

unauthorized school system purchase

By Mike Stealy
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The Free County Commission meets this evening at 6 p.m. to take action on a report they received during their working session. Among the items on the agenda is a \$480,000 purchase for renovations to the Free High School Culinary Arts Department.

While the commission normally does not question expenditures by the school system the agenda item drew some comments and a talk by Superintendent Bob Thomas who took the blame and said the "internal controls were not enough" to catch the purchase.

The resolution calls for the commission to approve \$480,000 in a contract with Shelton General Contractors. Thomas said the agreement was agreed prior to his taking office and without any approval by the school's business office. He said that "probably what a dozen policies were violated."

"I am going to go to the point," the superintendent said this week session. He described the initial contract agreement as a "failure to provide oversight of the individual who took on the project."

Payment authorization may be voted on today as questions continue about whether or not a bid was given by the school system or the county law department agreed the unauthorized purchase.

State title for Berean Christian



State Champions. Berean Christian celebrates its first ever state volleyball championship. The Lady Eagles claimed the Class A title by sweeping South Greene in three straight Thursday afternoon, for the state's Sports for more state results from last week. (Photo submitted)

By Kim Lay