

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Responsible GOVERNMENT

Throw-away buildings

By Tom Hylton

Pottstown School administrators want to convert the Edgewood Elementary School into an early learning center.

For 20 years, the district housed an early learning center in the Jefferson School. But in 2002, the district sold the Jefferson building to put it back on the tax rolls.

That same year, the district bought the former Irene Boyer Home, next to Franklin School, and converted it into an administrative annex.

Now the district wants to double the size of the Lincoln and Franklin elementary schools and close the Rupert and Barth elementary schools.

It then wants to convert Barth into a new administration building. That means closing and selling the current administration building and the new administrative annex building.

Playing musical chairs with buildings will save money, district administrators say.

But more likely, it will be a very expensive boondoggle.

Thomas Hylton is treasurer and Web site editor of Pottstown Citizens for Responsible Government.



The Jefferson School was sold in 2002 to Pennrose Properties for \$400,000, which converted the school into 46 apartments.



Now the Rupert School will be closed, its fate unknown.



The current administration building will be sold when the Barth Elementary School is closed and converted to a new administration building.



The former Irene Boyer Home was purchased by the district in 2002 and converted into an administrative annex at a cost of \$1.35 million. Now the district plans to close it and sell it.