



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax County, NC – January 31, 2024

HCS Engage Community in Discussion on New PreK-8 School Progress

Halifax County Schools Engage Community in Discussion on New PreK-8 School Progress



Halifax County Schools convened a pivotal community forum on January 24th and January 29th to provide stakeholders with a comprehensive update on the development of the new PreK-8 school. Led by Ashley Dennis of Moseley Architect, John Witcher of Bordeaux Construction, and Superintendent Dr. Eric Cunningham, the meetings showcased significant milestones and addressed concerns raised by community members.

During the forum, John Witcher unveiled the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the project, of \$47,534,579 with a total project cost of \$52,973,051. Funding for this transformative endeavor has been made possible through the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund, with Halifax County Schools securing \$39,083,000. This allocation, complemented by Halifax County's committed match of \$2,057,000, has resulted in a total project funding of \$41,140,000. However, a delta of (\$11,833,051) remains to be addressed.

Recognizing the evolving landscape of educational infrastructure and macroeconomic trends, the state legislature has demonstrated its commitment to supporting such transformative projects through the State Budget H.B. 259. Under deliberation, this budget stands to allocate an additional \$12 million in capital funding, with a 5% county match.

In response to the need for additional funds, the demolition of the existing building was paused to facilitate the application for a grant. This strategic decision ensures the eligibility for the grant, which would have been voided if construction had commenced. The application process for the additional funding has been initiated and is progressing accordingly.



Community members and stakeholders actively participated in the forum, seizing the opportunity to pose questions and express concerns. One notable concern pertained to the area in front of the old Eastman School. Superintendent Dr. Eric Cunningham promptly acknowledged these concerns and proactively contacted the NC Department of Public Instruction. As a result, written permission has been obtained to address the area without compromising the grant's integrity.

Dr. Cunningham reassured stakeholders that their voices had been heard and that the school district remained committed to transparent communication and community engagement throughout this transformative project.