

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SCHOOL BOARD – MAY 4, 2018**

**ASSEMBLY**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in a joint session with the McDowell County Board of Education on Friday, May 4, 2018, at 8:00a.m., at the McDowell County Schools Central Office, 334 South Main Street, Marion, North Carolina.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair ; Tony Brown; Lynn Greene; and Brenda Vaughn

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager, Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director

School Board members: Terry Frank, Chair; Terry English, Vice Chair; Patrick Ellis; Amy Moomaw; Brian Piercy; Bob Brackett; Doug Mc Craw; Superintendent Mark Garrett; Suzanne Rampey, Finance Director; Brian Oliver; Laura Davis; Charlie Mae Mace  
Chuck Hamrick, with Holland Hamrick Architects, P.A.

**OLD FORT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

Chairman Frank called the meeting to order. Supt. Garrett called on Chuck Hamrick to lead the discussion on the site plan for the new Old Fort School construction.

The plan showed a courtyard in the middle of the back of the school for a fenced in playground. The older grades would be located on the second floor, and the gym/auditorium would be a multi-function room with seating for 600. Natural gas would be run to the new school. The upper level would house the media center, and also easy access to a mechanical mezzanine. The school is designed for 450 students, current enrollment is 350.

Mr. Hamrick presented a preliminary cost estimate for the new school with total construction cost at \$20,775,000 (\$231.65s/f). The average school construction cost in 2017 was \$211.22s/f.

Mr. Terry English asked for dedicated funding for capital improvements via property tax or sales tax. He also noted the school system would be applying for a state needs based grant. Mr. Wooten asked when a decision on funding would have to be made for the construction to begin. Mr. Hamrick noted the construction bids could be opened in November. Mr. English noted they would receive status on the grant in October; and after the general election in November, they would know of any tax increases. Therefore, the School Board would know in December what money would be available.

Consensus from the Commissioners was in support of the new school construction and would make the necessary adjustments to make the construction happen.

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DAVID N. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN

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CHERYL L. MITCHELL  
CLERK TO THE BOARD