

MVTHS officials examine school's next steps

*June first opportunity for
allocation of state funding,
officials say*

BY JASON SILVEY
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — June will be the first opportunity for allocation of state capital development funds to be awarded to the new Mt. Vernon Township High School campus project, and officials will be lobbying in the coming weeks to make that happen.

At a joint meeting on Monday of the Board of Education's Finance and Building Committees, Superintendent Mike Smith explained, "I've had contact with the state entity involved. The finalization of our project is under way. Everyone is aware we have our local match in place. Now we are just waiting on state dollars to come through."

On April 5, voters in the high school district passed a referendum to that \$19.8 million local match.

Smith said June would be the first time state money could now be disbursed for the project following a site visit by the Capital Development Board in February.

"We will actually get a project with a list of everything they will pay for," Smith said. "We ought to be getting that soon."

The superintendent encouraged residents to contact their local legislators and the governor's office to help keep the MVTHS project at the front of their minds

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when allocation funds.

Smith said in the meantime he would be lobbying for the project in Springfield this week when he travels there for the Superintendents' Conference. Mayor Mary Jane Chesley will also be taking a later trip to Springfield regarding the project, he said.

In other business, board members were informed that

the district received an energy efficiency grant worth \$232,000 with another match from the district of \$232,000 for a total of \$464,000. The money will be used to replace windows in G Building for long-term energy savings.

Some doors will be replaced as well including some at Chagnon Gym which Smith referred to as an "immediate code issue we have to address."

He added that it was important to continue to invest in needed maintenance for the current campus while looking forward to a new facility.

jsilvey@morningsentinel.com

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