

School Bond Chronology & Fact Sheet

December 20, 2021

- Voters approved the bond referendum on November 6, 2018 by a vote of 9,260 for and 6,264 against - 59.6% to 40.4%. The Bond question referred to school construction and repair “including Brevard High, Rosman High and Rosman Middle.”
- All educational materials produced to voters showed the improvements to Brevard High School and the Rosman High /Middle campuses only. The School Board remains committed to use the money to improve the Rosman and Brevard campuses, as advertised to the voters.
- The following activities occurred prior to final contract execution (dates approximate):
 - Bond Committee formed with County (January 2019);
 - Interlocal Agreement with the County (February 2019);
 - Architect / CMAr Interviews & Selection as required by statute (March – June 2019);
 - Contract Negotiations with Architect / CMAr (June – August 2019);
 - Board of Education approval of contracts on August 19, 2019; and
 - County’s review of the contracts found them “favorable to the owner”. County requested that MOU & soils report be added as exhibits and that contracts not be approved until the soils report was completed. (August 2019 – January 2020).
- Architect and Construction Manager contracts and project budgets were approved by the Board of Education and County Commission on January 13, 2020.
- In March of 2020, all N.C. public schools were closed for in-person instruction due to Covid-19.
- Six informational sessions at the high schools, and six BOE work sessions open to the public were held between November of 2017 and June of 2020 to decide on the Bond and scope of the work at each school (including presentations post-passage of the Bond).
- The Bond work was discussed during at approximately 50 BOE meetings and numerous radio program discussions since November of 2017.
- Additional examples of engaging with the public include a Republican Party Breakfast, two community center meetings, a Rosman town Council Meeting, and at both a Brevard High and a Rosman High football game. In addition, the projects have been extensively advertised by the Transylvania County Schools on social media and the district’s website.
- At all meetings and opportunities for input, the information presented has always been to build/renovate at BHS and RHS/RMS campuses using the full bond amount of \$68 million.
- The County Commissioners increased taxes by 12.5 cents/\$100, beginning in 2020, of which 10.5 cents was attributed to pay for the bond work.

- Between December 2020 and December 2022, the project architect estimates that construction costs will increase by at least 35% due to Covid and/or supply chain related events.
- The continued escalation in construction costs is not forecast to end or reverse and, without additional funds, this fact reduces the amount of renovation and new construction that can be done to both campuses for the original \$68 million.
- \$3,100,998.64 paid to the Architects to date.
- \$425,000 paid to the Construction Manager to date.
- To accommodate the Option #1 already approved by the School Board at both campuses, contract amendments will need to be negotiated with the Architect and Construction Manager for additional services and approved immediately by the School Board and County Commissioners.
- Without approval by both the School Board and County Commissioners, these projects will not happen at all.
- With regard to changing the use of bond proceeds to other school projects after the vote by the people, the County Attorney would need to advise the Commissioners on that issue.
- If renovations to the Rosman and Brevard campuses are abandoned by the County in lieu of a new concept (for example, a joint high school and community college campus), the entire statutory and contractual process must be repeated from the beginning before any work could start including:
 - 1) selection of architect and construction manager,
 - 2) contract negotiations and approval,
 - 3) solicitation of public input and design development,
 - 4) production of construction drawings and State review,
 - 5) bidding, and
 - 6) approval of a final Guaranteed Maximum Price.
- Based on the history of the current process, starting over could add as much as 2 years or more prior to the start of any actual construction. Thus, starting over could result in actual construction not occurring until more than 5 years after the voters approved the issuance of the bonds for the benefit of Brevard High, Rosman High and Rosman Middle School.