Miami University to boost parking options

Miami University is looking to demolish a school building and build a large parking area in Oxford.

The school is requesting $1.15 million from the Ohio Controlling Board to purchase the former Talawanda High School building from the Talawanda School District. That 137,000-square-foot building and several auxiliary structures will then be demolished to make room for hundreds of parking spaces and intramural fields.

According to the controlling board application, the school says parking has been strained with recent renovation projects on campus. Recent construction has eliminated 400 parking spaces and three recreational fields. The school says the alternative would be a parking garage, and this project could save it an estimated $2 million to $4 million compared to that option.

A spokesperson tells me the school estimates 400 parking spaces would be needed. If approved, officials would determine the specific number of parking spaces and the cost of the project once it goes out to bid.

The school recently entered a long-term agreement with Butler County Regional Transit Authority for busing, which helps faculty, staff and students connect the Oxford, Hamilton and Middletown campuses. The school will share the Talawanda district's fueling station on the site to reduce costs of a new facility.

Talawanda School District would keep its administrative building on the premises, and the school also would house student recreational and club sports which are currently housed in an outdated structure. The controlling board will meet April 7 in Columbus to consider the proposal.