

Optimism was contagious at the hearing for the new Watauga High School, held last night in the current high school's auditorium.

New programs like ROTC will be a part of the school. More importantly to Linville is an 800-seat theatre that can accommodate community groups. That's all fine and well- but some community members were worried access to the school may clog traffic in surrounding neighborhoods. Worry not, according to project supervisor Jennifer Sisak. Sisak said traffic would be able to enter the school from both sides of Old East King Street, but not from neighborhood streets.

Another issue of concern was the close proximity of the sewage plant. Would the high school have to deal with the stench? Not really, according to Commission chair Jim Deal

the higher elevation of the site, as well as the wind direction, should help thwart the sewage stench. The next step is the May 31 public hearing. Site preparation, if the project meets approval, should commence around August. If all goes well, the new school is

set to open for classes in the fall of 2010.