



NEWS STAFF/BEVERLY TAYLOR

Blalock Building Co. of Trussville is taking over a \$3.9 million construction job at Thompson High School in Alabaster. It includes a 12-classroom addition to the main school building, an expanded cafeteria and a renovation of a field house to accommodate 11 classrooms, bathrooms, a work room, hallways and a mezzanine that can be used for storage.

## MCCRORY: Outfit struggles in school work

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is struggling financially and unable to finish the work.

"We are in an emergency situation," Shelby County Assistant Superintendent John Wright told his school board before its vote in a special meeting Friday.

The board authorized Travelers Casualty and Surety Co. to take over the \$3.9 million Thompson project and assign it to Blalock. Travelers issued the bond to ensure the Thompson project would be completed if the contractor couldn't finish the job.

Travelers also issued the

ham projects that McCrory has handled — the \$5 million Carver High School stadium and the new \$16 million Glenn K-8 school — and on the \$45 million Pleasant Grove High School.

Lee Benton, an attorney for McCrory Building, said the company had been working with Travelers and its major lender, Regions Bank, to get the school construction and some other bonded projects completed. But McCrory recently received a letter from Travelers in which the company said it was "no longer cooperating," Benton said.

Wayne Williford, operations manager at McCrory, said that the company's employees and subcontractors were working five days a week at all four school construction sites, weather permitting, and that the company has been trying to

Williford said McCrory workers were at the Pleasant Grove site until Gary C. Wyatt took charge earlier this month. John Wyatt said the new Pleasant Grove High is about 75 percent complete.

Williford said McCrory employees were at the other three construction sites through Friday but would not return unless Blalock decides to keep them on.

### 'We didn't just bolt'

"We didn't just bolt and run," he said. He added that unseasonably cold and wet weather has set back work on the school projects.

Rick Lathan, president of Lathan Associates Architects, the firm that designed the Thompson project, said work there has continued and Blalock

week. Williford said Blalock should be at the other two sites next week as well.

Work on the Thompson project began last May and is still scheduled to be completed by May 31.

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

Birmingham schools spokeswoman Michaelle Chapman said this week that the Carver stadium is about 80 percent complete, and the Glenn school is about half-finished.



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Work is continuing on a \$3.9 million construction project at Thompson High School in Alabaster, even though general contractor McCrory Building Co. is unable to finish oversight of the project. Here, Kerry Stagner with Premiere Service puts an access door on a duct.

## New contractors step in to finish area school jobs

By TOM GORDON  
News staff writer

The Shelby County Board of Education on Friday 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.

Blalock Building also expects to take over two unfinished Birmingham school construction projects next week, if the Birmingham

Board of Education approves.

A fourth unfinished school project — a new Pleasant Grove High School in Jefferson County — is being taken over by Gary C. Wyatt Inc. of Hoover, company Vice President John Wyatt said.

The prime contractor on the four school construction jobs has been McCrory Building Co., but McCrory

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