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## SCCC trustees OK expedited plan to renovate Building D

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NEWTON — Building D on the Sussex County Community College will get a makeover this summer, rather than the two-year time frame originally thought, according to a plan approved by the Board of Trustees in a special meeting Friday.

The special meeting was called because the board's next regular session is in late January, and action to approve an engineering firm for the project now will allow bids to be solicited in early January.

The board approved hiring CP Engineers & Architecture for the work at a cost not to exceed \$346,400, but at the meeting the trustees were told that price would drop by more than \$42,000 if the work is done this summer, rather than spreading the job across two summers.

Frank Nocella, the college's Vice President of Finance and Operations, said there has been talk with the county's Board of School Estimate on financing of the project and with the board's help the work can be financed this year, rather than the original plan.

College President Paul Mazur said the school estimate board, made up of two trustees and three of the county freeholders, has always worked with the school and has expressed interest in moving capital projects between years to save the money.

Although the trustees put together and approve both the school's operating and capital budgets, final approval rests with the Board of School Estimate. Under what is known as Chapter 12 funding, the state and county share the costs of capital projects on campus.

Deferring a project to bury some electrical and communications cables until 2015, will allow the Building D project to be done in one year.

Built in 1931, Building D is the oldest academic structure on campus and contains some offices, a student theater and the cafeteria but is mostly classrooms. Without a central air conditioning system when it was built, the classrooms and offices have used window units.

The project, estimated by the engineers to be worth about \$1.75 million, includes replacing the current windows and doors with new energy efficient units, rehabilitation of the building brick facade which needs new mortar, replacement of broken bricks and re-connection to the main structure in some places.

The engineering report notes the price tag "is a conservative estimate provided for budgetary planning purposes only," and noted the estimate assumes at least a quarter of the facade will need rehabilitation, half the eight exterior doors will need to be replaced and all 210 windows, including newer units in the theater and cafeteria, will be replaced.

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