

SPECIAL MEETING
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 30, 2018

The joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners was held as scheduled beginning at 2:00 pm in the annex with all members of the Board of Education present and all of the Commissioners present except for Rose. Department heads from both Boards were also present. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the plans for the middle school project and to discuss project cost.

Architect Larry Greene gave both Boards copies of the revised drawings, noting that the plans now include an additional 8,850 square feet. He explained that the auditorium and gymnasium had been returned to full size and that he had added back the six additional classrooms. He also included the requests made by the principal and assistant principal at the meeting on October 23 to allow student access to the outdoor courtyards, relocate the counselors to the graded hallways and include an on-site school-based health center. The facility now includes a total 149,924 square feet. Mr. Greene prepared two probable construction costs—one at \$177.59 per sf and one at \$200 per sf. The total cost ranged from \$39,076,847.28 to \$43,061,566. The final cost cannot be determined until the bids are let. It should be noted that both estimates included the cost of the land (\$1,600,000) which has already been paid in full. It should also be noted that the Board of Education was notified on October 8 that it did receive grant funding in the amount of \$15,000,000 from the 2018/19 Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund. Receipt of this grant will reduce the amount the County will have to borrow for the project.

Open discussion was heard from both Boards and department heads. Commissioner McNeill asked Principal Dustin Farmer if he was satisfied with the plans—Mr. Farmer affirmed that he was pleased with the project. County Finance Officer Sandy Long felt good about the proposed cost, but did ask the Board of Education to think about any major capital needs it might need in the near future.

The Commissioners will get back with the Board of Education shortly about its decision on funding. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.