

Item Title: Memorandum of Understanding between Wake County and the Wake County Board of Education regarding the Wake County Public School System Capital Improvement Plan

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Wake County Board of Education regarding the Wake County Public School System Capital Improvement Plan.

Item Summary:

Purpose: To formally extend the current agreement between the County and the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) related to the development, recommendation, and implementation of WCPSS' seven-year rolling Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) through the continued relationship established in 2014 and named the Joint Facilities Core Team.

Background: In 2014, the Board of Commissioners and the Wake County Board of Education entered into an Interlocal Agreement related to collaboration efforts on school site acquisition and construction. Staff from the County and WCPSS meet regularly as part of the Joint Facilities Core Team. The initial term of the interlocal agreement expired in June 2019; in 2019, the relationship was formally extended and approved by both boards via a conversion of the interlocal agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The expiration of the current MOU is June 4, 2024. Staff and attorneys from the County and WCPSS have worked together to review and recommend extending the MOU for another five years, with a renewal date of June 30, 2029.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Lifelong Learning Goal 4: By 2029, three out of four residents asked will share that Wake County has high-quality education-based facilities, including schools, libraries, and other educational resources.

Fiscal Impact: This item has no direct fiscal impact. However, continuation of this relationship between the County and WCPSS helps to ensure strong collaboration and communication among the organizations, which impacts the County's ability to maximize the use of funding streams for County supported capital improvement programs.

Additional Information:

With the initial adoption of the Interlocal Agreement in 2014, both the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education established the creation of the Joint Facilities

Core Team. This team, comprised of facility design and construction, long-range planning, budget, and finance staff from both organizations creates and continues to refine collaborative processes for developing, executing, and monitoring WCPSS' CIP.

The long-standing goals of the Core Team are to:

- Increase communication and understanding of each entity's goals
- Promote collaborative, innovative, and effective processes related to the development of the WCPSS capital program
- Optimize taxpayer dollars for WCPSS' rolling, seven-year capital program
- Increase efficiencies in carrying out WCPSS' capital program

Since the last formal approval of the MOU by both organizations, Wake County's financial support to the WCPSS CIP has surpassed \$2 billion from FY 2020 through FY 2025 (average = \$336 million annually). This has been achieved through two general obligation bond approvals (with the 2022 bond receiving a 71% approval rating) and a limited obligation bond program. This funding was secured with only a 2.9-cent property tax increase for WCPSS' CIP within these six fiscal years. The expenditure of these funds has completed or will complete 20 new schools and 20 large-scale school renovations, among other facility improvements and land acquisitions.

The members of the Core Team recognize that both Boards have adopted new strategic plans since the last approval of the MOU and seek to incorporate the goals of the strategic plans and priorities of both boards into future iterations of the CIP. This may include priorities such as, but not limited to, sustainability, security, technology, and capacity.

Attachments:

1. Memorandum of Understanding