

unauthorized school system purchase

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission meets this evening at 5 p.m. to take up an agenda they reviewed during their workshop last week. Among the items is an unauthorized \$450,000 purchase for renovations to the Kears 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 \$450,000 in a contract with Shelton General Contractors. Thomas said the agreement was signed prior to his taking office and without any approval by the school's business office. He said that "probably a half a dozen policies were violated."

"I apologize it ever got to this point," the superintendent told the work session. He described the initial contract agreement as a "failure to provide oversight of the individual who took on this project."

Payment authorization may be voted on today as questions continue about possible action to be taken by the school system or the county law department against 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 Murfreesboro Thursday afternoon. See this week's Sports for more state results from last week. Photo Submitted.

By Ken Lay