

School Building Authority Awards Monroe County Schools Additional \$2 Million in Funding

The WV School Building Authority voted unanimously during their regular meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017, to award an additional \$2,050,000 to Monroe County Schools toward the construction of the new Peterstown School Project. This funding was awarded in efforts to help the county be successful in the bond election. Superintendent Basile stated, "We are very excited about the additional funding and feel this will help the voters of the county support the new school project. With this funding, the School Building Authority is awarding Monroe County \$16,242,000 of the \$24,192,000 needed to construct the new school."

Tom Lange, School Building Authority Board Member and Finance Chair, along with Scott Raines, Director and Ben Ashley, Assistant Director, attended the Monroe County Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Mr. Lange spoke to the board members about the additional funding and said, "This is done in efforts to help this rural county get behind this bond and get it passed. The voters of the county can either vote for children in Monroe County by voting for the bond, or vote for children in other counties by voting against the bond. If the bond fails, we will take the funds awarded to Monroe and give them to another county."

Senator Kenny Mann spoke via conference call and told the audience, "The budget is not looking good. If the bond is not passed this year, I do not know that funds will be there next year." Ben Ashley had previously told the board that the allocated funds cannot be taken away from Monroe this year as they have already been allocated. However, with the state budget in the shape that it is, future funding is questionable if this allocation is not used.

The Board voted unanimously on March 21, 2017, to run a 15 year bond election for \$10,000,000. The election will be held June 10, 2017. This bond will provide \$5,950,000 toward the new school at Peterstown; construct a new, full size gymnasium with bleachers at Mountain View School; provide a safe school entry, remove and replace the gymnasium floor, install exterior lighting, and clean and seal the exterior masonry block at James Monroe High School at a cost of; and install new exterior lighting and complete restroom renovations at Monroe County Technical Center.

Mrs. Basile concluded, "I hope the voters will take advantage of this funding opportunity. Our children in Peterstown need a new school and the other school projects are needed at each location. This project will not only help our children, but will also boost the economy by bringing jobs to the area."