

Commissioner looks ahead at the New Watauga High School

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Fall of 2010 cannot come soon enough for Watauga County Commissioner John Cooper.

That's when the new Watauga High School should open- and its completion will mark the fulfillment of, not only Cooper's campaign promise, but also his goal for the community. Cooper says the reason he ran for County Commission in the first place was to see a new high school- and the building plan approved earlier this week by the Commission is "a good use of the property," he says. The plan leaves room for future recreation- and moved the tennis courts to the other side of the parking lot- a change that should appease neighbors who feared lights would be detrimental to their nighttime views.

According to Cooper, bids for the actual site preparation should be in by September 14. What does this mean for him personally? A lot. The high school will directly affect his family. His eldest granddaughter will be part of the new high school's senior class, and his middle granddaughter will attend the school all four years. To Cooper, getting a new high school has been a very personal goal- and he is ecstatic to see it almost realized.

Up to 6.5 million dollars has been approved for site preparation.