

Item Title: Wake County Public School System's 2020-21 NC Department of Public Instruction Facility Needs Survey

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners certifies review of the Wake County Public School System's Facility Needs Survey for submittal to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Item Summary:

Purpose: North Carolina General Statute 115C-521(a) requires local boards of education to submit their long-range plans for meeting school facility needs to the State Board of Education every five years. The official transmittal requires confirmation that the County Board of Commissioners has received the survey for review.

Background: The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) facility needs survey is a uniform reporting system that allows the State to assess unfunded facility needs for the next ten years. This data will also assist with identifying broad trends in school facilities statewide. Because DPI collects the information from all the State's school systems, each system must use definitions and assumptions that may be different than those used locally. Thus, the facility needs listed in the survey will not match facility plans agreed to by Wake County and WCPSS.

The last survey was submitted by WCPSS in January 2016. The Board of Education certified the results of the 2020-21 survey on March 16, 2021. Staff recommend the Board of Commissioners certify their review of the survey.

Board Goal: This action supports routine County operations.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to the WCPSS CIP. The survey is based on a set of assumptions required by DPI and does not necessarily reflect WCPSS facility capacity or cost projections.

Additional Information:

North Carolina General Statute 115C-521(a) requires local boards of education to submit their long-range plans for meeting school facility needs to the State Board of Education every five years. This serves as a uniform reporting system that allows the State to assess unfunded facility needs for the next ten years. This data will also assist with identifying broad trends in school facilities statewide. As part of the submittal, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requires the signature of the Chair and Secretary Ex-officio of the Board of Education stating:

“...that the needs identified herein are a true representation of our situation. Alternatives were considered and this plan provides the best balance between cost and benefit to our students. We understand that costs have been standardized to statewide averages to provide uniform comparison.”

The official transmittal also requires the signature of the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager or Clerk stating:

"The Wake County Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed a copy of this survey prior to submission to the State Board of Education. This does not necessarily constitute endorsement of or commitment to fund the Facility Needs Survey."

The signature by the chairperson of the County Commissioners does not indicate that they agree with or approve of the findings – only that they have received and reviewed a copy of the documents. The signature does not obligate the County Commissioners to take any action in any way.

WCPSS staff completed their listing of facility needs on February 19, 2021 and the Chair and Secretary Ex-officio of the Board of Education reviewed and certified the results for submittal to DPI on March 16, 2021. Pending review and certification by the Board of Commissioners, WCPSS will submit the results to DPI by April 6, 2021.

Survey Scope and Assumptions

The survey covers needs for new schools, renovations, and life cycle projects over the next ten years. The results, included as attachments to this item, show the projected costs of funding the needs identified in the survey. The survey is based on a set of assumptions required by DPI and therefore does not necessarily reflect WCPSS's capacity or cost projections. The assumptions used to develop the listing are detailed in an attachment to this item and are summarized below:

- The priorities shown for major projects may or may not correspond to the priorities the Board will approve for the continuous WCPSS seven-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Current capacities at all existing schools listed in the attached reports are determined by DPI calculations and do not reflect WCPSS capacity for these schools.
- WCPSS student capacity accommodated in mobile/modular units is not reflected in the attached reports nor are any schools with year-round capacities
- The costs shown in the survey are limited to new construction, renovations, and life cycle projects. They do not include other costs associated with major building programs such as startup designs, property acquisitions, program management, mobile relocations and technology.
- Some of the cost data is in today's dollars and some of the cost data reflects 3% escalation compounded annually.
- Some of the costs are based on DPI formulas and/or standardized to statewide averages and may not reflect WCPSS costs.

Attachments

1. Board of Education/Board of Commissioner Certification
2. WCPSS 2020-21 DPI Facility Needs Survey Assumptions
3. Capacity Summary 0-5 Years
4. Capacity Summary 6-10 Years
5. Cost Summary 0-5 Years
6. Cost Summary 6-10 Years