

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SCHOOL BOARD – OCTOBER 28, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in a joint session with the McDowell County Board of Education on Monday, October 28, 2019, at 8:00a.m., at the McDowell County Schools Central Office, 334 South Main Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chairman; Lynn Greene; and Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

Vice-Chairman Tony Brown; Barry McPeters

Others Present

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

School Board members: Terry Frank, Chair; Patrick Ellis; Amy Moomaw; Bob Brackett; Doug Mc Craw; Greg Barksdale; Chad Marsh;

Staff: Superintendent Mark Garrett; Suzanne Rampey, Chief Finance Officer; Brian Oliver, Human Resources; Laura Davis, Chief Academic Officer; Garrett Berryhill, WAN Manager; Charlie Mae Mace, Admin Asst to BOE

Old Fort Project Update

BOE Chairman Frank called the meeting to order. Supt. Garrett reviewed a video of the progress of the construction of the Old Fort Elementary School. The estimated move in date is July 29, 2020, and the estimated completion date is November, 2020 when all landscaping and paving will be done. Supt. Garrett noted there was a difference in the color of the concrete blocks used in the auditorium due to using acoustical blocks for sound purposes. The auditorium will seat 607 people, and the seats are movable for smaller functions.

School Safety Grants

Supt. Garrett noted staff had applied for a grant to cover School Resource Officers. Currently eleven out of thirteen campuses have SROs. The staff has also applied for a Dogwood Trust grant for assistance in Pre-K; broadband coverage; and social workers at the schools.

Local Supplements

The Board of Commissioners has provided a 3% teacher supplement for four years. Supt. Garrett noted teacher retention had improved since implementing the supplement. Discussion followed on increasing the percentage, Ms. Rampey noted a 1% increase would cost \$312,022. Consensus of the Board was to keep funding the supplement and look at percentage during the budget discussions.

2018-2019 Accountability Results

Supt. Garrett reviewed the recent accountability results, and McDowell County schools grade level proficiency was 59 and the State average was 58.8. The state ranking was 50, and McDowell County had met expected growth. Chairman Walker requested information from the School Board to put in a resolution to the State Board of Education in support of multi times a year testing for accountability.

Upcoming Capitol Needs

Mr. Wooten asked the School Board to make a list of upcoming capitol needs they would like to see addressed by the Board of Commissioners.

Recreation Programs

Chairman Walker would like to see the high school and middle school coaches sit down with the county Recreation Department staff and share ideas of how to improve fundamental skills of the youth leagues. School Board member Chad Marsh thought it was an excellent idea for the coaches to reach out to the staff, and agreed there was a disconnect between the youth leagues and middle and high school teams.

Open Discussion

Chairman Walker expressed the Board's appreciation to the School Board for the meal and working relationship the Commissioners have with them. He also congratulated the School Board on their School Performance Grade.

Supt. Garrett thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of teachers and the school system.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN