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WHS sells for \$1.25 million

By Jeff M. Hardison © March 14, 2019 at 3:09 p.m.

WILLISTON – The old Williston High School campus and buildings sold for \$1.25 million, according to School Board members and the Realtor who closed the deal.

School Board members Chris Cowart and Paige Brookins both said they are happy to see the property returning to the realm of taxable assets in Levy County.

School Board Member Brad Etheridge and School Superintendent Jeff Edison were unable to be reached Thursday morning.

Cookie King, the Realtor who sold the property for the School Board, said she is happy to see the sale completed. Assistant Superintendent of Schools John Lott said the sale price had ranged from \$1.7 million to the closing price at \$1.25.

BluRock Commercial Real Estate of Orlando is the buyer. This company is NOT affiliated with Bluerock Real Estate L.L.C., which is a national, New York-based real estate company. Some gossipers on social media have made the mistake of confusing Orlando with New York City.

King said she believes the developer will be using the property for retail sales. When the property is developed, she added, this will add to the local economy by providing jobs at the stores.

An attempt for a comment from BluRock Commercial in regard to the purchase brought no response Thursday morning (March 14).

As for the sale of the old Williston Middle School, which became vacated like the old WHS when Williston Middle High School became active, School Board Member Cowart was able to provide some insight.

Cowart sits on the Levy County School Foundation (LCSF) Board.

The School Board essentially donated the Williston Middle School (WMS) property to the LCSO. Cowart said school district staff considered three proposals from interests in the WMS property.

Offers from the Williston Ministerial Faith Alliance, the Levy County Prevention Coalition and the LCSF were reviewed, Cowart said. The School Board, with Cowart and former School Board Rick Turner abstaining, voted to accept the LCSF offer.

The current list price for the WMS property, lock, stock and barrel, is \$750,000, Cowart said, and Cookie King is the Realtor who is able to close that deal on behalf of the LCSF.