

SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2004 – 5:30-6:30 P.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

Present were:

Alan Lee	Division Superintendent
Ronald Walls	Director of Facilities
Debbie Boyd	Greendale Elementary School
Daryl Carty	Damascus Middle School
Kevin Coe	High Point Elementary School
Vickie Green	John S. Battle High School
Patty Minnigh	E. B. Stanley Middle School
Lynn Pannell	Wallace Middle School
Margaret Schambach	Glade Spring Middle School
Gina Thomas	Rhea Valley Elementary School
Stan Williams	Meadowview Elementary School

Dr. Lee welcomed the group and told them they are a link into determining what we need to do to make our schools better.

He introduced Ronald Walls, Director of Facilities and informed them Mr. Walls is responsible for the physical properties in this county as well as maintenance, construction, food service program, technology and transportation. Mr. Walls is responsible for all Washington County Schools' facilities, which includes the recent additions to Watauga & Rhea Valley Elementary. A ten-year facilities' construction plan has been completed. The School Board has developed a mission and vision plan and is working on a strategic plan. A Facilities Plan update was recently presented to the School Board, and a meeting is planned with the Board of Supervisors to review conclusions and recommendations. Mr. Walls will do the Facilities Presentation tonight for parent input.

Mr. Walls told them that one problem we have in our schools is that a number of programs are housed in areas not conducive to instruction. We have good assets in the county. We have heating systems capable of handling a large addition. We have sufficient land at our sites. Our current buildings are in good shape. Windows, ceilings and lighting have been replaced. Floor coverings have been updated.

Elementary School Needs:

- Additional programs such as pre-school, handicap, art, small group/individual tutoring, music, kindergarten intervention, and computer labs.
- Additional personnel such as Reading Specialists, Guidance Counselors, Nurses, Reading Recovery, Kindergarten Intervention and Secretaries.
- Increased enrollment in specific schools.

- Incentives to have low pupil to teacher ratios in Grades K-5.
- In 2004, three pre-school programs, workspace at each elementary school for one instructional technology teacher, one art teacher and one music teacher.

Cost Summary for Elementary Schools:
(Based on \$95 Per Square Foot)

• Abingdon Elementary	\$1,143,325
• High Point Elementary	930,525
• Meadowview Elementary	920,170
• Valley Institute Elementary	693,975
Total Elementary	\$3,687,995

Middle School Needs:

- Some classes should be held in classrooms specifically designed for that subject (8th grade science, technology, vocal and instrumental music, etc.)
- The additions, as proposed, should be modified to include one dedicated 8th grade science room.
- Increased enrollment at Wallace Middle School.
- The Exploratory Program requires five dedicated classrooms that must be available each day throughout the school year.

Cost Summary for Middle Schools:
(Based on \$95 Per Square Foot)

• Wallace Middle	\$ 697,680
• Glade Spring Middle	961,400
• E. B. Stanley Middle	878,560
Total Middle	\$2,537,640

High School Needs:

- Increased number of students participating in extra-curricular activities.
- Increased number of extra-curricular activities being offered.
- A consultant has evaluated our music rooms and recommends that the current space be doubled for the sound levels being generated.
- Rule change by VHSL mandating that girls' basketball become a winter sport. This means that five or more teams are contending for the same gym space for practice and competition.

Cost Summary for High Schools:

• Holston High School	
Band Room/Storage Room	\$ 361,000
Gymnasium	2,012,500
Athletic Complex	

(Baseball & Football Fields – Track Renovation)	350,000
Total	\$2,723,500
• Patrick Henry High School	
Gymnasium	\$3,049,800
Band Room	361,000
Larger Library	152,000
Total	\$3,562,800
• Abingdon High School	
Athletic Complex	\$3,990,500
Music/Fine Arts Complex	228,000
Total	\$4,218,500
• John S. Battle High School	
Band Room	\$ 228,000
Gymnasium Complex	3,049,800
Total	\$3,277,800

The Facilities Plan is proposed in two phases as follows:

Phase 1:

Completion Date – Four years from time applications are submitted to the VDOE.

• Abingdon Elementary School	\$1,143,325
Addition of a library, 7 classrooms & a computer lab.	
• High Point Elementary School	930,525
Addition of a library, 4 classrooms & a computer lab.	
• Meadowview Elementary	920,170
Addition of 8 classrooms.	
• Valley Institute Elementary School	693,975
Addition of library, 2 classrooms & a computer lab.	
• Glade Spring Middle School	961,400
Addition of library, music, exploratory Classroom.	
• E. B. Stanley Middle School	878,560
Addition of 5 classrooms, vocal music Exploratory.	
• Wallace Middle School	697,680
Addition of 6 classrooms & computer Lab.	
• Abingdon High School	228,000

• Addition of band room storage.	
• John S. Battle High School	228,000
• Addition of band room storage.	
• Holston High School	361,000
• Addition of band room storage.	
• Patrick Henry High School	361,000
• Addition of band room storage.	
• Addition of library	152,000
Total Construction	\$7,555,635
Architect	453,338
Grant Total	\$8,008,973

(This does not include renovations to the Washington County Technical School/Skill Center that is presently under study. Existing library would be converted to classrooms or other small rooms. Programs moved to addition will free up space in existing building.)

Phase II:

Completion Date – Six years from time applications are submitted to the VDOE.

• Abingdon High School	\$3,990,500
• Addition of gym (2,000 seat)	
• John S. Battle High School	3,049,800
• Addition of gym (1,400 seat)	
• Holston High School	2,012,500
• Addition of auxiliary gym with cross courts (400 seats)	
• Upgrade track/Add baseball field	350,000
• Patrick Henry High School	3,049,980
• Addition of gym (1,400 seat)	
Total Construction	\$12,452,600
Architect	747,156
Grand Total	\$13,199,756

Projected annual cash outlay was also presented.

Parent responses:

- Agrees with plan and thinks its good. Schools are like houses. Maintenance has to be done. Different things are needed from twenty years ago.
- Agrees with plan and understands why we have to keep up with things. Have the teachers been asked for feedback?

- Mr. Walls responded that teachers were on the committee. Every school had a site study committee of teachers and parents with recommendations from their school. The impact to the big picture was taken into consideration.
- Is there any way the school system could get financial help from new developers?
- Dr. Lee said that there are no legal provisions to allow for that. Tax revenue from new development does not pay for education costs.
- It would be nice if more funding were available. At High Point, the cafeteria workers are miserable because it is too hot.
- Increased numbers in elementary school will funnel through to the high schools, and in a few years we may need more classroom space there.
- Dr. Lee responded that there is already more classroom space in high schools, and future space problems are not anticipated.
- High school band rooms all need individual practice rooms.
- Mr. Walls responded that the band directors were consulted, and practice rooms are included in the layout.
- It looks like an excellent plan and takes everything into consideration.
- Will you sell Phase 1 and Phase II as a package deal or contingency plan? It would be nice if gyms could be completed sooner. Are there backup plans?
- Dr. Lee responded that we are asking for everything presented. We feel \$21 million is not unreasonable and would be the cost for only one middle school if we chose new construction.
- The plan is a good idea. It provides for special needs kids and overall is a good plan.
- She is all for taking care of these problems and would like to see it moved along so her kids could benefit.
- It is an excellent plan, well presented and clear. It is nice to know we are in a locality that puts emphasis on school construction. In Tennessee, when they need more space, they pop up a trailer with a short life expectancy. We are doing some quality construction.
- Will part of the debt service be eliminated by the time construction begins? The response was yes.
- Mr. Walls said that if we begin this spring and have plans drawn up, funding could be secured in a year. It takes longer for gym design, and it is recommended that we consult an architect. It is anticipated that a sufficient number of contractors are available to give us bids and do the work.

Dr. Lee told them that if they had any questions, to please call. This presentation will be given to the Board of Supervisors to gain their insight and approval. He thanked them for coming and told them that next month the topic of discussion would be counseling in our schools. If there are any other topics they would like to discuss, please let him know. One parent requested that security in schools be discussed.