MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND
COMMISSION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING HELD, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 AT 3:00 PM

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the School Capital Fund Commission met for a regular meeting on April 9, 2025, in the County Administration Building, 200 College Street, in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:02 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: Melissa Moore, Finance Director; 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

Amendment of Agenda
Commission Member Kim Plemmons moved that the Commission add an agenda item discussing the possible changes to Article 39 funds. Commission Member George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the discussion to occur following project requests.

Approval of February 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Commission Member Amanda Edwards moved that the Commission approve the minutes. Commission Member Matt Kern seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Financial Update
Matt Evans provided a brief update on the financials of the fund. Mr. Evans discussed the revenues of the fund indicating that currently, Article 39 Sales Tax revenue is down approximately 6% due to the impact of Hurricane Helene with an estimated ending revenue of about $27-28M. A brief expenditure analysis was presented highlighting payments for debt service and debt obligations. Currently there are 93 existing projects in the Fund, about $58M of these projects will need to be reimbursed by debt or pay-go. Mr. Evans concluded with a historical analysis and explanation of the School Capital Fund balance with funding history.

FY2026 Project Requests
The Commission heard from Mr. Ronnie Lunsford who represents Asheville City Schools and manages their School Capital Fund Commission projects. He provided a brief overview of current project updates at Asheville High School, Lucy Herring, and Hall Fletcher. Mr. Lunsford then presented Asheville City Schools' top priority requests including lobby security upfits, Asheville High School stadium repairs, AHS main stair renovations, Claxton Elementary HVAC updates, Ira B. Jones Elementary lighting updates and asbestos removal, and new construction at Asheville Middle School. The total high priority request funding for Asheville City Schools is $7,074,788 for FY2026.

Mr. Clark Wyatt represented Buncombe County Schools. Mr. Wyatt provided the Commission with a brief overview of the multi-school security upgrades, AC Reynolds High Guardhouse project, additions and renovations to classrooms, Erwin High School stadium lighting upgrades, and energy management projects. Mr. Wyatt then presented Buncombe County Schools' top priority requests including multi-school security upfits, continuation of the renovations in W.D. Williams Elementary, multi-school technology infrastructure upgrades,

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NB High Mechanical system upgrades, multi-school phased roofing projects, athletic renovations, and a new school construction for Glen Arden Elementary. The phased total cost for Buncombe County Schools priority projects is $25,900,000 for FY26.

Article 39 Potential Changes

The Commission reviewed the original and amended language of Senate Bill 131 regarding the temporary modification of Buncombe County's use of Article 39 local sales and use tax proceeds. It was clarified that the amended version specifies fund proceeds from Article 39 could be used for school capital or operating funding. Commission Member Kim Plemmons shared concerns regarding splitting the funds and expressed disappointment with the lack of communication surrounding the bill. The origins of the bill were discussed, and additional concerns were shared regarding the timeline of communication regarding the bill. Both Buncombe County School representatives and Asheville City Schools representatives indicated they had concerns about moving some of the funds to operational versus solely for capital projects. The conversation ended with a request that forecasting and financial scenarios be created prior to the following School Capital Fund meeting to allow time for a re-review of proposed projects dependent on the potential implementation of the bill.

Adjournment

Commission Member Amanda Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 PM. This was seconded by Kim Plemmons. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09PM.

SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY

By _____
Terri Wells,
Commission Chair

ATTEST

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Melissa Moore,
County Finance Officer

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