

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

Board Approves Sinking Fund Election for August 4th, 2015

The Board of Education took unanimous action to move forward with asking the community to reinstate a sinking fund millage. The sinking fund request will be presented to the community on the August 4, 2015, ballot. After the facility audit study and presentation by Granger Construction, it was recommended and subsequently determined to seek community support, via a sinking fund election, for the ongoing maintenance of school district assets, which also are community assets. Maintenance of the school district facilities will forever be something that must occur. Specific maintenance projects and cost estimates have been identified which involve infrastructure components (electrical, mechanical, civil and architectural) that simply are not affordable within the general operating fund.

The ballot language for the sinking fund will in essence request the community to consider supporting one (1) mill for a period of 10 years. If approved, the sinking fund millage would generate approximately \$535,000 for the school district to maintain facilities per year.

It is important to note the audit identifies many project considerations and estimated costs that exceed the annual amount that could be generated by the passage of the sinking fund. This is a good thing as it is a proactive approach to help us understand completely what maintenance projects are needed and have a plan to address them. Planning and then sharing the factual information is key.

The facility audit also identifies capital projects as well, but, at this time the Board has not considered pursuing seeking a millage for them. The intent is on maintaining present facility assets and as such are seeking the sinking fund.

Much more information on the sinking fund will be forthcoming over the next several months leading to the August 4th election. I personally will be presenting at informational meetings which will be scheduled here at the district to share the facility audit findings and all of the information contained within it. I will also work to present information to the many service clubs and organizations within our community over the next three months leading to the vote. Our website will also be a central point for sharing information and I will have more press releases on this topic.

The facility information speaks for itself, it gives us a roadmap for taking care of our facilities. The election for a sinking fund provides the community its voice to support it or not. I believe our community has shown significant and ongoing support of the school district as proven with the past bond proposals and millage elections. I am hopeful the support will continue.

Again, much more information will follow over the next few months in an effort to inform our community of the needs and hopefully gain support for the sinking fund millage.

- Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!