

Marsh Fork school 'shaping up'

By Sarah Plummer

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The Raleigh County Board of Education and Greg Williamson, of Williamson-Shriver Architects, noted at Tuesday's meeting that the new Marsh Fork Elementary School is beginning to shape up. "It is starting to look like a building. The contractor has had a very good winter and expects the school to be finished in October instead of November," said Williamson.

So far walls are going up around the school and passers-by can even see parts of the external brick going up.

Some parts of the second-story area have steel and concrete in place, but no roofs have been constructed, he said.

Williamson reported that the foundations are complete and the concrete work is about 98 percent complete.

Only 15 percent of the brick work is done, which includes two different tones separated by a white concrete boarder, but what is up is very noticeable.

Williamson then said that the overall general construction is about 32 percent complete and the electrical work is about 35 percent finished.

Eighty percent of the underground plumbing has been completed but about half of the above ground work is yet to be done.

"With the weather they have had, we think they are proceeding exceptionally well and once the roof goes on, the process will really speed up," said the architect.

Williamson pointed out one of the more unique aspects in the cafeteria will be that the kitchen area will be recessed 8 inches.

"In elementary schools many kids have a hard time sliding their trays along to be served at lunch. With the kitchen floor recessed, the rail is more manageable for them to be able to manipulate the trays," he explained.

So far the construction is not exceeding budget and the board of education is considering how much it would cost to prepare HVAC and electrical so that a health clinic might be added on in the future.

Board President Richard Snuffer anticipates the clinic being a project the board will want to pursue, preparing the construction for the addition will save a lot of money in the long run, he said.

Assistant Superintendent Racine Thompson pointed out that the school will have a beautiful view.

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