

## SCHOOL SYSTEM FACILITIES

The New Hanover County Board of Education believes that educational programs are influenced greatly by the environment within which they function. In striving to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program, the Board shall:

- Ensure the implementation of an effective maintenance program in order to keep school system facilities in the best possible condition;
- Evaluate available space in terms of the educational needs of the community and consistent with county growth;
- Explore all areas of financing for the improvement of school system facilities;
- Work closely with the county commissioners for the most effective use of tax monies as they pertain to construction and capital improvements;
- Submit a long-range plan for meeting school facility needs to the State Board of Education every five years;
- Design a facility inspection system in order to determine all maintenance needs; and
- Implement an effective energy management and conservation program in order to save funds and equipment.

Long-range planning by the Board and Superintendent is essential for providing an educational environment where students can succeed. The plan will address the issue of whether to renovate existing facilities or build new facilities. The plan also will incorporate, where appropriate, creative options for meeting the needs of the educational program.

The following information will be considered in developing and adopting a long-range plan:

- Data that reflects the possibility of enrollment declines or increases as well as other demographic changes in the population of students that is or may be served;
- A facilities inventory that includes the size of sites, building capacities, age of building, energy consumption, ability to utilize technology, the suitability of the space for its current or future purpose and accessibility by the community; and
- The availability or anticipated availability of innovations in construction or design that would allow existing buildings to be renovated or new buildings to be constructed at a lower cost, in a more energy-efficient manner or in a way that would better meet the needs of the educational program.

The Superintendent or designee may utilize the services of consultants to obtain information necessary for the long-range planning process. School staff, students and parents should be involved in considering the needs for new and renovated facilities. The Board and Superintendent will endeavor to communicate with other governmental bodies and the

public in a positive and persuasive manner about the need for school construction and, consequently, the need for necessary funding.

LEGAL REFS: NCGS 115C-47, -204, -276, -426.2, -521, -524, -530; 143-128, -129;  
CROSS REF: Policy 1600 The Community and the Board of Education

Adopted: 10/8/85

Revised: 04/14/87, 09/06/11