



Sentinel Photo/REANNE PALMER

SCHOOL RENDERINGS — Superintendent of Mt. Vernon Township High School (MVTHS) Mike Smith, **LEFT**, looks on as Greg Brown of FGM Architects walks the building committee through the updated version of the new high school layout. Bids are expected to be opened in October to be approved in December.

MVTHS:

Continued From Page 1A

will match it two to one. We've had our buildings appraised and we're getting close to putting them on the market. Our ultimate plan is to raise the extra money through the sale of property up to the \$72 million mark. Some of the items will be bid as alternatives, and if we don't make the \$72 million mark, then we'll pick and choose," said Board President Carl Miller.

The alternates include a back room in the theater, outdoor concession stand, auxiliary gymnasium and turf room.

As Miller said, the state share of the project is the other 66.0506 percent, or \$48,095,721.

"Our next step is to meet with the city and schedule work so that it does not conflict with the construction," said Brown.

He also mentioned that the cost to demolish all of the buildings has decreased from an approximated \$2.2 million

down to \$1.8 million. The demolition would be a completely separate project from the new school.

Plans continue to bid out the project in October and November to receive them in December and award them in January.

"We don't know what the bid market will be. We're going to have anywhere from 24 to 26 bid packages at that time, maybe more, maybe less," said Brown. "The market has been really crazy. It's all over the place right now, but luckily, you have a big project and they usually get a lot better bids, but we're not counting on that. You really don't know until bid day. With this project, we'd like to get a lot of local participation because it helps the local economy."

As for the schedule, the project is just a few weeks behind, but nothing that can't be made up in the future, said Brown.

"We're getting into the construction documents, so we're getting into the nitty gritty," he said. "Next time, I hope we'll have some new renderings, and I think we're almost there."

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MVTHS officials look at costs, updates for new school

*Bids expected to be opened
in October, awarded in
December for beginning
construction*

BY REANNE PALMER
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MT. VERNON — As the design development phase wraps up, officials at Mt. Vernon Township High School (MVTHS) and FGM Architects prepare to move into the construction documents phase to get ready to building the new high school on Wells-Bypass.

Greg Brown of FGM Architects said during a building committee meeting Monday night that the project still remains on schedule.

"We've been working with several engineers and we're ending the design development phase. We are going to wrap that up by the end of next week," he said. "I'm surprised by how well this project is going. I keep waiting for the other shoe to drop."

Brown continued with the budget for the project, which is currently set at \$72,816,479. The local share of the project is 33.9494 percent — or \$24,720,758 — of which the district has \$19.8 million in bonds, \$1 million in HLS (Health Life Safety) funds, \$75,000 in additional fundraising efforts and other funds or leveraging bonds in the amount of \$3.25 million. The district is also planning on utilizing off-site city utilities up to \$2 million as a part of their local share.

Mike Beard of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce asked the board about the budget, inquiring about the before-mentioned \$62 million budget.

"If we sell some buildings or get more local revenue, then the state

Please see **MVTHS**, Page 3A