

## Community Forum and Building Update Thursday, March 9, 2017

Dr. Shaw welcomed the community and introduced the officials present. Approximately 20-25 people attended including Fulton School Board members Gail Dean and Julia Bernath.

Transitioning to the new addition: Dr. Shaw explained that English and some Science classes will be among the first occupants of the building addition. As these classrooms relocate, the goal is to be able to close off as many rooms as possible to reduce maintenance and upkeep in the old building. A cluster of vacated English and Math classrooms in the 100 and 200 hall will be consolidated to create a new cafeteria/eating space. These ideas are preliminary and will be worked out in the coming weeks. Another unknown is student movement between the old and new buildings throughout the school day. Timing and logistics will be a challenge.

David Knotts, Fulton County Schools Executive Director of Capital Programs, spoke next. Referencing a slide on the PowerPoint (which will be on the website soon), he highlighted the accomplishments to date and reviewed the remaining milestones through August 2017. The project is on track for certificates of occupancy to be issued in time for the beginning of school fall semester 2017. When work begins on the third floor buildout during the summer of 2018, that may have to occur between 10pm and 6am to eliminate the possibility of construction interfering with school.

Lance Painter of Turner Construction addressed the phases of completion. The ground floor of the addition will be generally complete by April 2017. Their work on the third floor will be finished May 2017 (a “shell” only). The second floor will be done June 2017 with July 2017 the move in date for the first two floors. *It was during this discussion that the community heard for the first time that the work on the third floor is set for summer of 2018 with occupancy in the fall of 2018.*

Patrick Burke, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, carefully explained the timing of SPLOST funding, the changing scope of the project, and the resulting stages of construction which are unique to this project. Rather than wait until all money was in hand to start the planning, bidding, and building, the school board decided to approve SPLOST funds to build Phase I, which could only be 26 classrooms. The builders decided to go ahead and build the third floor shell, even though they could not legally create more than 26 classrooms (because that is what the taxpayers voted for.) *The community heard for the first time that the school board recently voted unanimously to provide funds to fast-forward Phase II. Gail Dean, School Board District 4 representative, remarked that this was an unprecedented move for the board.*

Bob Sussenbach, Architect, discussed the revised timelines associated with each phase. (PowerPoint will be on website soon). The community asked frequent questions as he revealed each stage of the timeline.

In conclusion, each of speakers stressed the many factors which may cause even further changes to these timelines and reiterated the need to view their presentation as “preliminary” rather than cast in stone.