

## CITY NEWSPAPER

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# Kodak makes an impressive pitch for MCC

By [Tim Louis Macaluso](#) on December 2, 2011

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Eastman Kodak is, in real-estate parlance, ready to make a deal. Kodak officials have been giving guided tours of the buildings they hope to sell to Monroe Community College for MCC's new downtown campus.

Earlier today, some of MCC's Board of Trustees took a closer look at the roughly 550,000 square feet in five different buildings Kodak would like to shed. The walk-through was part of an effort to convince MCC officials that the Kodak site is more suitable than the Sibley building on East Main Street, the campus' current location.

It was a smart move on Kodak's part. The space is far more impressive inside than what is visible from State Street and Morrie Silver Way.

Mayor Tom Richards is expected to meet with MCC officials on Monday to make his sales pitch for keeping the downtown campus at Sibley. And he better put his dancing shoes on because the two sites are competitive.

Richards has been quite public about his desire to keep MCC's students in the East Main Street corridor.

One of the Kodak buildings offers 286,000 square feet of general office space. There's a full-service kitchen and cafeteria in another building, a loading dock, and off-street parking.

And Kodak's space appears to be in roughly the same condition as the Sibley building.

"I was very impressed with the tour of Kodak," says MCC trustee and local attorney John Parrinello. "I think we have all of the information we need from both sides."

MCC has about \$72 million it can spend on the campus. Roughly half would come from SUNY and the other half would have to come from Monroe County: subject to approval by the County Legislature.

Though a meeting of MCC's board of trustees is scheduled for Monday, December 5, it is not clear if a decision will be made about the site.

"We've been working on this for 10 years," Parrinello says. "I just want it to be right."