

**State of North Carolina
County of Avery**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Joint Meeting with the Avery County Board of Education on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Viking Hall at Avery County High School, 401 Avery High School Road, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss school related issues and school capital projects.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Blake Vance, Vice-Chair; Faith Lacey; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Board of Education Members Present: John Greene; Kathy Aldridge; Steve Smith; Dr. Robert Clark

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

John Greene called the meeting to order for the Board of Education.

Chair Hicks recessed the meeting at 5:37 p.m. for dinner.

Dr. Bryan Taylor prayed.

Chair Hicks called the meeting back into session after the recess.

Dr. Bryan Taylor, Superintendent of Avery County Schools, explained that Avery County High School was constructed in 1968 and this year is 50 years old. The 700 pod was added in 1977; the roof was replaced in 2000 and front entrance was replaced in 2009. There are concerns that the school district has with Avery High School. Most importantly this high school was constructed when school safety did not have the issues that we are currently dealing with. As you can imagine when you walk into this high school you can't walk very far without running into an angle and you walk another few feet and you have another angle. The current layout makes it almost impossible to efficiently manage this building from a safety point of view. This building was constructed prior to code standards as they relate to ADA. Technically, the building does meet 1968 code standards but does not effectively meet the needs of our current students and community members.

Our rationale as a school district for the need of this project is life safety; ADA; classroom upgrades. The proposed project addresses these needs. Every decision we make is going to be in the best interest of the young people. We would like the high school students of Avery County to have a facility that enables them to reach their fullest potential in the safest environment possible. The needs that we are talking about will not go away, however, the costs will increase each and every year that we do not take action.

We respectfully request from the Avery County Board of Commissioners to allow the Board of Education to move forward with the request to complete the described work that we are talking about tonight. We understand there will be a timeline and there will be further conversations. We have worked with the architects and feel like we have put together a plan that addresses our needs but also value engineers a project that is cost effective to both you and the taxpayers of our community. We feel like this is an unbelievable opportunity for our county.

Robert Johnson, Boomerang Architects, presented a power point presentation of the Avery High School Additions and Renovations Project. Mr. Johnson gave a timeline. If we can recommence in June 2018 then the public bidding will go out April 2019 and occupy a new building Summer 2020 this would be if all the pieces fell in place perfectly. The total construction costs for the new addition is \$19,109,193.00.

Blake Vance suggested that the boards get back together around the second week of May to make a decision and let the public come and have input.

Chair Hicks suggested that we get with each commissioner and see when the commissioners can meet.

Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk will poll the commissioners about scheduling a meeting and then get in touch with the Board of Education.

Adjourn

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adjourn this meeting at 6:56 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk