

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met with the Alleghany County Board of Education on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 4:30pm at the Alleghany High School, 404 Trojan Avenue, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: County: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chair Tom Smith, Commissioner Larry Davis, Commissioner John Goudreau, County Manager Don Adams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Karen Leys arrived at 4:38pm. Board of Education: Chairman Brad Mabe, Faron Atwood, Amy Bottomley, Jason Williams, Steven Williams, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Cox, Assistant Superintendent Kim Mattox, Principal Chris Barnes, Paul Crouse, Sharon Lyons.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

The Commissioners, along with the Board of Education and their staff, toured the High School facility viewing and discussing some areas of concern. They looked at the following areas; brick façade, water leaks from the roof, science classroom, locker room facilities, heaters, and gym walls moisture. They discussed the wall separation in Mr. Murphy's classroom

During the tour the following items were discussed; Dr. Cox talked about issues regarding safety; entrances at the schools, need for rekeying locks and updating their phone system. He further talked about at some point in the future to look at replacing the core building at the High School. He reminded everyone that portion of the building was opened in 1967. He explained in today's dollars it would be around \$10,000,000 for replacement. He asked how much renovations are needed to be done to keep the School functioning and keeping in mind the thoughts of replacing the facility.

Chris Barnes talked about the amount of renovations already completed on the School.

Dr. Cox talked about a roof is currently needed on the core part of the School.

Chris Barnes talked about asbestos tile in part of the School and the interior door locks.

Dr. Cox talked about receiving the Golden Leaf grant for 2 science classrooms.

County Manager Don Adams, Paul Crouse, and Dr. Cox talked about having roof drains to help with the water, which they have but the drains get clogged.

Everyone met in the media center for further discussions.

Dr. Cox talked about safety concerns and the need to look at securing the facilities. He stated the need to focus on good common measures to protect everyone. He discussed areas of concern at the schools.

Brad Mabe talked about he gets asked what the Board of Education is going to do to secure the schools. He explained that they owe it to the public to make the schools as secure as possible.

Chair Cox thanked the Board of Education for this opportunity and his appreciation for all of the officers stepping up to be at the schools. He talked about security at the schools. He explained that everyone needs to work together to make the schools as secure as possible.

Faron Atwood and Jason Williams talked about security at the High School.

Chair Cox and Chris Barnes talked about threats come from adults/parents as well as students.

Dr. Cox discussed the need to work with Gerald Leftwich on the fire codes regarding access to the facilities.

County Manager Don Adams explained the system at the Courthouse, and it does meet fire code. He further explained that there are a lot of options to get people in and out of buildings.

Brad Mabe talked about having camera systems at each school. Dr. Cox and Chris Barnes explained how the cameras have been used in the past.

Commissioner Leys, Chris Barnes and Dr. Cox talked about ways to secure the buildings. They also discussed what buildings do not have air-conditioning.

Paul Crouse and Dr. Cox talked to everyone about ways to proceed with securing the facilities.

Commissioner Goudreau said this sounds like the direction needed and the Board of Education needs to decide which way to go and the need to look at the roof. He talked about putting together costs for what is needed then the Commissioners will look at what the Board can do. He thanked the Board of Education for taking this time to meet with the Commissioners.

Chris Barnes talked about the possibility of insurance premium reductions based on implementing more safety measures.

Commissioner Goudreau talked about having a wish list and phasing in what the Commissioners can.

Dr. Cox explained he can begin working with staff to develop a list of priorities to take to the Board of Education then present it to the Board of Commissioners.

Chair Cox and Commissioner Leys said that sounds like a good plan.

Faron Atwood mentioned this is something that needs to be done quickly and don't want this topic to drag on.

Dr. Cox reminded everyone that there are two separate areas; school safety needs and regular capital needs. He reiterated that at some time there will need to be another high school built because of the age and condition of the main building.

Jason Williams talked about already putting \$500,000 in the High School this year. Dr. Cox explained it would be foolish to tear down the facility any time soon. Paul Crouse talked about the need to take care of what there is so it will last longer. Commissioner Goudreau agreed that it has to be maintained. Brad Mabe said that we are on the right track. Commissioner Davis used an example of keeping a car serviced.

Dr. Cox used an example of funding projects years ago that used \$100,000 of the Schools money for 15 years which made maintenance suffer during that time.

Brad Mabe stated his appreciation for the Commissioners coming to listen today.

Commissioner Leys and Dr. Cox discussed school entrances.

Chair Cox talked about the Commissioners will do the best the Board can. He said that he agrees with Faron Atwood about not waiting.

Jason Williams and Dr. Cox discussed having a good start on the information by the Board of Education's next meeting on March 12.

Jason Williams and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans talked about the Commissioners' meeting after that date is March 18.

Commissioner Goudreau explained this puts it in the budget process.

Commissioner Leys and Paul Crouse talked about water coming from the roof at the High School and part of it is coming from a recently installed roof, which is being addressed by the contractor. They talked about the type of roof on the High School and warranties on different types of roofing.

Being no further business, Commissioner Goudreau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Evans  
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Larry Cox

Chairman