

## \$17M could turn Webster school into senior housing



Lt Gov. Timothy P Murray, second from left, yesterday visits the A.J. Sitkowski School, which may be converted into housing for senior citizens. (T&G Staff/CHRISTINE PETERSON)

**By Brian Lee TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF**

**WEBSTER** — Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray walked the cold, flood-damaged halls and rooms of the A.J. Sitkowski School yesterday.

With local legislators and selectmen, Mr. Murray posed for photographs in the building's old library, which has a mantled fireplace and a charm officials hope to preserve as they seek to transform the sometimes vandalized vacant building into housing for senior citizens.

Later, as Mr. Murray stood in the gymnasium, which will become the building's two-story senior center, he said he was impressed with officials' vision for the building and downtown.

The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, a nonprofit community development corporation in

Boston, seeks to invest \$17 million in the building, which Town Administrator John F. McAuliffe said was “teetering on the brink of either repair or demolition.” The town hoped to garner additional support from the state as soon as possible, he said.

NOAH's executive director, Philip Giffie, attended the tour and talked about his organization's vision for the building. Mr. McAuliffe called Mr. Giffie “the driving force” behind the project, and “a real gem to work with.”

Funding for the project is dependent on yet-to-be determined housing tax credits and grant money from the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

[2 comments](#) | [Add a comment](#)