

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD's Phase IV provided students, community with new facilities and significant improvements

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) celebrated a significant milestone this week – the final meeting of the Phase IV Citizen's Oversight Committee. This group of community members and district staff members gathered several times a year for the past five years to review the use of revenue raised through the Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax Act Referendum for Charleston County (also known as CCSD's one-cent sales tax).

The total amount collected from the extension of the one-cent sales tax (approved by Charleston County voters in 2014) from 2017-2022 was \$731.5 million. This amount covered the construction of new schools and facilities, the renovation and maintenance of schools and facilities, and the purchase and maintenance of technology throughout the district.

"This extension of the sales tax program has and will continue to have a positive impact on education across Charleston County for years to come," explained Jeff Borowy, CCSD's Chief Operating Officer. "With 60 percent of the revenue being generated by tourism, the impact on our Lowcountry residents is softened while providing the necessary resources to ensure that we can continue to replace schools when necessary and continue to protect and improve those ones built in previous programs."

District staff celebrated and recognized community members that participated in the Phase IV Citizen's Oversight Committee at the final meeting on April 26, 2023.

"I have been honored to serve as Chair of the Citizen Oversight Steering Committee for the Phase IV 2017-2022 Capital Program," said Michael Halasz. "The program has not only produced several outstanding new facilities to serve the students of Charleston County but has also addressed needed Capital Maintenance requirements for the District's existing facilities. Additionally, staff has done a phenomenal job managing a complex budget and program schedule to ensure successful project completion."

The following individuals served on the Phase IV Citizen's Oversight Committee:

- Michael Halasz – Chair
- Darbis Briggman
- Jessica Browning
- Meredith Demetre
- Bryan Gawrych
- Mary Graham
- Rebecca Imholz
- Kyle Lahm
- Shannon Praete

Capital Programs

CCSD's Capital Programs department is charged with using the one-cent sales tax for building new facilities, expanding or renovating current facilities, and purchasing land if necessary. The district constructed 10 new facilities and renovated or expanded nine facilities worth a total of \$516.7 million.

New Construction (year project was completed)

- Carolina Park Elementary School (2017)
- District 2 Regional Stadium (2018)
- Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School (2019)
- Edmund A. Burns Elementary School/Meeting Street @Burns (2019)
- C.E. Williams Middle School – South Campus (2020)
- Camp Road Middle School (2020)
- Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (2020)
- District 4 Regional Stadium (2020)
- Lucy Beckham High School (2020)
- West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies (2021)

Renovations/Expansions (year project was completed)

- James Simons Montessori School (2016)
- Murray-LaSaine Montessori School (2016)
- St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School (2017)
- Moultrie Middle School (2019)
- Baptist Hill Middle High School Career and Technology Building (2021)
- Haut Gap Middle School (2022)
- James Island Charter High School Career and Technology Building and Gym (2022)
- Julian Mitchell Elementary School (2022)
- Stoney Field (2022)

In addition, CCSD added 1.1 million square feet to the district's physical footprint.

"The execution of this program speaks to our commitment to our CCSD mission to educate and support every child in achieving college, career, and citizenship

readiness,” explained Jasmeen Shaw, the district’s Executive Director of Capital Programs. “The Phase IV Capital Sales Tax program provided for new safe, secure, state of the art educational and support facilities while providing students more hands-on training that will prepare them for science and technology-based careers. This is evident with the new Centers for Advanced Studies, Career and Technology building expansions, and athletic enhancements. These investments provided for an enhanced learning experience.”

Capital Maintenance

During Phase IV, the district’s Facilities Management Department used approximately \$122,000,000 to upgrade, renovate, and maintain CCSD schools and buildings (116 facilities and maintain 1,900 acres of property and approximately 9.9 million square feet of the physical plant). The projects range from renovating classrooms to installing new air conditioning (HVAC) equipment to updating the flooring in school hallways.

Major projects accomplished included:

- Interior painting at Stiles Point Elementary School and Minnie Hughes Elementary School
- Door and hardware replacements at James B. Edwards Elementary School
- HVAC overhauls at North Charleston High School, Ladson Elementary School, James Island Elementary School, Thomas C. Cairo Middle School, Baptist Hill Middle High School, and Pinehurst Elementary School
- Restroom renovations at Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center and Simmons-Pinkney Middle School
- Roof replacement at West Ashley High School and Midland Park Primary School
- Paving repairs at Murray-LaSaine Montessori School

“The CCSD Sales tax program has helped close the gap in the level of funding for maintenance and operations needed for good stewardship of our schools,” added Steve Hamer, CCSD’s Associate of Facilities Management. “It has been critical in accomplishing repairs and replacements of major building systems at the end of their life-cycle like roofing, HVAC, plumbing, playgrounds, and fire protection systems. These investments prevented major educational disruptions in the district and provide adequate and equitable school facilities for our community.”

Information Technology

According to CCSD’s Executive Director of Information Technology (IT) Tom Nawrocki, Phase IV proved to be invaluable in creating and maintaining a formal life-cycle management process for school-based systems and end-user devices. For example, the district’s IT Department installed 35,864 Chromebooks, 13,954 iPads, 5,794 laptops, 3,373 Promethean panels, and 464 printers.

Funding was also used to outfit the newly built data center at the district's Bridge View campus (in the first two years of Phase IV) with state-of-the-art security, server, and backup/recovery systems.

"The best part of this program is the ability to provide technology equity for every school in our district," said Nawrocki. "Each school receives the exact same level of equipment and devices strictly based on age of device, not location."

The district's IT Department used approximately \$49 million during Phase IV.

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.