MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND
COMMISSION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING HELD, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 AT 3:00 PM

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the School Capital Fund Commission met for a regular meeting on February 17, 2025, in the County Administration Building, 200 College Street, in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:03 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Commission meeting was called to order with the following Members present:

Terri Wells, Commission Chair
George Sieburg, Commission Vice-Chair
Amanda Edwards, Commission Member
Matt Kern, Commission Member
Kim Plemmons, Commission Member

County Staff Present: Matt Evans, Financial Planning & Analysis Manager; Keri Clark, Financial Analyst; Ronald Lunsford, General Services Facilities/Project Manager; Amy Broughton, Senior Attorney I; Angelica Tyler, Information and Communication Specialist II

Approval of Agenda with Additional Item
Commission Member George Sieburg moved that the Commission follow the agenda as presented with the addition to nominate Matt Evans as secretary of the School Capital Fund Commission for the remainder of the cycle. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of School Capital Fund Secretary
Commission Member Terri Wells made a motion to appoint Matt Evans as Secretary. Commission Member Matt Kern seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of July 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Commission Member George Sieburg moved that the Commission approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment
Commission Chair Terri Wells opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

New Member- Buncombe County Schools Representative
Commission Chair Terri Wells provided an introduction of new Commission Member Kim Plemmons nominated by Buncombe County Schools. Commission Member Kim Plemmons discussed her previous experiences and passion for school facilities.

Financial Update
Mr. Evans provided a brief update on the financials. Due to the impact of Hurricane Helene, Article 39 Sales Tax revenue is down 11% year-to-date. Mr. Evans explained that the month of October, one of the biggest sales tax revenue earning months, was greatly impacted by Helene. Buncombe County Finance will continue to monitor this revenue stream.

Project Updates
Both Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools were invited to discuss project updates.

The Commission heard from Mr. Ronnie Lunsford, who represents Asheville City Schools and manages their School Capital Fund Commission projects. Mr. Lunsford gave an update on various projects that have been completed or are underway including auditorium updates, water and sewer upgrades, campus wide renovations, HVAC adjustments, etc.

Mr. Clark Wyatt represented Buncombe County Schools. Mr. Wyatt provided the Commission an update on Buncombe County Schools' security renovations, stadium lighting upgrades, energy management system improvements, Hurricane Helene related facility repairs, and other various projects. Mr. Wyatt also answered Commission Members' questions regarding timeline for Hurricane Helene related repairs and modernity of security improvements.

Dr. Maggie Fehrman, superintendent of Asheville City Schools, and Dr. Rob Jackson, superintendent of Buncombe County Schools, provided additional information and context related to the remaining facility impacts of Hurricane Helene.

Mr. Evans highlighted the completed and ready to close projects for both Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools indicating approximately $67,000 returning to the fund. The project closure list was certified by both School Systems. Commission Chari Terri Wells made a motion to close the outlined projects. Commission Member Matt Kern seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Discussion

Commission Chair Terri Wells opened a discussion regarding the school consolidation report inviting comments on the recommendations the study produced related to school capital. Current discussions about collaborations between Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools were mentioned along with further considerations of underutilized schools as it relates to decisions on improvement projects. Additionally, Dr. Jackson highlighted that discussion is occurring regarding combining maintenance between the school system and outlined the considerations going into those decisions. Concerns about consolidation were mentioned regarding quality of life, potential enrollment declines, and financial implications.

Commission Member George Sieburg opened a discussion regarding how the school systems are ensuring getting the most out of budgets for projects. Mr. Lunsford highlighted their processes for realizing savings for each project and how the bidding process for the projects factor into this process.

Adjournment

Commission Member Matt Kern made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 PM. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY

By Teri Wells
Terri Wells,
Commission Chair

ATTEST

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Melissa Moore,
County Finance Officer