

# Weber School breaks ground as questions about sight's future arise

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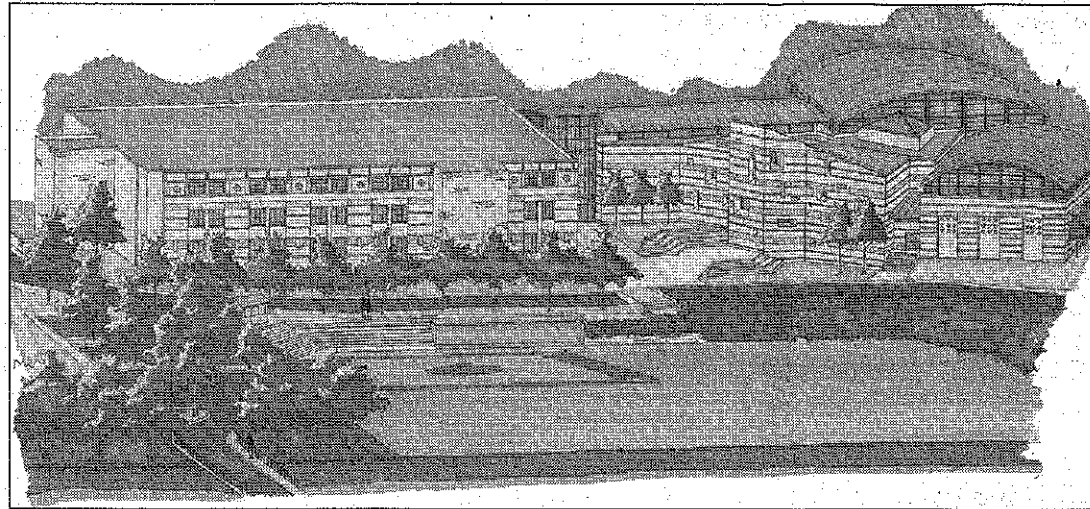
A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Sunday to celebrate The Weber School's new home at the corner of Roswell and Abernathy roads.

However, there might be a problem after six years of planning.

In a letter of intent sent to The Weber School dated Sept. 9, the Fulton County Board of Education stated that they wanted to buy the property for a new Sandy Springs Elementary School for \$18.7 million.

Weber never thought they could have the property taken from them.

Steve Berman, president of Weber School's Board of



Special graphic

This rendering shows what The Weber School's new location will look like.

Trustees, said they aren't interested.

But the letter states, "In the

event you do not execute this letter and fax it to me on or before September 19, 2005,

the Fulton County Board of Education intends to exercise its right of eminent domain

under Georgia law to acquire the property. Initial steps have already been taken to institute condemnation proceedings against the property and this letter is the final attempt to avoid litigation."

Berman said Sept. 16, "We are very excited about our ground breaking and our future in Sandy Springs and it is our hope to resolve this matter with the Fulton County Board of Education in an amicable way."

Weber School sent a letter on Sept. 12 and again on Sept. 14, pleading with the board of education to rescind its threats of eminent domain and said firmly, they will not sell.

The new Weber School will be built on a 19-acre tract that was formerly home to Lucent Technologies. Classrooms, labs, a gym, a media center and a chapel will be included in the new buildings.

Students have been feeling the crunch, as enrollment is at an all time high at 158 students. Currently school is being held out of modular units on a property owned by the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Greater Atlanta.

"Things are tight," Weber representative Lisa Frank said.

According to Berman, almost \$12 million has been raised for construction. Their goal is to raise a total of \$20 million.

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