

Facility design unveiled

By JOHN CALLAHAM
News Herald Staff Writer

A proposed \$1.2 million design for a child-care curriculum lab at Western Piedmont Community College was unveiled Monday during the regular meeting of the WPCC board of trustees.

The facility would take care of 60 children from babies to 5 years old under the plan, which the college said is needed for WPCC students.

"This would help our students tremendously," said WPCC President Jim Richardson.

The design calls for a square courtyard surrounded on three sides by an 8,000-square-foot brick building. Each side would hold two classrooms.

More than 50 percent of the some 2,000 students surveyed indicated that the college needs such a facility, according to a report from the college.

A child curriculum lab had been previously proposed for being placed at Freedom High School by the Burke County Partnership for Children.

However, that proposal died in 1997 after the Burke County

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School Board sent the plan back to the Partnership several times.

Now the plan is for WPCC and the school system to work together on the plan for the lab at the college.

The lab would serve as a place where college students and faculty could keep their children as well as a learning place for students taking Early Childhood Development courses.

The money for the building, to be located near Carr Hall on campus, would come from private

funds and grants. The college hopes the lab would be self-supporting once it starts operations.

The board also heard a report on the new Early Childhood Development two-year program that will start this fall.

The curriculum will require a student to take at least eight semester hours in the major in addition to 15 hours in more general courses.

In other business at the meeting Monday:

- The board voted to accept the budget revision for Car Hall. The budget had a balance of \$35,184, which would be used to construct

shop storage shelters.

- The board voted to hire Wesley G. Bunch as the college's new comptroller. Bunch is a certified public accountant, the first to be hired by the college for that position.

- The board heard a proposal for the creation of a greenway at Hunting Creek, which winds partly through WPCC as well as Broughton Hospital and the North Carolina School for the Deaf. The proposal is still in its early stages.