

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 11, 2019

The special meeting was held as scheduled in the annex beginning at 5:00 pm with all members present. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the architectural plans for the middle school project. Architect Larry Greene, Principal Dustin Farmer, Assistant Principal Gordon Prince, middle school teacher representatives, Directors Terry Richardson and Jerry Baker and a member from the press were also in attendance.

Mr. Greene gave an overview of the current drawings. Because the previous drawing of the new facility would not fit the area site, Mr. Greene had to make the section for instructional classrooms two-story in order to reduce the size of the footprint. By having a partial two-story facility, Mr. Greene was able to increase the square footage from 149,924 to 158,048 square feet. The reduced roof area and linear exterior will result in cost savings for the foundation and site work, thereby offsetting the cost of the increase in square footage. Mr. Greene asked for comments from the group.

Board member Dianne Eldreth expressed concerns about the site itself, water runoff, traffic congestion, the idea of a partial two-story facility and the accessibility of the health clinic. Both school administrators discussed safety issues as well as the location of rooms and offices. Teachers gave input on classroom needs and locations. Mr. Greene explained that even though rooms are currently labeled, the school can certainly make changes and that the stairwells will be closed off.

Mr. Greene plans to gather input from representatives in each of the following specific areas in the near future—academic, encore, technology, CTE, administration, athletics, custodial, maintenance, etc.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Board took a dinner break before going into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(6)] and real estate [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)]. The Board went into closed session at 6:50 pm and returned to regular session at 7:39 pm.

In order to have a larger selection pool, the Superintendent can advertise openings as soon as resignations and/or retirements are received.

So as not to delay the work of the architect, the Superintendent will contact Mr. Farmer and ask that he meet with his faculty and send any thoughts, ideas and suggestions they may have to Mr. Greene prior to leaving for Spring Break.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.