

Oriole Corner

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

Bond Steering Committee Update

A bond steering committee was assembled this fall for the consideration of a bond proposal in November of 2018, and has now held four meetings. In the four meetings, the committee has been exposed to many areas of the buildings and the school district. We have shared items related to the high school, such as tennis courts, an auxiliary gym, and the FFA barn to name a few. Information was also shared relating to elementary buildings and spaces, i.e. enrollment increases at the lower elementary levels, the potential of reopening Galewood School, and the concept of removing the portable classrooms at both Washington and Parkview schools. The committee has also learned of items related to the Upper Elementary and the Middle School, although they are not as extensive as the other buildings as it is our newest facility. Rotating the meeting location allows the group to tour the facilities and gain a thorough understanding of each building and their associated needs.

At the recent November 28th steering meeting, district financial information was shared in terms of the existing millage rate, the existing millage duration and whether a millage extension and /or a slight millage increase should be considered. The school district's bonding capacity information was presented by our third party financial advisors, PFM Financial Advisors LLC. The committee had excellent, in-depth questions with subsequent answers provided by our advisor.

In future meetings, the committee will explore items related to the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC), the Charlotte Aquatic Center (CAC), and our support operations and departments (food service, transportation, technology and buildings and grounds).

The objective administratively, in coordination with the district's architect and engineer (TMP) and construction manager (Granger), is to share all of the district related needs, wants and desires with the committee. Once this is done, it will lead the committee to formulate a recommendation for the Board of Education to consider in February 2018. The Board of Education will ultimately decide the bond scope with the associated financial impact.

The ultimate goal of both the bond steering committee and Board of Education is to develop a bond proposal package that will improve the learning environment across the district and provide opportunities for our students. The package will be designed so that the community will understand it and support it by voting yes in November 2018.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!!