

School property set for auction

ST. MICHAEL'S BOARD
SAYS ITS WORKING TO
REFINANCE MORTGAGE

BY HAILEY BULLIS
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School plans to start school Aug. 27 despite a foreclosure auction of the school's property scheduled for the same day.

A notice of a trustee sale of the St. Michael's property at 6301 Campus Drive in Spotsylvania County ran in The Free Lance-Star on Sunday. According to the notice, the St. Michael property is slated for public auction at 2 p.m. Aug. 27 at Spotsylvania Circuit Court. The property was originally sold to the school for \$4,480,000 in 2014.

St. Michael's board released a statement saying it is working to refinance the mortgage and will implement a plan this month. "The school will open as scheduled and through the refinance working with our new lender and partners will ensure its long-term growth and success for many years to come," the statement read.

The private Catholic high school has been in negotiations with the Community Bank of the Chesapeake to refinance the property's mortgage since January, according to school founder Hugh Brown.

Brown said St. Michael, which is working with the



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St. Michael High School

financial management group Inveniam Capital, has an offer from another lender that would allow the school to have little to no payments for two years on the property.

The school is paying almost \$30,000 monthly to the bank, Brown said.

If the new loan goes through, the school plans to embark on a capital campaign with a goal of eliminating all of its debt in two years, he said. The loan would allow the school to expand its programs and facilities.

"I think that the future for the school will be brighter than we ever

possibly imagined, having that window of two years to raise money, build and ideally the capital campaign will eliminate the schools debt entirely," said Brown.

The bank had not accepted St. Michael's latest offer. According to Brown, this is because the loan amount offered to the school by the new lender is slightly less than what St. Michael owes the bank.

"The school is working with new lenders and the diocese to execute the plan this month," said Brown.

St. Michael was established in 2004 as a private school to promote Catholic values and was recognized by the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington as an official Catholic high school in late May. It enrolls between 70 and 105 students every year.

~~SHOOTING~~

► FROM A9

~~Center, Skebo said.~~

~~Detectives are investigating a motive for the~~

~~shooting and trying to determine the identity of the passenger in the vehicle, who Skebo said is considered a witness.~~

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