

## In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

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

# #CharlotteRising!

On Thursday, February 9, 2017, I attended an exciting, motivating, energy filled meeting with about sixty (60!) other interested community members in support of #CharlotteRising and Charlotte!

Having sixty interested community members with diverse interests in moving Charlotte forward with revitalization efforts was outstanding. I was in awe that everyone in attendance wanted the same exact thing – a strong downtown, a strong city, a strong school district and strong neighborhoods, all of which of course, make a strong community. The entire group recognized and was supportive of working together for the common good of everyone in our community.

#CharlotteRising is a group of local individuals which are focused on achieving positive impact in our community. Everyone is able to participate and get involved! They have formed a board of directors, have achieved a 501(c)3 status as a non-profit organization, and have plans in place to move the organization forward by working with downtown business owners and the Charlotte community on improvement efforts. You can find them on the web or social media sites by using #CharlotteRising.

I want to share some of the recent efforts they have been involved with:

- The new art work in Peters Square at the corner of Lovett and Cochran
- The billboard on I-69
- The pending Beach Market renovations in cooperation with the Lions and Rotary service clubs and via state grants already received
- The pending “pocket park” across from city hall leading to the new parking lot off of Washington Street
- The potential development at the IGA site (article in the State Journal on 2/9/17)
- The pending Crandell Lake project
- Working with MDOT on downtown truck traffic
- Working to hire an executive director to work directly with downtown business owners on marketing, public relations and overall improvement efforts
- Working to be a central organization to coordinate many of the improvement efforts of the service groups and organizations within our community
- Many other initiatives are underway with interested developers in downtown and beyond

There are many exciting development and improvement efforts underway in Charlotte with #CharlotteRising.

If you are interested in being involved, there are four main action teams:

- **Design** – enhancing the downtown physical environment; capitalizing on our best assets including historical buildings; instilling good maintenance practices

- **Economic Vitality** – strengthen our community’s existing economic base; expand and diversify the economic base; convert unused spaces into productive resources
- **Promotion** – market our downtown’s unique characteristics to residents, visitors, investors and business owners; develop positive promotional strategies
- **Organization** – involve all of the community stakeholders; generate strong volunteer based programs; generate resources and coordinate services

Get on board! This is gaining momentum! Do you have interest in or talent that can be put to use in the four action teams above? At the meeting last week, among the sixty participants were two of our legislative representatives. Representative Barrett and Representative Roberts were involved and recognized. Both are genuinely interested in the positive efforts happening.

How do all of these efforts impact our school district? Positively!!! It directly impacts us by having a community that is thriving and advancing together with a common purpose. We know a strong community equals a strong school district. The more we work together for the best possible outcomes, in all aspects of our community, the better we all will be. Property values will increase, businesses will become more profitable, new development will happen, and we will attract new families and retain our current families. Our community will grow in a cooperative and intentional environment.

Charlotte is positively moving forward. I am very impressed with the efforts already underway and pleased with the plans, energy and dedication that is clearly evident.

#CharlotteRising!

Get involved and experience the energy for yourself. Our community is on the rise.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!!