

Special Joint Meeting with County Commissioners Meeting Highlights
Gates County Board of Education Central Office
October 29, 2015

The Gates County Board of Education met in a special called meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office. The following board members were present: Glendale Boone, Ray Felton, Leslie Byrum and Claire Whitehurst. County Commissioners present were: Madam Chair Linda Hofler, Henry Jordan, J. Ray Freeman, Jack Owens and Billy Felton. Also attending were Natalie Rountree, County Manager, Sandy Pittman, Financial Services Director, Joe Harrell, Director of Maintenance for Gates County Schools, Rube Blanchard, Director of Finance for Gates County Schools and Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent. Guests present were Chuck Howard and his son, Brad, from Metal Roof Consultants, Inc., Cary, NC. Madam Chair Hofler called the meeting to order at 4:06.

Mr. Howard is a structural engineer and specializes in metal roofs. He assessed the roof at Central Middle prior to the meeting, and presented a powerpoint of some things that he had found, including standing water. He showed an aerial view of the roof and pointed out problems. He feels there is a definite moisture problem. He commented there are 40 air conditioner units on top of the building that are 19 to 20 years old. The roof is mainly a steel structure except for some wood in the gym area. He feels the walls are adequately braced and the building can handle a retrofit roof. He also showed a video of a roof being replaced on a school in Brunswick County. The commissioners and board members asked several questions, including the following:

- How will it affect replacement of air conditioner units on top of building
- Replacement of plumbing and wiring in the future
- Wind resistant rating
- Estimated time to complete
- Cost per square foot
- How will it affect instruction time at school during construction

Mr. Howard stated that the roof is in bad shape, and it is only going to get worse. The commissioners and board members commented on other problems with the building, but Mr. Howard said that he could not address those concerns, since his expertise is in roofing.

Dr. Williams and Ms. Hofler thanked Mr. Howard for the information he provided.

There was discussion concerning our responsibility to our students, and that we can't keep ignoring the problem. All present agreed that finding the funding is the main obstacle.

The commissioners and board members agreed there needs to be an independent study done, and the commissioners will put together a list of questions to present to the school board. Mrs. Rountree stated that she will get this process started. Dr. Williams stated that he does have someone that is willing to come and discuss funding options, and will not charge a fee for this information.

It has been discovered that there is actually 24 acres at the Central Middle School site. It was previously thought it only contained 6 acres. Also, Mrs. Rountree has talked with representatives from the Department of Transportation and there is no plan for expansion of Highway 158, in the Central Middle School area, for at least 20 years in the future.

The commissioners and board members agreed to continue to meet until this issue is resolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman