

Negotiations begin for child care center site

By Frances K. Foster

Staff reporter

Following Tuesday's meeting of the Sheridan Economic & Educational Development Authority Joint Powers Board, the board began negotiations with local developer Paul DelRossi for acquisition of property for a child care center, said board Chairman Tom Sachse.

DelRossi holds an option to buy property owned by Whitney Benefits Inc. at the site of the old middle school on South Custer Street, said Whitney board President Tom Kinnison.

Mayor Dave Kinskey told the JPB on Tuesday that Whitney had donated approximately one acre at the site for the center, but Kinnison told The Sheridan Press on Wednesday that Whitney had not made the donation.

Sachse told The Sheridan Press today that the seeming contradiction was "a miscommunication."

The JPB had previously negotiated with Whitney for a possible donation of the site on which School District 2's old maintenance building is located on Brundage Street, but the building would have to be demolished and an environmental cleanup conducted at a cost of about \$50,000, Sachse said.

Two \$1.5 million grants from the Wyoming Business Council to the JPB to build the child care center are for architectural services and construction costs only and do not include site cleanup, he said.

Kinnison told The Sheridan Press today that a copy of a letter from the JPB to DelRossi about negotiating for the South Custer Street site was hand-delivered to him (Kinnison) Thursday afternoon, but that the letter had not yet been presented to the Whitney board.

A copy of the letter was not available to The Sheridan Press today.

Kinnison said he has not been in contact with DelRossi since delivery of the letter.

Kinskey is out of town and will not be available for comment until Monday, according to City Hall.

Calls to DelRossi were unanswered as of press time today.