

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

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

Recreation and Playground Millage Renewal Request-March 8, 2016

At their December 2015 regular meeting, the Board of Education approved a renewal request for the Recreation and Playground millage to be held on March 8, 2016. The Board decided to schedule the request on March 8th as it is the date for the Michigan presidential primary and there is little to no cost for the school district due to the already scheduled election.

The renewal request is for 0.5 mill for a term of 6 years (2017-2022) for the purpose of providing funds for operating a system of public recreation and playgrounds, including public use of the Charlotte Aquatic Center. The renewal would generate approximately \$269,000 annually.

The renewal will support three main components for the school district and community, they are:

- Operating expenses related to the Charlotte Aquatic Center
- Reduced rental rates for fields and gym facilities at the school district
- Recreational programming for the youth of Charlotte

The only change from the initial request for this millage in 2011 is that we are asking for the term to be six years instead of five years. The additional year is requested simply to align with the state’s general election timeline in order to control and limit costs to hold an election.

Important information regarding renewing this millage includes:

- Our facilities and grounds are community assets. They are used by all ages and groups within our community. These include infants and toddlers learning to swim, youth participating in swim clubs and teams, youth participating in AYSO soccer, CJO baseball and CBC basketball and also aquatic center programming for Charlotte citizens and senior citizens.
- The revenue support for the operational functions goes directly to the three main components; the operating expenses of the Aquatic Center, to reduce the rental rates for fields and gym facilities and for recreational programming. The revenue cannot be used for any other purposes by law.
- There are long standing community partnerships with Hayes Green Beach and Al!ve, the Eaton Regional Educational Services Agency and many other Charlotte businesses and organizations.

The school district is where the facilities and grounds resources are located, however, they are Charlotte community assets, used by the community residents. In order to continue to support the operations of these, the renewal is being requested. It is solely intended to keep these resources operating. Should the community decide not to support this renewal, the Board and Administration will be faced with considering challenging financial decisions going forward as the school district’s primary function and mission is the day to day education of the Charlotte students. Please exercise your right to vote on March 8th.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!