

**March 10, 2010**

**Board of Education Approves NCSS Proposed Organization in Preparation of the New Five-Year Facilities Plan**

With the Newton County Board of Education approving by unanimous vote, the proposed organization of the Newton County School System, the district is one step closer to completing its new Five Year Facilities Plan. Once the process is completed, Newton County Schools will submit the plan to the State Department of Education for review and adoption.

The new five-year plan will replace the current plan for July 1, 2006-June 30, 2011. According to NCSS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carpenter, a new plan was needed as a result of the decrease in the rate of student enrollment growth and decreases in ad valorem tax collections, sales tax collections and state funding since the adoption of the current plan.

“Given these issues, we solicited the assistance of the Facilities Section of the State Department of Education in the development of a new Five-Year Facilities Plan,” said Carpenter. “We have a timeline we are working with and now that our school board has approved the proposed organization, our next step is to submit by March 15 the new facilities plan to the State Department of Education for review.”

Once submitted, a Facilities Review Committee, comprised of administrators from school districts around the state, will study the district’s facility needs identified in the document.

“If all goes well, our local school board would adopt the new Five Year Facilities Plan in May, with the State Department of Education scheduled to adopt it in June,” added Carpenter.

According to NCSS Superintendent Dr. Steve Whatley, the proposed organization approved by the school board on March 9, 2010 is a “snapshot of what the grade configuration and usage of facilities will be as a basis for the state funding requested in this plan.”

“This does not mean that all of these changes will take place in the next year or two,” said Whatley, “as it will be spread over a course of years as new facilities or additions are constructed.”

As previously reported, the new plan includes the “phase out” of Ficquett Elementary School, Palmer-Stone Elementary School, and Newton High School. Phasing out these three schools from the State Department of Education’s inventory generates a greater need for classroom space in the district and as a result, increases state earnings and financial participation in the district’s building program. This one change in the district’s updated five-year facilities plan will infuse an estimated 24 million additional dollars, in state participation , into the district’s building program while also addressing the school board’s desire to accommodate facility needs in a timely manner from the standpoint of enrollment projections and current classroom needs.

It also includes the construction of a new elementary school, a new high school to replace Newton High School, and high school to replace the current Eastside High School, which is slated to become a theme school that will house kindergarten through eighth grade students. Eastside High School was originally constructed as a transitional school and based on a middle school layout and size. The school system’s current theme schools, Fairview and Clements, will revert to an elementary and middle school facility respectively.

The listing below contains the anticipated grade configurations, estimated number of Full Time Equivalencies (FTEs) or fulltime students, and the number of state earned instructional units to be included in each school once the plan is fully implemented. These projected accommodations do not include the phased out facilities or the use of portable classrooms located at existing facilities.

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
**PROPOSED FIVE YEAR FACILITIES PLAN**  
**JUNE 1, 2010 TO MAY 30, 2015**

SCHOOLS	GRADE CONFIGURATION	ESTIMATED FTE	INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS INCLUDED
<b>Elementary Schools</b>			
East Newton Elementary	K-5	625	40
Eastside Theme School	K-8	1200	72
Fairview Elementary	K-5	600	39
Ficquett Elementary (Phase Out)	K-5	0	0
Heard-Mixon Elementary	K-5	500	33
Live Oak Elementary	K-5	1500	93
Livingston Elementary	K-5	625	40
Mansfield Elementary	K-5	500	33
Middle Ridge Elementary	K-5	800	51
New Elementary #4	K-5	1000	64
Oak Hill Elementary	K-5	800	51
Palmer-Stone Elementary (Phase Out)	K-5	0	0
Porterdale Elementary	K-5	550	36
Rocky Plains Elementary	K-5	800	51
South Salem Elementary	K-5	1178	74
West Newton Elementary	K-5	775	49
<b>Total Elementary School</b>		<b>11,453</b>	<b>726</b>
<b>Middle Schools</b>			
Clements Middle	6-8	850	54
Cousins Middle	6-8	850	54
Indian Creek Middle	6-8	850	54
Liberty Middle	6-8	1500	92
Veterans Memorial Middle	6-8	945	59
<b>Total Middle School</b>		<b>4,995</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>High Schools</b>			
Alcovy High	9-12	2425	125
New high School #4 (Replacing NHS)	9-12	2500	129
New High School #5 (Replacing EHS)	9-12	1431	75
Newton High School (Phase Out)	9-12	0	0
<b>Total High School</b>		<b>6,356</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>System Totals</b>		<b>22,804</b>	<b>1,368</b>