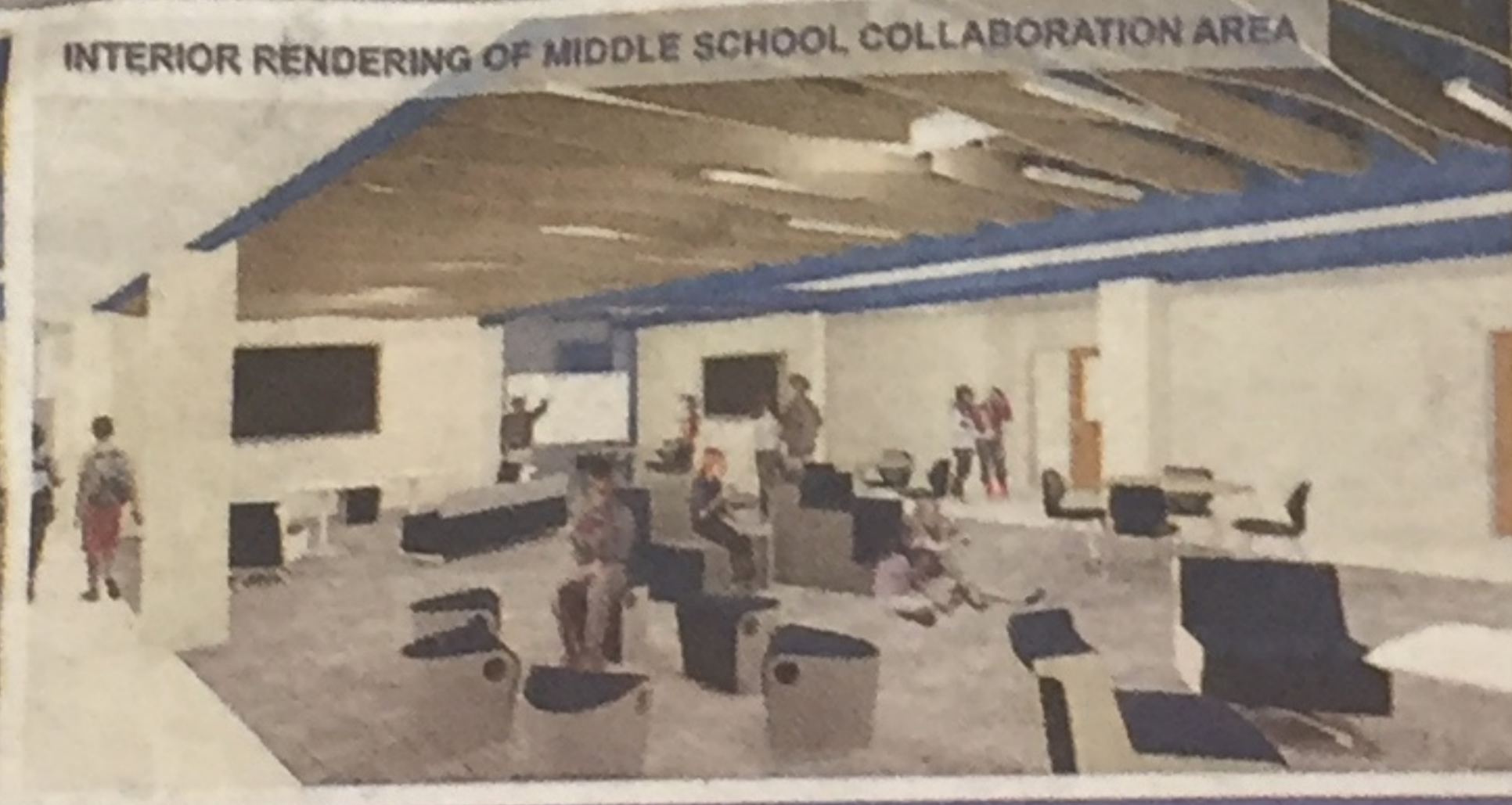
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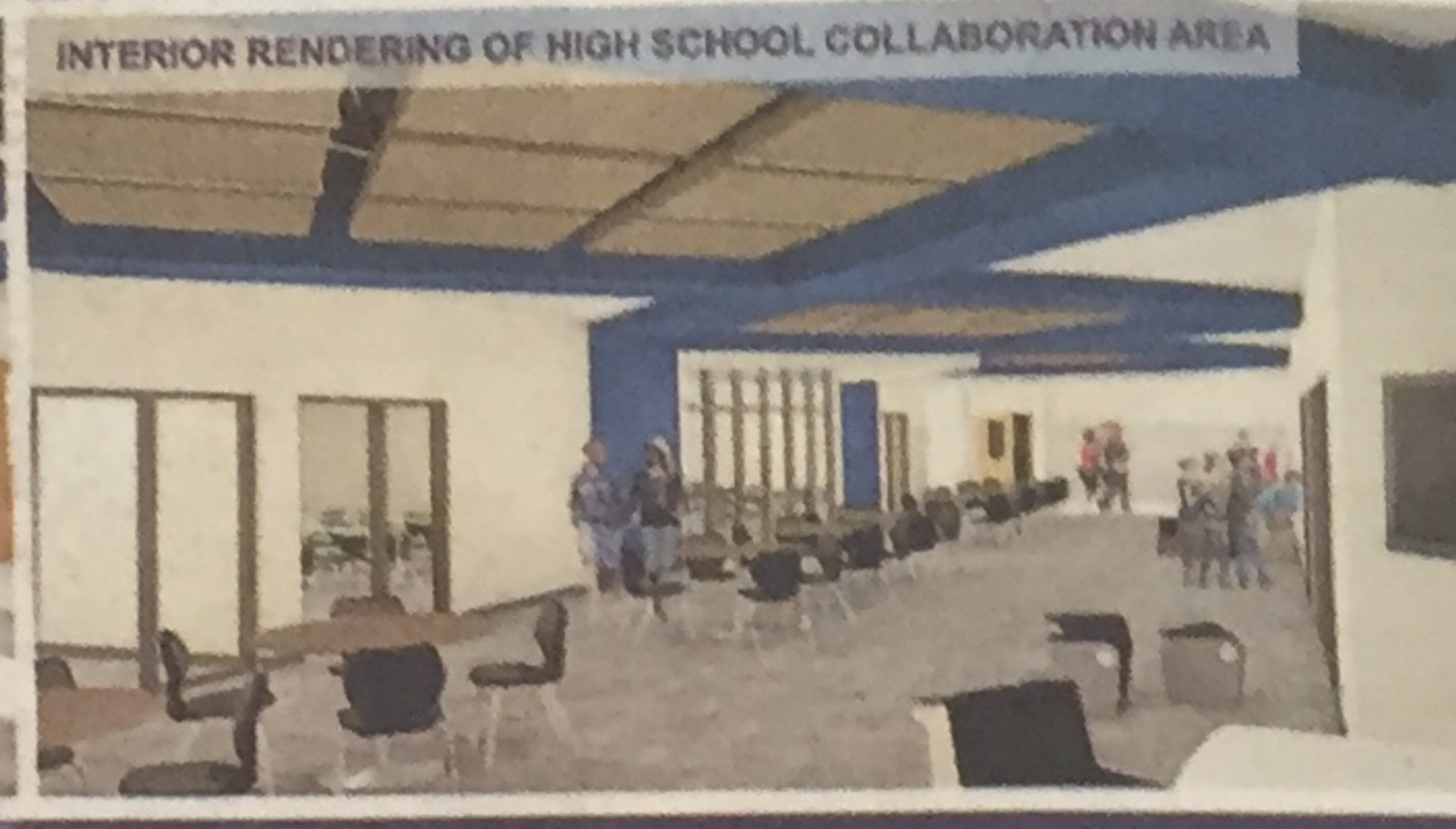
INTERIOR RENDERING OF MAIN ENTRANCE



INTERIOR RENDERING OF MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLABORATION AREA



INTERIOR RENDERING OF HIGH SCHOOL COLLABORATION AREA



Bray Architects illustration

Bray Architects is the architect and Miron Construction the contractor for the \$17.7 million construction project for the Little Chute Area School District. The project includes \$5.7 million for a building addition, \$4.7 million for infrastructure, and \$7.3 million for renovation. The new construction is slated to be completed in spring, with remodeling work to follow with a fall completion date.

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Exterior windows have been removed to get ready for the \$17.7 million project to enlarge, revamp, and remodel the Little Chute high/middle/intermediate school complex.

Brian Roebke photo

Construction

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could support," he said.

The intermediate/middle parking lot will be reconfigured to improve the safety of students, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times

and there are improvements to the roof, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and electrical systems. The renovations will allow for the creation of STEM, electronics, and computer-aided design labs, and will provide flexible learning environments for small group

instruction. Current high school, intermediate/middle school, and district offices are being repurposed.

The Flex Academy will move into the building.

District voters approved the project in an April referendum, to be paid for in 20 years.