

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND
COMMISSION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING HELD, REMOTELY, ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AT 3:06 PM**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the School Capital Fund Commission met for a regular meeting on September 14, 2020, remotely at 3:06 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Commission meeting was called to order with the following Members present:

Brownie Newman, Commission Member
Max Queen, Commission Member
Joe Belcher, Commission Member
Charlotte Sullivan, Commission Member

County Staff Present: Don Warn, Finance Director; Brandon Freeman, Senior Attorney; Mason Scott, Business Administrator II; Matt Evans, Financial Planning Analyst; Sue Robinson, Accountant; Ronnie Lunsford, Facilities and Construction Coordinator

General Discussion

Senior Attorney Brandon Freeman discussed remote meeting laws.

Approval of Agenda as Presented

Commission Member Joe Belcher moved that the Commission follow the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commission Member Joe Belcher moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Commission Member Queen opened the floor for public comment at 3:13 p.m. Ms. Ann-Patton Hornthal spoke on behalf of *Friends of Haw Creek*, asking that the Commission remember the commitment they made during the prior year's funding cycle to approve the 2nd phase of renovations at Haw Creek Elementary. She thanked the Commission for their consideration and funding of critical school projects. Note: At its October 21, 2019 meeting, the commission approved \$6,245,000 for Phase I additions and renovations at Haw Creek Elementary. Buncombe County School's request for Phase II remodeling is \$8,520,000 in the current funding cycle.

Commission Member Discussion and Officer Appointments

Asheville City Schools Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, Shane Cassida, confirmed Charlotte Sullivan to be the Asheville City Schools representative.

The Commission has concern that most members' terms end at the same time. Commission members Belcher and Newman stated they would consult with the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners about staggering one of their memberships with the School Capital Fund Commission.

Commission member Brownie Newman made a motion to keep Max Queen as Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Commission member Joe Belcher made a motion to keep Charlotte Sullivan as Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Commission member Newman made a motion to keep Gene Bell as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

SCFC Financial Update Review

Matt Evans gave quick update. Article 39 sales tax was higher than projected, with annual growth slightly under 3%. He discussed current debt obligations and the nature of existing debt to decline over time. Existing debt, Evans stated, was approximately \$22.6 million in FY2021. Evans discussed the addition of the debt service from the \$17 million that was approved the year prior, stating that annual debt service would be approximately \$1.5M million annually. He recommended keeping the debt service level for the foreseeable future, at \$24 million - \$25 million.

Asheville City Schools Budget Transfer Requests

Matt Evans presented a request from Asheville City Schools to re-purpose \$543,873 in savings from the Asheville High School Campus-Wide Renovation project and the AVL High Vocational (ROTC) Building Demolition project to the AHS New Classroom Replacement Building – Construction project. Additionally, Evans presented a request from Asheville City Schools to repurpose \$364,561 in savings from the Montford School 2018 Funding Approval and Montford School 2019 Funding Approval projects to the Montford Retaining Wall Repairs Project. Commission Member Sullivan made a motion to approve both requests. Her motion failed to pass, 1-3, with commission member Sullivan voting for, and members Queen, Newman, and Belcher voting against.

Commission member Newman made a motion to approve only the request to move savings from the Montford School projects to the Montford Retaining Wall Repairs project. The motion passed unanimously. Commission member Max Queen asked Buncombe County staff about the status of the Monford Retaining Wall Repairs Project and offered the Commission to draft a letter to the Asheville Historic Resources Commission. The Commission agreed to send the letter encouraging a decision on the status of the wall.

Capital Requests for Article 39 Sales Tax: Asheville City Schools

Staff from Buncombe County General Services and Asheville City Schools presented the capital requests for Asheville City Schools.

A PowerPoint was presented and provided in the meeting packet for the Commission Members.

Capital Requests for Article 39 Sales Tax: Buncombe County Schools

Staff from Buncombe County Schools presented the capital requests for Buncombe County Schools.

A PowerPoint was presented and provided in the meeting packet for the Commission Members.

Approval of Security Projects

Commission member Joe Belcher made a motion to approve the top priority requests from both school systems: ACS – Storefront to Address Safety and Security Concerns, \$110,000; BCS – High Priority Security Upgrades, \$660,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on October 12, 2020, remotely, at 3:00 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.

SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY

By _____
Max Queen, Commission Chair

ATTEST

Donald P. Warn, Commission Secretary;
County Finance Officer