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FEATURED

Greensboro Elementary architect contract awarded

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Comptroller Peter Franchot takes a tour with Caroline County officials at Greensboro Elementary School Monday, March 12, and observes 10 portable “learning cottages” parked behind the school to make enough classrooms to house 830 students in a school rated to hold about 650.

PHOTO BY DUSTIN HOLT

DENTON — The Caroline County Board of Education at its meeting Tuesday, April 3, voted to award Hord Coplan Macht, Inc., a \$2.1-million, multi-year contract to provide architectural services for the Greensboro Elementary School replacement project.

The Baltimore-based firm also conducted a feasibility study and provided the educational specifications for the project.

Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Milton Nagel proposed awarding the architectural contract to the firm, as he said the firm has proven to be very aware of the school system's needs, funding constraints and deadlines to this point.

The firm must also be approved by the state's public school construction program, Nagel said.

Selecting the architectural firm is the next step in replacing the current school, an "open space" building built in the 1970s and now suffering from severe overcrowding, with a new two-story school on the same site, that will provide enough classroom space while being more efficient to operate and maintain.

Once the new school is built, the old school will be demolished to make way for new parking lots, a bus loop and playing fields.

The entire project is expected to cost about \$46 million, the majority of which will be covered by state funds. The rest will be paid for by the county.

Though the project is still waiting to hear if it is on the list to get planning funds in the upcoming fiscal year from the Interagency on School Construction, it must continue to move forward to stay on track for a targeted completion in summer 2021.

Comptroller Peter Franchot, one of the members of the Board of Public Works, which must approve the Interagency Committee's recommendations, has already said he strongly supports the proposed new school. He also visited the school in March to see firsthand the overcrowding issues.

The funding announcement is expected to be made later this spring.

