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Blalock Building Co. to take over Thompson High School project from McCrory Building Co.

By Tom Gordon -- The Birmingham News

March 26, 2010, 9:19AM

The Shelby County Board of Education this morning approved a plan that allows Blalock Building Co. of Trussville to take over a classroom addition and renovation project at Thompson High School in Alabaster.

The board took the action in a brief special called meeting because school officials anticipated that McCrory Building Co. of Birmingham would not be able to complete the \$3.9 million job.

The "takeover agreement" approved by the board allows Travelers Casualty and Surety Co., which issued the bond to insure the Thompson project would be completed if the contractor was not able to finish the job, to take over the project and assign it to Blalock Building.

Rick Lathan, president of Lathan Associates Architects, the firm which designed the Thompson project, said that work at the Thompson site has continued under subcontractors and that Blalock should be in charge of the work by next week.

Work on the Thompson project began last May and is scheduled to be completed by May 31. Today's board action ensures the project will be completed by that deadline or before, Lathan said.

The Thompson project consists of adding 12 classrooms to the main school building, renovating a field house to accommodate 11 new classrooms, bathrooms, a work room, hallways and a mezzanine that can be used for storage, and expanding the school cafeteria. The work is about 75 percent complete, Lathan said.

McCrory Building Co. also ceased working on two jobs for Birmingham City Schools about a month ago, Birmingham schools spokeswoman Michaelle Chapman said. Those jobs include a new Glenn K-8 school and a stadium at Carver High School. The Birmingham Board of Education is supposed to discuss the matter at a meeting on Tuesday, Chapman said.