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CHARLOTTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS APPROVES PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Charlotte Public Schools is excited to share with our community the results of a year-long review and discussion process relating to the damages received by Owens Brockway. You may recall that in March 2015, the City of Charlotte graciously distributed \$1,323,470 to Charlotte Public Schools as the result of a claim they brought against Owens Brockway. At that time, the CPS administration and Board of Education chose to pay \$489,684 on long term bonded debt, reducing the long term exposure to our tax payers. The remaining \$833,786 was held as restricted funds until a thorough review of program and facility needs could be completed.

The end result of the review was the approval of a wide variety of student centered enhancements across the entire district. Michelle Sine, Executive Director of Business, Operations and Human Resources, shared, "These funds have provided the district with a unique opportunity to grant many wish items that will directly benefit nearly every student in the District. These are items that ordinarily would not be possible with our limited State funding."

An example of the projects approved include:

- New elementary STEM labs – including renovations, furnishings, equipment and instructional supplies.
- New CHS marching band uniforms
- Secure entrance system at Galewood School
- New CMS band performance jackets
- Additional security cameras in multiple buildings
- Nightlock security enhancement systems at all buildings
- Miscellaneous facility repairs
- New athletic equipment including items such as; wrestling mats, volleyball net system, soccer bench shelters, custom wind screens for baseball/softball fields, new basketball hoop systems
- Van for small club/team transport
- CHS wood shop renovations and equipment replacement
- Bullying prevention program
- CPR mannequins and first aid manuals

- Additional curriculum resources

Overall, on November 12, 2016, the CPS Board of Education approved \$924,474 in project and equipment enhancements with funding from both the Owens Brockway damages and annual broadband lease revenue. “The Board of Education was very deliberate in its planning and review in order to ensure that this once in lifetime opportunity was not used for staff salaries or general operational costs. It was always our intention to use these funds for items that were above and beyond.” stated Mike Bruce, CPS Board of Education President.

“It is not often that a school district has the ability to ask their staff to ‘dream’ and then actually fund the projects at every building and in every department. I am extremely proud of our Board of Education for taking this approach so that our students reap the maximum benefit.” said Mark Rosekrans, Superintendent.

Projects have already started and all will be completed by June 30, 2017.