School Consolidation Feasibility Study

Presented by
Rachael Sawyer Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director
October 17, 2023
Overview

• North Carolina General Assembly has passed legislation that mandates that the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems jointly study the feasibility of a merger (House Bill 142)

• Asheville City Board of Education & Buncombe County Board of Education have voted to designate Buncombe County Government as the lead entity for the project

• Requested board action = Accept the role of lead entity to manage the School Consolidation Feasibility Study project and direct staff to solicit a firm to complete the study
Asheville City Schools (ACS)
9 schools
3,990 students
$79.3M Budget
- State: $31.9M
- Local: $30.1M ($14.2M supplemental)
- Fed: $9.2M
- Other: $8.1M

Buncombe County Schools (BCS)
45 schools
21,843 students
$338.3M Budget
- State: $173.9M
- Local: $87.0M
- Fed: $70.2M
- Other: $7.2M

Student count = final 2023 Average Daily Membership; Budget = FY2023 year-end
Solicitation

• Competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a firm to conduct the study, including elements such as:
  – Academic analysis (student enrollment & attributes, educational outcomes)
  – Operational analysis (governance, personnel, facilities, transportation, food service, instructional and programmatic offerings)
  – Financial analysis and review of fiscal effects
  – Community impacts
  – Stakeholder and public engagement
  – Overall findings
# Project Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buncombe County departments:</th>
<th>Community partners:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE)</td>
<td>- Asheville City Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Budget</td>
<td>- Buncombe County Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Finance</td>
<td>- Community representative(s), e.g. associations of educators, parent organizations, youth-serving organizations</td>
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<td>- Intergovernmental Relations</td>
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<td>- Strategy &amp; Innovation</td>
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<td>- Strategic Partnerships</td>
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## Roles

| Project Team                                           | • Design solicitation and review criteria  
|                                                       | • Review submissions, recommend vendor  
| Buncombe County                                        | • Coordinate project  
|                                                       | • Issue solicitation  
|                                                       | • Select firm  
|                                                       | • Identify funding  
|                                                       | • Issue and oversee contract  
| School Systems                                         | • Jointly contribute to the study, including data & input to inform the study  
| The Community                                          | • Provide input to inform the study  

“The Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education shall report findings and recommendations to the standing committees of the General Assembly hearing election matters no later than February 15, 2025.”
Request for Board Action

• Accept the role of lead entity to manage the School Consolidation Feasibility Study project and direct staff to solicit a firm to complete the study