

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners and the Avery County Board of Education met in a Special Joint Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the Special meeting was to discuss and take any action necessary regarding the following items:

- A) Macbook Refresh Information
- B) Air Conditioning Project at AMS
- C) Elementary School Playgrounds
- D) Avery High School Update
- E) Possible Availability of Right-of-Way
- F) MOU to Move Forward with the Updated High School
- G) Other School Related Issues

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, Chair; Kathy Aldridge; Dr. Robert Clark; Keith Tutterow

Call to Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
John Greene led prayer.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to recess for dinner.
Motion unanimously approved.**

Chair Hicks called the meeting back in order after a brief recess.

Chair Hicks turned the meeting over to Chairman John Greene of the Avery County Board of Education.

Motion by Dr. Robert Clark and second by Kathy Aldridge to call to order the Board of Education at 5:15 p.m.

Dr. Burleson did a power point presentation regarding Avery County Schools.

MacBook Refresh Information

Dr. Burleson reported that a new Macbook has been purchased for every 6-12 grader.

Air Conditioning Project at AMS

Dr. Burleson stated that we are going to bring the air condition project at Avery Middle School to the Board as a budget request. We are looking at this as a staging process. We had two groups come in and look at it and one of them has provided a bid. To do the top floor classrooms and the kitchen is around \$150,000. Each year over the next three I think we can get that project completed.

Elementary School Playgrounds

Dr. Burleson said that all of the playgrounds have been looked at to make sure they are safe but there are some that did need to be updated. We have talked to our principals and have told them that should be part of their capital outlay request. Riverside Elementary School playground does have an issue and we are working to address the issue.

Update Avery High School & Possible Right of Way

Dr. Burleson stated that Avery High School is the flagship school and is the one that people coming to Avery County goes to. There is a lot of activity there. Avery High School will be way over 50 years old before we can even get this project completed if we phase the construction. In phasing it, we won't spend a lot of the money for mobile units. We would recommend that we do a phasing so we don't have to spend money on mobile units. Every day that we delay costs money. The quicker we get started, the quicker we will get it updated. It is really hard to secure that school. There are 42 outside doors. There is no natural light. There is one science lab functional. We don't have a place to teach auto mechanics or masonry. The heating and cooling system is not anywhere it is supposed to be. An engineer has told us that if we turn the electrical system off, it will probably not come back on. We will not vacate the site. There is a lot of good things around the school. The children of Avery County deserve an updated high school because it is the one school that every child goes to. Building 32 classrooms would totally replace the 100 and 200 pods. That is the most important need that we have.

We have talked about the possibility of working together to try to purchase a right-of-way coming from Hwy 194 so we would have an entrance at the back of the school coming from 194. We would like to work on that in the future.

We do have a memo of understanding for the Board of Commissioners to consider.

Discussion regarding updating the high school and the MOU.

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that the MOU would need to be amended and she would recommend that the school board not adopt it without the school attorney approving the amendments.

Dr. Burleson questioned if the Board of Education could reach out to some architects to present to the Board of Education with no dollar amount or commitment at this time.

Consensus by the Board of Commissioners for the Board of Education to solicit architects to present to the Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Burleson stated we hope to have a joint meeting in the next few weeks to bring an architect recommendation.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Faith Lacey to adjourn this meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

**Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk