

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION –APRIL 16, 2021 School Board**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 16, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., in the Auditorium of the Old Fort Elementary School.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Chair; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director

School Board

Terry Frank, Chairman; Greg Barksdale; Bob Brackett; Donnie Suttles; Michelle Pupoh; Beth Silver; Brian Piercy; Supt. Mark Garrett; Suzanne Rampey, Finance Director

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the joint meeting of the School Board and Board of Commissioners to order at 8:05am.

Supt. Garrett gave an update on the county school operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He spoke also on the resiliency of the teachers and staff, the students and their families since the beginning of the pandemic in the spring of 2020. He noted the root of the success was keeping what was best for the students at the front of every decision made.

He also noted during the MCS Strategic Planning Session the Board of Education would be focusing on Broadband; Mental Health issues; and Universal Pre-K. The Board also listed their capitol needs as a new Marion Elementary and East Middle School. The current Marion Elementary does not have enough buildable acreage, so land must be identified for a new facility. The current Marion Elementary was built in 1953 and East McDowell Middle School was built in 1955.

The Board of Commissioners were given a tour of the new Old Fort Elementary School by the school's Student Ambassadors.

Following the tour, the Board of Commissioners were adjourned at 11:00am.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman