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NEWS

March 12, 2015 – School Board Votes for New High School

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School Board Votes for New High School

(STAUNTON, VA – March 12, 2015) At their regular monthly meeting on March 9, the Staunton City School Board voted to move forward with plans to build a new state-of the art comprehensive high school on a new site, including all necessary athletic fields. This decision comes after a year of public input, review and consideration of the six design concepts presented by Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates, the architectural firm from Charlottesville, Virginia who conducted the high school space study in 2013.

“Between the original structure and the 1980’s renovation, the current Lee High has served Staunton students for almost 50 years and is no longer sufficient to handle all that is being asked of a 21st century educational facility. We want to look to a bright future, a facility that would move us forward by supporting core instructional programs as well as expanded course offerings to ensure graduates are well-prepared for college and career goals,” said Ronald Ramsey, Chair of the School Board.

The Board relied heavily on the information garnered in the facilities study regarding the condition of the current building and the costs of continuing to repair and maintain an aging facility. The schedule of the debt retirement for previous renovations conducted on other Staunton schools was also a part in the decision-making process.

The School Board noted several key factors in reaching its decision on Monday, including: the need to provide high quality instruction to the students of Staunton City in a 21st century learning environment, the difficulty of managing athletic activities and events taking place at numerous off-site locations within the City, the declining condition and poor layout of the current building, considerable disruption to the instructional programs as well as safety concerns that would be created by many of the renovation options, the relatively low cost difference between a major renovation and a new comprehensive school, the need for bus operations space and food storage space which could be accommodated on a new site, and the impact of this investment on the City’s economic development and the future of our community.

As the project moves forward, there will be more decisions facing the School Board and the community. School Board member, Jody Grogan welcomed public input in this process saying, “This decision is only the first step in a lengthy process and there will be many more opportunities for input.” The School Board will continue to keep the community informed during this process via postings on the school division’s website at www.staunton.k12.va.us and SCS-TV Cable Channel 13, and by announcements and discussions during its regular monthly public meetings.

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