

DUETTE FROM 1A

house, if that's the route the board chooses. For Glassburn, the school is the "heart of the community."

"In Duette, you don't have anywhere to go," Glassburn said. "You have the church and you have the school."

The nonprofit community association is working to get the school on the National Historic Register to be eligible for federal grants to help run the center if the board

Down the road, the land and building could also be rented out for functions such as weddings or family reunions.

Greene had a slightly different plan, in which the district would maintain ownership and upkeep on the building, and would use the site as a daylong field trip for students — most likely second-grade students — as a history lesson.

Second-grade social studies standards include the history of public education.

"We could rent to the

pand community use of the facility when field trips are not running, Greene said, and would be more than willing to rent out the facility if people are interested.

"We can still share with the community. We'll gladly do a facilities rental," she said. "We can still sort of partner."

Greene said the district is in no hurry and wants to give King as much time as needed to clear out her personal belongings from the school when

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Health, Manatee is not sitting around waiting for it to happen here.

With neighbor Pinellas County making the list of Zika-stricken counties a few days ago and mosquito season starting in Manatee, the Florida Department of Health

Zika virus with officials from law enforcement, schools, fire departments, transportation agencies, ports and airports, county and city governments and other agencies, said Adam DuBois, a DOH-Manatee spokesman.

The Zika virus, now ex-

fever, Japanese encephalitis and West Nile virus.

The briefing was not open to the general public.

"I think it was a very good presentation," said Sue Troxler, health service specialist for the School District of Manatee County. "I think what it

tify all local agencies and municipalities, and Manatee County Mosquito Control will respond.

"Within 24 hours of notification by Manatee County Health Department, a team

ZIKA TO 8A

Historic Duette Elementary may become community space



Betty Glassburn speaks before the Manatee County School Board as it considers the future of the Duette Elementary School one-room schoolhouse during a workshop Tuesday. GRANT JEFFERIES/Bradenton Herald

By MEGHIN DELANEY

mdelaney@bradenton.com

BRADENTON — A shared educational and community space — still under the direction and ownership of Manatee County School District — may be in store for Florida's last one-room schoolhouse.

Superintendent Diana

Greene and longtime Duette resident Betty Glassburn laid out hopes and plans Tuesday for Duette Elementary School during a Manatee County School Board workshop. No decision was reached, but board members seemed to favor a plan to keep the school under district control, while greatly opening up access

to the community.

"I really like the idea of sending children out there and utilizing it as an education tool. I think it would give a lot of our students an appreciation of what other students had to go through," board member John Colon said.

Longtime teacher and Principal Donna King will retire

at the end of the school year. With only 11 students in the contract school, and four moving on to middle school next year, keeping it open is not a viable option.

Some community members, including Glassburn, have already started the process to take over the school-

DUETTE TO 8A