

NBC2 Investigators: School district hits snag with Bonita Springs HS land

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BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. -

It's only a sliver of the 77-acre project, but the Lee County School District doesn't own part of the land it had planned for the Bonita Springs High School.

Superintendent Greg Adkins says the tenth of an acre parcel on Shangri-La was planned to be a turning lane into the school once it's complete. But he says he's hoping for a simple solution.

"We really do not anticipate this being a big issue," Adkins said.

The property is owned by the Hawthorne Community Association, a gated community across the street.

The attorney for Hawthorne and the association board president did not return calls asking for interviews.

Real estate attorney Kevin Jursinski says there are several options for the school district to get the property.

"Eminent domain the right of the state to go ahead and take property that's necessary for a public purpose," Jursinski said.

Even if the school moves for eminent domain, they would have to pay Hawthorne.

"If they can't get it they'll just have to change their plans and do something different," Jursinski said.

But the most likely scenario is a simple purchase transaction.

The school district plans on meeting with a Hawthorne group on Monday.

School district spokesperson Lauren Stillwell said the mix-up was with the surveyor.

"The District did its due diligence, this is an unfortunate mistake by the surveyor and we have filed a claim with the title insurance company," Stillwell said in an email.

Companies who completed the closing and appraisals for the school district did not return NBC 2's calls for comment.