

# Education First

June 2005



## Board Members tour schools affected by proposed Education Special Local Option Sales Tax

“We thought it would be easier to talk about while we were looking at it,” Executive Director Julie Pennybacker told assembled Board Members as the bus, Sweet Melissa, pulled away from Hutchings Career Center.

At the previous Executive Committee Meeting, Superintendent Sharon Patterson made a presentation on all the renovations and construction work that would be accomplished should an Education Special Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) be passed by the voters in the Fall. The physical tour was organized to give those board members a better idea on the condition of the schools needing renovations and the placement of the new campuses.

The tour started with a quick view of Hutchings and Vineville Academy, both which were completed using money from the previous SPLOST. The Rutland Campus and Howard Middle School were also men-

tioned as being successful projects from that tax.

According to Sharon Patterson, this ESPLOST “would be focused on our high schools and finish moving towards having grades six through eight in the middle schools.”

The major components of this tax were toured, including the rebuilding of Central and Southwest High Schools, moving Miller Middle School to the old Southeast High Campus, upgrading athletic facilities, and funding the school system’s transportation renovations and replacements for the next five years.

Board Members showed a great amount of interest in such topics as how the system would be selling the plan to the public, how well-prepared these new projects are for a growing population, and the foreseeable difficulties surrounding the Central High and Miller Middle projects.



(above) Board Members discuss some of the changes as they view Northeast High’s campus.

(below) Sharon Patterson explains the changes to the Central High and Miller Middle campus.



## Upcoming Board Meetings

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**July 26, 2005**  
**Fickling Board Room**

**Full Board Meeting**  
**August 23, 2005**  
**Location to be determined**  
**Focus: Technology in the Schools**

## 2005 New Teacher Banquet

On August 9, 2005 at 6:00 p.m., Education First will be bringing the business community together to honor Edgecombe County’s incoming teachers at the Macon Centreplex. This is a great opportunity to welcome and support the people who have chosen to teach here.

Tickets are \$35 each, and you can show your support by attending, donating items as door prizes or additional to the gift bags, or sponsoring an educator to attend.

Official invitations will be sent out this week.

Contact Chris at the office with questions or to reserve your ticket.  
R.S.V.P. (478) 743-0023.