

Item Title: Memorandum of Understanding between Wake County and the Wake County Board of Education Regarding School Site Acquisition and Construction

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Wake County Board of Education regarding school site acquisition and construction.

Item Summary:

Purpose: To formally extend the current agreement between the County and the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) related to school site acquisition and construction (i.e., 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 school system meet regularly as part of the Joint Facilities Core Team. The initial term of the interlocal agreement was five years. A new agreement is required to continue the partnership. Staff and attorneys from the County and WCPSS have worked together to draft a new agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding with a term of five years.

Board Goal: This action complements the BOC education goal to maintain a long-term capital plan for WCPSS needs that are bound by strong financial policies designed to maintain the County's AAA bond ratings.

Fiscal Impact: This item has no fiscal impact.

Additional Information:

In 2014, the County and WCPSS entered into an Interlocal Agreement that created a collaborative team and process for developing, executing, and monitoring WCPSS's capital improvement plan (CIP). The team is known as the Joint Facilities Core Team, (Core Team) with the following goals:

- Increase communication and understanding of each entity's needs;
- Optimize use of taxpayer dollars for WCPSS building program and CIP; and
- Increase efficiencies in carrying out WCPSS CIP

The Core Team consists of finance, budget, and facilities design and construction staff from both entities who meet regularly to:

- Develop annual enrollment projections and identify optimal areas for new schools;
- Develop recommended updates to building program assumptions;
- Develop recommended updates to the WCPSS CIP;
- Evaluate and bring forward for consideration WCPSS land acquisitions; and
- Monitor the execution of the CIP to ensure timeliness and effectiveness of the building program.

Some process improvements that have resulted from the work of the Core Team include:

- Moving to a rolling, seven-year CIP, providing opportunity to address and adapt to the changing needs of the system;
- Increasing communication about ongoing CIP needs to the public; and
- Improving the review and process for routine business items around the CIP, including land acquisitions and semi-annual budget appropriations for capital.

Staff Comments:

Staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding. The document was developed and reviewed by staff and attorneys from both entities.

The BOE Facilities Committee reviewed the item at their May 15 meeting. The item is scheduled for consideration at the June 4 BOE meeting.

Attachments:

1. Memorandum of Understanding