

## Swimmers left in cold

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While Granbury school officials debate on what to do next, Granbury school swimmers are left in limbo for a decent practice facility. All were expecting an inflatable dome over the Granbury city pool this fall, but the only bid was almost \$100,000 over budget.

Monday night, the board tabled discussion. It's unclear what will happen next.

In the meantime the swimmers will likely return to the small local fitness center pool, school officials said. It's indoors, but the pool is not near regulation size. The city pool is regulation size for competitive swimming, but it's outdoors and unusable in cold weather.

"We wanted to do something good for our kids, but it just doesn't look like that is going to happen now," said board president Charlie Cloud. Cloud was referring to this coming season.

The board will resume discussion at its next meeting, Monday, Oct. 4.

"I am very disappointed that we only had one person bid the project," said Cloud. "I am not in favor of it (accepting the bid)."

Cole Construction of Keller bid \$397,316 and also proposed a lengthier construction period than the district preferred.

Board member Brian Condit gave an alternative suggestion. "Maybe we need to scrap this project and build our own facility to meet the needs of all our students," he said. "I just don't see us paying almost \$400,000 for a bubble."

Granbury school superintendent William Harris said through research of similar facilities and manufacturer costs, school officials estimated \$300,000 for the entire project. "The estimate was a figure that we were comfortable with," he said.

The school was to pay for the project and also regular maintenance costs.

Cloud said it might be time to look at the possibility of building a YMCA-type facility that would be multi-use for the entire community.

"It seems that is the only viable option that we have now. We will either approve the bid or not. Maybe we need to go ahead and kill the deal, stop the bleeding and see what is going to be best for our kids."

A YMCA-type facility would have to be a joint project between the city, the school and the county due to financial burdens, according to Cloud. "We would need to have everyone on board to make this happen," he said. "We need to be in touch with the mayor and the county judge to see if this is the direction our community wants us to go."

As for the school administration, they are now waiting for direction from the board, according to Harris. "Basically, I am waiting," Harris said. "Right now we are just trying to make plans on how to make it through this year with the swim team."