



School Matters

September 19, 2012

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Welcome to *School Matters* from Davie County Schools. *School Matters* is an electronic news source for parents, community members, and staff. Please feel free to share *School Matters* with others!

Strategic Planning Survey

Deadline September 30

Davie County Schools is in the process of developing a five-year strategic plan to establish the future direction of our school district. The Strategic Planning Commission is made up of school district leaders, students, principals, teachers, clergy, parents, county leaders, leaders from each municipality, and other agencies that support our community. We have set aside two days in October and November for our community to come together to develop strategic goals and priorities that will move our school district forward.

You, too, can shape the direction of our district! Please take time to complete this online electronic survey to provide input into the planning process. We value the opinions of our staff and community, so please take this opportunity to provide feedback!

[Strategic Planning Online Survey- Deadline September 30, 2012!](#)

Facilities Update

The Davie County Board of Education met on September 11, 2012 to discuss facility renovations and construction at Davie County High School. The \$6 million construction project to replace mobile units was the topic of the work session. A motion was made to put the project out for bid, but the final vote was 2 for and 5 against, therefore the motion died and the project has been suspended at this time. Concerns were debated about how this project would fit into the long-range plan for the existing high school campus, as well as the need to immediately address the current conditions, including the mobile units.

The Board of Education hired Little Diversified Architecture to conduct a facilities assessment. In the assessment, the architects and engineers recommended building a single new high school for all students, on a centrally located site, rather than continuing to renovate and construct on the existing campus. The Board of Education received a letter from the School Planning Division of NCDPI on August 27, 2012, which concurred with the analysis team's conclusions and recommendations related to the high school campus.

At the beginning of the board meeting last week, Dr. Hartness shared a historical perspective on the current high school. He pointed out that the

issues we face with renovation and construction are not new. Former leaders faced similar and even greater challenges in the late 1940's and early 1950's when they closed four community high schools and consolidated into the high school that has served our community for the past 56 years. Former leaders, under more difficult circumstances, solved issues similar to those we face today.

The Board of Education has challenging decisions to make and has asked that district staff continue to work with our architect and engineers over the next several weeks to prioritize the needs across the district that were outlined in the facilities assessment. The Board will determine next steps on the high school facility issue in October.

The facilities assessment, letter from School Planning Division in Raleigh, and Dr. Hartness' presentation to the Board can be accessed on our district website [Facilities Updates Page](#).

Congratulations to Cornatzer and Mocksville Elementary Schools!

Two schools in the Davie County school district have earned a designation only awarded to a total of 120 schools in North Carolina. Cornatzer Elementary School and Mocksville Elementary School were both named **Reward Schools** based on their academic achievements. A **Reward School** is a Title I school that has been identified as being in the top 10% of all Title I schools in the state, either in achievement or progress.

"The entire staff at Mocksville Elementary School has a child-centered vision. We are dedicated to data-driven instruction, partnering with home and community, and academic success," says Lynn Marrs, principal of Mocksville Elementary School. Mocksville has met all target goals set for their subgroups and made expected or high academic growth for the past five years.

Principal of Cornatzer Elementary School, Dr. Cinde Rinn, said "Every member [of the staff] from the custodian to volunteers or small group leaders knows it takes many handprints and tiers of support to help our kids. They stay focused on essentials and results, study best approaches and are willing and skillful at sharing insights with colleagues and families." Efforts of the staff have paid off, with the composite scores for reading and math increasing over 33% in the past five years for Cornatzer.

Both schools were recognized at the September Board of Education meeting for this honor. Congratulations to all the staff at Mocksville and Cornatzer elementary schools for the hard work and dedication it has taken to earn the **Reward School** designation.

We hope you find *School Matters* to be an informative and useful resource. Thank you for your continued support of Davie County Schools!

Sincerely,



Darrin L. Hartness, Ed. D.
Superintendent

