



Cherokee County Schools

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Minutes of the Cherokee County Board of Education Building Exploration Work Session held Thursday, October 5, 2017 beginning at 4 pm at Central Office

Board Members Present

Ms. Wanda Arrowood, Chair, Mr. Paul Brown, Vice Chair, Mr. Winfield Clonts, Mr. Arnold Mathews, and Mr. Jeff Tatham

Board Members Absent: Mr. Tim West and Mr. Tim Coffey

1. **Call to Order.** Ms. Wanda Arrowood called the Board of Education Work Session to order.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was accepted as presented.
3. **Public Input.** Ms. Arrowood called for public comment. There was none.
4. **Future Building Project Options.** Mr. Winfield Clonts turned the floor over to Mr. Paul Boney and Ms. Ginny Magrath who provided an overview of all the facilities options developed during their facilities study. During the overview County Tier 1 designation, availability of funding, inflation of construction cost, and the State Superintendent's role in the selection process of recipients of the NC Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant. Next, Mr. Boney explained the steps associated with any building or renovation project selected by the Board. He stress the first step was for the Board to decide on a project that can be supported by available (or potentially available) funding and once this decision has been made, such plans must be drawn up and submitted to DPI Planning division for approval. Following this, Mr. Boney and Ms. Magrath reviewed options 4a through 4f on the agenda; those being:
 - a. Construction of a new K-12 school
 - b. Construction of 2 new K-12 schools and an Early College
 - c. Construction of a new grades 9-12 high school, Early College, and Alternative school
 - d. Construction of one new grades 9-12 high school
 - e. Construction of a new K-12 for the Andrews, Hiwassee Dam, and Murphy districts or a new Early College building
 - f. Construction of 2 new grades 6-12 schools with the elementary schools remaining in place.

Next, and after much discussion, the Needs-Based Grand was explained with Mr. Boney stating that the grant would yield \$15 million if the County included \$5 million and then with the utilization of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales tax, and an additional contribution of \$20 million by the County Commissioners, the total of \$57 million could be achieved. This led to discussions about the County's debt service rolling off in 2023 which could potentially free up additional funding from the County towards phased building considerations.

Mr. Boney concluded his presentation by reemphasizing that the Board must decide on an option first before any other progress could be made.

Mr. Winfield Clonts, at this point, opened the floor for input from the principals in attendance. There was much discussion and opinions ranging from the importance of having safe facilities as well as school buildings that are comparable to others throughout the U.S. in order to afford the students of Cherokee County the same educational opportunities being afforded others in other States and Counties. It was expressed by a number of board members that the Early College should receive a

Board of Education

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new building. The size of our County was discussed with travel time for some students beginning at 5:18 am and ending after 5 pm under the current model. Dr. Conley recommend consideration be given to the construction of an Early College and this being part of a phased plan with another options being written into the plan for construction at a later date; she also emphasized that the \$57 million amount is theoretical at this point and this should drive the decision. Mr. Carl Ramos, track coach of HDS, made a plea to the Board that whatever decision was made that a track complex be considered in the budget for the HDS area or Ranger School.

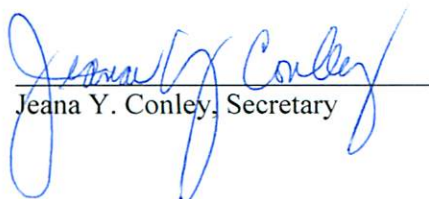
The discussions concluded with Dr. Conley stating she would develop a survey to be circulated among the employees of Cherokee County Schools to solicit their opinion on new building options or renovations.

5. **Sale of Board Property Located Adjacent to the Murphy High School Campus.** Dr. Jeana Conley proposed the Board authorize she be allowed to explore legislative methods to secure a right-of-way to the 99 acre plot of land located across from the MHS campus as well as seek out real estate agents willing to list the property. It was explained by Ms. Stephanie Hass that in May of 2010 the property was appraised and that two scenarios were delivered; those being:
 - a. Property value if there is an existing right-of-way: \$644,000
 - b. Property value without a right-of-way: \$97,000

The Board granted the superintendent authority to pursue procuring a right-of-way for the property as well as a real estate agent to list the property for sale.

6. **Financial Planning Items for Consideration.** Mr. John Higdon proposed purchase of several new vehicles for the School System. He next proposed approving athletic field maintenance expenses for several baseball and softball fields. Lastly, he informed the Board that an oven had stopped working at AMS and proposed purchasing a new oven unit. After presenting these items for consideration and receiving a consensus from the Board, Mr. Higdon informed the Board the items would be presented at the next Board Meeting for approval.
7. Announcement of the next Board of Education Meeting. Ms. Arrowood announced a regular Board meeting to be held October 12, 2017 at Central Office beginning at 6 pm.
8. **Adjournment.** There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Motion made (Mr. Paul Brown) and seconded (Mr. Winfield Clonts & Mr. Jeff Tatham) to adjourn the meeting. Voting is unanimous.


Jeana Y. Conley, Secretary


Wanda Arrowood, Board Chair