

The Commercial Dispatch
August 25, 1923

BIG NEW RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

New Hope Consolidated School Ranks as One of Best Equipped in State

Handsome New School Building is Completed and Will Be Ready for Formal Opening on September 4 – Announcements Are Made

The new and handsome New Hope Consolidated High School with a building and equipment comparable with that of any rural school in the State will throw open its doors for its first session on September 4.

Announcement of the formal opening of the school is contained in a handsome booklet which was recently compiled and issued under the direction of Prof. J.E. Vaughn, superintendent of the school.

The opening day will be given over entirely to dedication services and preliminaries incident to the opening of school. On Monday, September 10, the regular term's work will begin under high school classification and organization.

The formal opening occasion on Tuesday, September 4 will be an all day affair and dinner will be served on the ground. The general public is cordially invited to attend the opening occasion and inspect the new plant, which includes a handsome brick building constructed along approved lines, containing nine class rooms, auditorium, library, office, boys' and girls' comfort units and two music rooms. A new home for the superintendent of the school has just been erected also. The school plant is equipped with electric lighting system, sewerage, running water drinking fountains and other modern features.

The school will receive Federal aid under the Smith-Hughes Act and the superintendent will devote his entire time, or twelve months in the year to the school. Children will be conveyed to the school in motor trucks.

The school is located in the eastern section of Lowndes county about one and a half miles from New Hope, a station of the Mobile and Ohio railroad about six miles east of Columbus.

Prof. Vaughn has assembled an exceptionally strong faculty for the first session. The following compose the faculty:

J.E. Vaughn, superintendent, Mississippi A&M College, instructor in Vocational Agriculture and Mathematics

Mrs. K.L. Spurlock, B.S., M.S.C.W., Instructor in Science and Latin

Miss Minnie Golding, B.S., M.S.C.W., Instructor in English, French and Physical Education

Mrs. O.C. Randal, Normal Diploma, M.S.C.W., Instructor in 8th grade and Assistant in Mathematics

Miss Grace Howard, Normal Diploma, M.S.C.W., Instructor in 7th grade and History

Miss Octavia Corr, High School Diploma, Instructor in 5th and 6th grades

Miss Maxine Alexander, High School Diploma, Instructor in 3rd and 4th grades
Miss Fannie Golding, Graduate, M.S.C.W., Instructor in Primary Dept

Following is a statement of the history and present status of the school as given in the announcement catalogue:

For a number of years there has been a good school spirit in this section of Lowndes County and a desire on the part of more progressive citizens to develop a better educational opportunity for the boys and girls of this community. In the spring of 1922 the quickening influences of the age brought this spirit into action and a move was begun to consolidate all of the schools in Lowndes County south of McBee creek and north of the Tombigbee River into one school. The schools comprising such territory were Dunbar and New Hope, two teacher schools; Windham and McCrary, one teacher schools; and Mt. Vernon, a three teacher school. This idea was further crystallized by the calling of a mass meeting of the citizens of the proposed district at New Hope church in July 1922, when the plan was explained by State Rural School Supervisor, Mr. J.T. Calhoun, and a steering committee composed of F.L. Cooper, T.A. Hall, J.M. Holliway, P.C. Freeman, and W.C. Boyd appointed. This committee circulated petitions and secured the necessary signatures of the school patrons for the consolidation. Upon such authority the county School Board consolidated the five schools previously mentioned and named the school New Hope Consolidated.

The school was located one mile south of New Hope Station on a plot of land given by Mr. G. D. McKellar, valued at \$50.00 an acre. Thus came into existence a consolidated school district, composed of a great number of the best citizens in Lowndes County, and having an assessed valuation of approximately \$750,000.00.

This same committee continued to function in securing the County Board of Supervisors to call an election at New Hope school house October 5th, 1922, for a \$20,000.00 bond issue for the purpose of building and equipping an academic building. The proposed bond issue carried by a large majority. On December 22, 1922, a trustee's election was held at New Hope school house which resulted in the election of Mr. F.L. Cooper, Mr. J.M. Holliway, and Mrs. W.C. Boyd as trustees and building committee.

The land and the \$20,000.00 secured by the bond issue was turned over to the trustees and building committee, and on March 8, 1923, the contract was let for the academic building to contractor Easley. The trustees with funds placed at their disposal have erected and furnished a \$20,000.00 academic building, bored a 265 foot well to furnish an abundance of water, and at this writing are erecting a teacher's home.

Through the generosity of the people of the New Hope Consolidated School District, there will be thrown open at the beginning of the first session, 1923-1924, a commodious one story brick building; having a sewerage system, drinking fountains, electric lights, neat and well fitted for its purposes.