NEXT School
Salem set to begin enrollment process

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SALEM — NEXT School Salem is ready to get the ball rolling.

Representatives of the charter school have invited parents and students to a hot dog dinner Wednesday at Salem Community Center from 5:30-7 p.m. so parents can begin the enrollment process.

The center will be equipped with computers and Internet access for the parents to log into the recently launched NEXT School Salem website at nextschoolsalem.org.

"You'll be able to fill out enrollment interest forms so the South Carolina Public Charter School District can give us a thumbs up when we meet with them in the next few weeks," NEXT High School project facilitator Joe Greenberg said. "We want to go to that meeting with knowledge of how much interest there is from students and family."

Officials plan to open NEXT School Salem in the building that will be vacated at the end of the school year due to the Oconee County School Board's decision to accept the recommendation of district administration to close Tamassee-Salem Middle and High School.

NEXT representatives are hosting the dinner to answer any questions students and parents may have and to get to know the people of Salem. They will also screen a film entitled, "If You Build It."

Greenberg believes the film will resonate with the residents of Salem since the community will basically be building a school.

Salem Mayor Diane Head encourages residents to come to the dinner Wednesday. After spending many hours in conversation with the folks from NEXT and hearing concerns from the community, she thinks it's best for everyone to gather in the same room so NEXT representatives can answer any lingering questions.



"I've heard concerns about scholarships, but parents need to realize this is the same thing as a public school," Head said. "These students are going to get the same chances, if not more."

Her advice to parents is to come to the dinner and sit down and talk with the charter school representatives. She said her excitement grows every time she learns more about the school.

"It's time to go ahead and get your kids signed up now because we need those numbers for the proposal to the state board," she said. "This all plays hand-in-hand. We get to keep a school in Salem, and at the same time, better the students' education. That's the main goal — to help the students in Salem."

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