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## IN OUR OPINION - Rethink UUSD admin boondoggle

**Ukiah Daily Journal Staff**

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Now that the Ukiah Unified School District school board has three new members and a superintendent that has announced she's leaving, we think it's time for the board of trustees to rethink the plan to build the administration a palace on Orchard Avenue.

The school district has bought the property but you can sell property in a highway commercial zone, maybe not today, but soon and they should just wait until they sell it and then move to a different plan. (And, by the way, they should also be holding school board meetings at the Ukiah Civic Center in the meantime where there is lots of room for both staff and the public.)

To start, the board of trustees should get the administration to tell them once again and with real numbers, why the old Montgomery Ward building at the south end of town is not a possibility. The community was convinced to support dismantling a local shopping center there with the promise that not only would a school be built there (the Grace Hudson School) but that the district would use the rest of the property for its new administration building.

Even if the old Montgomery Ward building isn't usable, we can't believe that tearing down that building, on property you already own, and building a new building on that spot, is going to be more expensive than buying new property as well as building a new building.

One reader also suggested that the UUSD consider buying the former Ukiah Lumber building, which is centrally located, has plenty

of space and would, again, probably be cheaper than the price of the land and building project they intend on Orchard. Not a bad idea.

In any event, it's time to rethink the new administration building and we know there are at least three votes on the board to do it. We encourage a fourth to step up.



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