Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
July 23, 2026	Action Item 1

Title

Ed-SPLOST Referendum - Resolution to call for election; referendum language

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Ed-SPLOST Referendum - Resolution to call for election; referendum language

Summary Explanation and Background

In 2001, the Blue Ribbon Committee unanimously supported and recommended for the School Board's consideration the use of a combination General Obligation Bond (GOB)/Special Local Option Sales Tax for Education (Ed-SPLOST), which anticipated subsequent passage of local sales tax referenda in order to pay the debt service on the Bonds. This was for the specific purpose of generating critically-needed capital outlay funding to address essential school facility and campus needs to meet the requirements of educating students in Cherokee County. The School Board subsequently agreed that a referendum in this regard should be placed before the voters of Cherokee County for each such subsequent Ed-SPLOST renewal.

Accordingly, the attached resolution contains the proposed referendum and requires School Board approval at this time so as to have the referendum included on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

School Board Resolution

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

Janet Read Welch	770.479.1871
Mary Elizabeth Davis, PhD	770.479.1871
Abby Roach, School Board Attorney	770.479.1871

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REGULATE AND PROVIDE FOR THE CALLING OF AN ELECTION TO DETERMINE THE ISSUANCE OR NON-ISSUANCE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $425,000,000 AND THE CONTINUATION OF A ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Cherokee County Board of Education (the "Board"), which is charged with the duties of contracting debts and managing the affairs of the Cherokee County School System (the "School System"), has caused to be made a thorough canvass and study of the school buildings, equipment and facilities of the School System, and such investigation discloses the need for (i) acquiring, constructing and equipping new school buildings, administration buildings, athletic and fine arts buildings/facilities and other buildings or facilities useful or desirable in connection therewith, (ii) adding to, renovating, repairing, improving and equipping existing school buildings, administration buildings, athletic and fine arts buildings/facilities and other buildings and facilities useful or desirable therewith, (iii) acquiring buses and other vehicles, (iv) acquiring, installing and implementing technology improvements, (v) acquiring land for future facilities; and (vi) acquiring any property useful or desirable therefor, both real and personal (the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the most feasible method of obtaining the funds necessary to fund all or a portion of the Projects is through the issuance and sale of general obligation debt, which may be in the form of notes, bonds or loans (the "Bonds") pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph IV of Article VIII, Section VI of the Constitution of the State of Georgia (the "Amendment"), and Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended (the "Act"), authorize the imposition of a one percent sales and use tax for the purpose, inter alia, of financing certain capital outlay projects and retiring existing general obligation debt incurred for capital outlay purposes; and

WHEREAS, the School System is currently collecting the one percent sales and use tax, and such one percent sales and use tax will expire on or about March 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the School System that the one percent sales and use tax be continued in the School System to raise not more than $425,000,000 for the purposes of funding (a) the payment of a portion of the principal of and interest on the Cherokee County School System General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, Series 2010, Series 2017, Series 2020, Series 2022, Series 2024, Series 2025 and Series 2026 previously issued (the "Prior Bonds"); (b) the payment of a portion of the principal of and interest on the Bonds; and (c) a portion of the Projects; and

WHEREAS, there are no independent school systems within the School System; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to submit to the qualified voters of the School System the question of whether or not the Bonds should be issued and whether or not the one percent sales and use tax should be continued;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. Call for Election. There is hereby called an election to be held in all the voting precincts in the School System on November 3, 2026 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the School System the question set forth in the notice of election (the "Notice") attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Section 2. Form of Ballot. The ballots to be used in such election shall be substantially in the form set forth in the Notice.

Section 3. Authorization of Sales and Use Tax. In order to finance the payment of a portion of the Prior Bonds**,** the Authorized Bonds**,** the Bonds and a portion of the Projects, there is hereby authorized to be levied and collected within the School System a sales and use tax in the amount of one percent on all sales and uses in Cherokee County as provided in the Amendment and the Act. As required by the Amendment and the Act:

(a) the proceeds of such tax is to be used to finance (i) the payment of a portion of the principal of and interest on the Prior Bonds and (ii) a portion of the Projects;

(b) the maximum amount of debt service to be paid on the Prior Bonds will not exceed $310,000,000, the maximum amount of debt service to be paid on the Bonds will not exceed $100,000,000, and the maximum of amount of Projects to be funded will not exceed the balance of the one percent sales and use tax proceeds (if any); and

(c) such sales and use tax is hereby authorized to be imposed for a period of 20 consecutive calendar quarters commencing upon the expiration of the current tax.

Section 4. Bond Terms. The Bonds shall be issued in order to fund a portion of the costs of the Projects, capitalized interest on the Bonds and the costs of issuing the Bonds. The Bonds shall be issued in whole or in part and in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $425,000,000. The Bonds shall bear interest, at rates not exceeding 8%, from the date the Bonds are issued or from such other date as may be designated by the Board that is prior to the date that the Bonds are issued. The actual rate or rates of interest shall be determined by the Board in a resolution prior to the issuance of the Bonds. The principal amount of the Bonds to be paid in each year (serially or, at the option of the Board, by mandatory sinking fund redemption) shall be as follows:

Year	Amount
2029	7,400,000
2030	6,000,000
2031	2,000,000
2032	15,145,000
2033	20,160,000
2034	20,290,000
2035	43,015,000
2036	44,995,000
2037	47,240,000
2038	49,600,000
2039	82,515,000
2040	86,640,000

Section 5. State Funds. To the extent possible, the School System intends to combine its available State funds with revenues from the one percent sales and use tax and other local funds to finance the Projects.

Section 6. Manner of Election. The date of such election shall be and is hereby set for November 3, 2026. The election shall be held in accordance with the election laws of the State of Georgia. The returns of the election shall be made to the Board and to the Board of Elections and Registration of Cherokee County (the "Board of Elections"), and the Board and the Board of Elections shall count the votes, consolidate the returns and declare the result of the election in the manner required by law.

Section 7. Publication of Call and Notice of Election. A call of the election substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B (the "Call") shall be published in the newspaper in which Sheriff's advertisements for Cherokee County are published (the "Legal Organ") once at least 90 days prior to the election. The Notice shall be published in the Legal Organ at least 30 days prior to the election and once a week thereafter up to and including the week before the election.

Section 8. Property Tax Levy. Should the Bonds be authorized by the requisite number of qualified voters, the Board shall direct the Board of Commissioners of Cherokee County to levy a tax upon all property subject to taxation for general obligation school bond purposes within Cherokee County sufficient in amount to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds as the same becomes due.

Section 9. Brochures and Advertisements. Any brochures, listings, or other advertisements issued by the Board or by any other person, firm, corporation or association with the knowledge and consent of the Board, shall be deemed to be a statement of intention of the Board concerning the use of the proceeds of the Bonds, and such statement of intention shall be binding upon the Board in the expenditure of such Bonds or interest received from such Bonds to the extent provided in Section 36-82-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Section 10. Notice to Board of Elections and Registration. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Board of Elections, with a request that the Board of Elections join in this call of the election.

Section 11. Bond Audit Waiver**.** The Board waives the independent performance audit or performance review referred to in O.C.G.A. §36-82-100.

Section 12. Further Authority. The proper officers, employees and agents of the School System are hereby authorized to take any and all further actions as may be required in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, the imposition of the sales and use tax, and the acquisition, construction and equipping of the Projects.

Section 13. Conflicting Resolutions. All resolutions that conflict in whole or in part with this resolution are hereby repealed.

Section 14. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 23rd day of July 2026.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

(SEAL)

By:_____
Chairman

Attest:

By:_____
Secretary

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on November 3, 2026, an election will be held at the regular polling places in all the election districts of the Cherokee County School System (which embraces all of Cherokee County), at which time there will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Cherokee County School System for their determination the question of whether $425,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Cherokee County School System general obligation debt (the "Bonds") shall be issued for the purposes described in the form of the ballot set forth below (the "Ballot"), and whether a special one percent sales and use tax shall be continued in Cherokee County for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters and for the raising of not more than $425,000,000 for the purposes described in the Ballot.

The Bonds, if so authorized, may be issued by Cherokee County School System in whole or in part and in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $425,000,000. The Bonds shall bear interest, at rates not exceeding 8%, from the date the Bonds are issued or from such other date as may be designated by the Board that is prior to the date that the Bonds are issued. The actual rate or rates of interest shall be determined by the Board in a resolution prior to the issuance of the Bonds. The principal amount of the Bonds to be paid in each year (serially or, at the option of the Board, by mandatory sinking fund redemption) shall be as follows:

Year	Amount
2029	7,400,000
2030	6,000,000
2031	2,000,000
2032	15,145,000
2033	20,160,000
2034	20,290,000
2035	43,015,000
2036	44,995,000
2037	47,240,000
2038	49,600,000
2039	82,515,000
2040	86,640,000

Any brochures, listings or other advertisements issued by the Cherokee County Board of Education (the "Board of Education") or by any other person, firm, corporation or association with the knowledge and consent of the Board of Education, shall be deemed to be a statement of intention of the Board of Education concerning the use of the proceeds of the Bonds, and such statement of intention shall be binding upon the Board of Education in the

expenditure of such Bonds or interest received from such Bonds to the extent provided in Section 36-82-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

The ballots to be used at such election shall have written or printed thereon substantially the following:

☐	YES	*Shall a total of $425,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Cherokee County School System general obligation debt (the "Bonds") be issued* for the purpose of funding (a) the costs of (i) acquiring, constructing and equipping new school buildings, administration buildings, athletic and fine arts buildings/facilities and other buildings or facilities useful or desirable in connection therewith, (ii) adding to, renovating, repairing, improving and equipping existing school buildings, administration buildings, athletic and fine arts buildings/facilities and other buildings and facilities useful or desirable therewith, (iii) acquiring buses and other vehicles, (iv) acquiring, installing and implementing technology improvements, (v) acquiring land for future facilities; and (vi) acquiring any property useful or desirable therefor, both real and personal (the "Projects"); (b) capitalized interest on the Bonds; and (c) the costs of issuing the Bonds; *and shall a special one percent sales and use tax be continued in Cherokee County for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters and for the raising of not more than $425,000,000* for the purpose of funding (a) the payment of a portion of the principal of and interest on the Cherokee County School System General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, Series 2010, Series 2017, Series 2020, Series 2022, Series 2024, Series 2025 and Series 2026 previously issued (the "Prior Bonds"), the maximum amount of debt service to be paid on the Prior Bonds will not exceed $310,000,000; (b) the payment of a portion of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, the maximum amount of debt service to be paid on the Bonds will not exceed $100,000,000; and (c) the maximum amount of Projects to be funded will not exceed the balance of the one percent sales and use tax proceeds?
☐	NO	

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-491, the Cherokee County School System will continue to ensure that performance audits or performance reviews on capital outlay projects funded by the sales and use tax are performed by an independent auditor, consultant or other provider to ensure proceeds are expended efficiently and economically. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 36-82-100, the School System notifies all interested parties that no additional independent performance audit or performance review (the "Bond Audit") will be conducted with respect to the Bonds. However the School System will continue to ensure that Bond proceeds are expended efficiently and economically, as intended by the Bond Audit.

The several places for holding said election shall be at the regular and established voting precincts of the election districts of the Cherokee County School System, Georgia, and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election.

The last day to register to vote in this election shall be October 5, 2026.

Those residents qualified to vote at such election shall be determined in all respects in accordance with the election laws of the State of Georgia.

This notice is given pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Education and a resolution of the Board of Elections and Registration of Cherokee County.

_____

Chairman, Cherokee County Board of Education

_____

Chairman, Board of Elections and Registration of Cherokee County

EXHIBIT “B”

NOTICE OF CALL OF ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM:

YOUR ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT the Cherokee County Board of Education (the “Board of Education”) and the Board of Elections and Registration of Cherokee County (the “Board of Elections”) have called an election in all of the election districts of the Cherokee County School System, to be held on November 3, 2026, at which election there will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Cherokee County School System the question of whether $425,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Cherokee County School System general obligation debt shall be issued and whether a special one percent sales and use tax shall be continued in Cherokee County for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters and for the raising of not more than $425,000,000.

This notice is given pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Education and a resolution of the Board of Elections.

_____

Chairman, Cherokee County Board of Education

_____

Chairman, Board of Elections and Registration of Cherokee County

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned secretary of the Cherokee County Board of Education (the "Board of Education"), DOES HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a meeting duly held on July 23, 2026, which meeting was open to the public and at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the original of said resolution appears in the minute book of the Board of Education, which is in my custody and control.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Board of Education, this 23rd day of July, 2026.

_____

Secretary, Cherokee County Board of Education

(SEAL)