Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
March 18, 2021	F-2

Title

Georgia Department of Education Resolution Relative to the School District's Five-Year Facility Plan

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt the Georgia Department of Education Resolution Indicating Approval of the School District's Five-Year Facility Plan for Capital Outlay Projects

Summary Explanation and Background

See attached Resolution, Executive Summary and Survey Team report.

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Financial Impact

State Captial Outlay Entitlement Funding

Exhibits: (List)

Resolution, Executive Summary and Survey Team report

Source of Additional Information

William J. Sebring	770.479.1871
Mitch Hamilton	770.479.1871

RESOLUTION

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cherokee County Board of Education ("Board") to hereby approve the new Local Facilities Plan ("Plan") as recommended by the Facilities Survey Team and the Superintendent.

In adopting the Plan, the Board agrees with its contents and priorities, and requests State Board of Education approval.

Furthermore, the Board directs that the Plan will provide facility guidance for the school system over the life of the Plan in accordance with Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-4-01.

Approved by the Board on 18th day of March 2021.

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Dr. Brian V. Hightower, Superintendent
Cherokee County School District

_____

Kyla Cromer, School Board Chair
Cherokee County School District

Cherokee County School District
Five-Year Facility Plan Executive Summary
07.01.2021-06.30.2025

Cherokee County School District's (CCSD's) Five-Year Facility Plan is based upon its long-range student enrollment projections that are categorized into elementary, middle and high school levels, as well as by individual grade levels. This facility plan reflects the District's dedication to provide state-of-the-art educational facilities to meet not only the educational needs, but also the social and emotional development needs of all current and future students.

During the past 20 years of continued student population growth, CCSD has met these needs by implementing a very aggressive construction program focusing on providing new facilities when and where needed. Moving forward, CCSD's Five-Year Facility Plan goals will continue to be accomplished through a combination of new facility construction in growth areas of the county, modifications/renovations/additions to existing facilities and replacement/repurposing of aging facilities. Grade configuration and programmatic changes to facilities will also be utilized if the educational needs of students cannot be resolved through utilization of one of its ascribed capital improvement measures.

Critical information provided in the Five-Year Facility Plan includes identified, districtwide "System Needs" and the existing? Instructional Units (IUs) for each school. Ultimately, CCSD's goal is to match the total number of IU's with the total student enrollment during the Five-Year Plan period. Additionally, the "Total Need" for each CCSD facility is determined following an architectural review of every facility, which examines the facility age and any need for modifications or renovations. Ultimately, the "Earning Entitlement" is based on the age and condition of the facility. Local costs are not contained in the State's formula or its Capital Outlay program.

Pursuant to the State's Five-Year Facility Plan approval process, CCSD's plan has been reviewed by Georgia Department of Education staff in addition to being endorsed by a visiting survey team (comprised of State/area School District Capital Improvements Department leaders) on March 9, 2021. The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the proposed Five-Year Facility Plan for staff to then submit to the Georgia State Board of Education for final approval. Following final approval, CCSD's Annual Capital Outlay Budget and the upcoming Ed-SPLOST related project list will be developed from information contained within the Five-Year Facility plan.

Relative to the Ed-SPLOST related project list, preliminary needs are identified as a replacement of Cherokee HS and instructional space/classroom additions at Creekland MS, Creekview HS and Woodstock HS. Also included in this analysis are continued modifications and renovations to existing 10 to 20-year-old CCSD.

COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES SURVEY TEAM FOR THE CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Period: July 1, 2021 **through June 30,** 2025

Date of Survey Team: March 9, 2021

Approved by Local Board of Education on: 03.18.2021
(attach a copy of board minutes or minutes or resolution)

Approved by State Board of Education on:

Georgia Department of Education
Facilities Services Section
1670 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Comprehensive Survey Team Members

Chair Person	Stacy Gilleland
System:	
Title:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Phone:	
Email:	

Name:	Stacy Gilleland
System:	Pickens County
Title:	Director of Operations
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City, State, Zip	Jasper, GA 30143
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Name:	Scott Morgan
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Name:	Erick Hofstetter
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Name:	
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REVIEW OF OFFICIAL LOCAL FACILITIES PLAN

1. (Yes) ☑ The official local facilities plan is the PDF version returned to the local school system after review by the GaDOE Facilities Staff. The survey team reviewof all portions of this Facilities Plan is based on the official local facilities plan dated 02.23.2021 and no pages have been modified, removed or added. Only floor plan drawings of the instructional facilities have been added.

Superintendent's Signature Dr. Brian V. Hightower
Dr. Brian V. Hightower (Mar 9, 2021 11:21 EST)

POPULATION TRENDS

1. ☑ An analysis of the K-12 student population projected for the five-year period is based on the average of reported K-12 FTE for the past five years and is a reasonably accurate projection. The team recommends acceptance of the population trends as presented in the official local facilities plan.

Rationale for Recommendations

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITIES, GRADE ORGANIZATION AND STUDENT DISTRIBUTION

The Facilities Survey Team has studied the following factors as they affect the organization and operation of the school system in the official local facilities plan.

- [x] 1. The current and proposed organizational pattern.
- [x] 2. The projected FTE distribution.
- [x] 3. The availability and quality of spaces.
- [x] 4. The educational impact on programs.
- [x] 5. The economic impact to implement and operate the proposed organizational pattern.
- [x] 6. The geographical location of schools.
- [x] 7. The student transportation program.
- [ ] 8. Safety and Security

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

Yes [x] No [ ] The proposed distribution provides for instructional facilities which meet the minimum size as defined by O.C.G.A. 20-2-260. K-5=200; 6-8=400; 9-12=500. (If no, identify and list the instructional facilities below):

Comments:

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

1. [x] It is the recommendation of the survey team that the grade organizational pattern and student distribution be accepted as presented in the official plan.

2. [ ] It is recommended that the local board reconsider the proposed grade organization and student distribution as presented in the official plan with recommendations listed below.

TEAM COMMENTS:

TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

CURRICULUM, GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND FACILITY NEEDS

The curriculum, space needs, grade distribution and facility needs in the official local facilities plan have been reviewed by the survey team and verified by use of computer printouts, building sketches, and on-site visits as necessary.

1. ☑ The survey team recommends acceptance of the proposed curriculum, space needs, grade distribution, and facility needs for all instructional facilities as presented in the official facilities plan

2. ☐ The survey team recommends acceptance of the proposed curriculum, space needs, grade distribution, and facility needs as presented in the local plan for all instructional facilities in the official facilities plan with the following exceptions:

TEAM COMMENTS:

TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

TABULATION OF PRIORITIES

The summary of physical improvement needs and priorities as presented in the official local facilities plan and prioritized on the Tabulation of Priorities page has been reviewed by the team.

1. ☑ The survey team certifies that after review of the official local proposed plan, the needs and priorities as presented on the Tabulation of Priorities page in the official local facilities plan represent the essential physical improvement needs of the school system.

2. ☐ The survey team recommends the following adjustments in the needs and priorities as presented on the Tabulation of Priorities page.

TEAM COMMENTS:

TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

IMPROVEMENT NEEDS CERTIFICATION

1. Total physical facility improvement needs eligible for entitlement: $ 118,486,312
2. The physical facility improvement needs ineligible for entitlements: $ 223,495,536
3. The total physical facility improvement need is: $ 341,981,848

1. The survey team agrees with the school system's proposal to provide local matching funds for this official local facilities plan from the following sources:

- [ ] Annual Maintenance and Operational Budget
- [x] SPLOST
- [ ] G.O. Bonds
- [ ] Other Revenue Sources

2. The survey team recommends that the school system reconsider its proposed method of providing local matching funds for this official local facilities plan.

TEAM COMMENTS:

TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chairperson's Signature Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

OFFICIAL LOCAL FACILITIES PLAN

The plan outlined in the official local facilities plan represents an acceptable and reasonable plan for improvement for this school system for the period projected and complies with Georgia Law and State Board Rules.

1. ☑ It is the recommendation of this Comprehensive Facilities Survey Team by majority vote that the official local facilities plan as prepared by the school system be approved by the State Board of Education.

2. ☐ It is the recommendation of this Comprehensive Facilities Survey Team by majority vote that the official local facilities plan as prepared by the school system and modified by the Comprehensive Facilities Survey Team be approved by the State Board of Education.
Summary of Modifications:

Summary of Modifications:

SURVEY TEAM CERTIFICATION

Chairperson's Signature: Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

☑ The recommendation and comments represent a majority vote of the Comprehensive Survey Team members. (Signatures required)

(Team Chairperson)
Stacy Gilleland
Stacy Gilleland (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

(Team Member)
Erick Hofstetter
Erick Hofstetter (Mar 9, 2021 10:22 EST)

(Team Member)

(Team Member)

(Team Member)

(Team Member)
Scott Morgan
Scott Morgan (Mar 9, 2021 10:13 EST)

(Team Member)
Ricardo Upshaw
Ricardo Upshaw (Mar 9, 2021 10:23 EST)

(Team Member)

(Team Member)

(Team Member)

Comments Page (if needed)

Cherokee County Schools
Survey Team Comment 03.09.2021

1. The survey team commends the board of education, superintendent, and staff for developing an effective and comprehensive facility plan that will meet the instructional needs of students for present and future needs.

2. The survey team commends the board of education, superintendent, and staff for maximizing their effective use of state capital outlay funds and ESPLOST to provide safe and well-maintained instructional facilities for the students and staff of the Cherokee County School System.

3. The survey team commends the superintendent and the board for its commitment to the safety of students and staff on all campuses with their comprehensive safety plan and implementation of safety protocols, security equipment such as implementation of plexiglass in critical places in schools and increase the rating on all filters in HVAC equipment is a commitment for solutions for COVID – 19 prevention.

4. The review team commend the superintendent and the board of education for constructing a new Cherokee High School facility that will accommodate future needs for students and provide them with state of the arts facility for learning. The decision to replace a 65-year-old building shows the superintendent and boards commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for the students of Cherokee County.

5. The survey team would like to thank Cherokee County Schools for being an innovative leader in the use of the virtual survey team validation of your facility plan for renewal. This type of leadership and creative abilities provides a light into the bright future for Cherokee County Schools.

4_Survey Team Report 03.09.2021

Final Audit Report 2021-03-09

Created:	2021-03-09
By:	Doug Suits (dsuits@doe.k12.ga.us)
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