



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA TECH NEARING AGREEMENT ON PRICE'S FORK LAND FOR NEW SCHOOL

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**Montgomery County, Virginia** – Montgomery County, Virginia Tech and the Virginia Tech Foundation have reached a tentative agreement on the County's purchase of property for the new Price's Fork Elementary School.

The County and Virginia Tech have agreed in principle that the County will obtain 20 acres from the Virginia Tech Foundation. As part of the agreement, it is anticipated that the Foundation will then provide Virginia Tech with 14 acres from the parcel of land known as the Heth property, which will become part of the current College of Agricultural and Life Sciences academic and research programs.

"The County is exploring the purchase of the property near Price's Fork Village. We have reached some tentative understandings but no formal purchase agreement has been approved," said Board Chairman Annette Perkins. "The County is currently performing 'due diligence' on the property, such as a title search and soils survey, which is customary before buying any property. The parties intend to have a formal agreement finalized in the near future."

"Virginia Tech is happy to help Montgomery County find an appropriate parcel of land for a new school in the Price's Fork community. The university and the Virginia Tech Foundation are working together to make the transaction move quickly. This is win-win for all. The end result is new agricultural land close to campus and a sizable parcel for the County to build its much needed elementary school," said Sherwood Wilson, Vice President for Administrative Services.

"We are extremely pleased that Virginia Tech and the Foundation have stepped forward to offer this property. It is an ideal location, close to utilities, near the existing Price's Fork Elementary School and with access off Price's Fork Road. It has been a long search to find property located directly in Price's Fork Village, which citizens told us they wanted," Perkins said. "The County contacted numerous property owners, but no one was willing to sell their land. If all goes well, we are optimistic the schools will be able to seek construction bids and start construction shortly after the deal is finalized."

"We are excited to have the Price's Fork project moving forward for the students, staff and families of Price's Fork," said Schools Superintendent Tiffany Anderson. "This will be a state-of-the-art facility in the community of Price's Fork and we are so pleased for the project to get under way. The collaborative efforts of many to make this project a reality has been an exciting process in which to be involved."

"This will be the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. It is a positive addition to the Price's Fork community and the Blacksburg Strand," said School Board Chair Wendell Jones. "We are very thankful to Virginia Tech and County officials."

The schools system recently broke ground on a new elementary school in the Elliston-Shawsville area. The Price's Fork and Elliston area schools will share the same design and features. The current Price's Fork Elementary was built in 1954. The school, which has approximately 200 students, has several mobile classrooms and limited parking for buses, staff and visitors.

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