



Resolution

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education believes that educating the children of Guilford County is critical and essential to all citizens of Guilford County; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education believes that all children deserve to attend school in a permanent building capable of supporting the educational programs and services that contribute to a sound education; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education recognizes school design, construction, renovation, timely repair and maintenance that create healthy, safe and innovative spaces are required to fully support 21st century learning for all students on an equitable basis; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County Schools manages 125 schools, with the average school built more than 50 years ago, along with 300 buildings, nearly 3,000 acres of land and 12.5 million square feet of facilities as well as sidewalks, driveways, curbs, fencing, security systems, athletic facilities, and other components; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County Schools has 469 mobile classrooms, 58 percent of which are more than 20 years old, including five mobile units that date to 1972; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Schools' maintenance staff responds to more than 30,000 work orders annually, many for failing HVAC units, plumbing systems, leaky roofs and other basic building needs. Schools routinely use buckets and trashcans to catch the water during heavy rains; and

WHEREAS, water seepage and flooding is also common, especially since our county has – during just the past two years– experienced a devastating tornado, two hurricanes, an unusual 12-inch snowfall and a record 64 inches of rain; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education believes that no child should be disadvantaged educationally or have his/her health and well-being jeopardized by inadequate facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education has adopted a strategic plan that focuses on improving learning and life outcomes for all students, a vision that cannot be realized without increasing student access to globally competitive career pathways and technologies in modern and full-equipped learning environments that mirror what students will experience at college and in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education and the Guilford County Commissioners established a Joint Capital Facilities Planning Committee and commissioned an assessment of all school and district buildings that determined significant school facilities and equipment needs exist that must be addressed to adequately meet the health, welfare and educational needs of the district's 73,000 students; and

WHEREAS, extensive research indicates that investing in vital public infrastructure such as high quality public schools buildings and facilities also represents an important investment in a county's future growth, economic development and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education has subsequently developed a long-range master facilities plan to achieve the goals set for students by the Board of Education; so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guilford County Board of Education requests that the Guilford County Board of Commissioners place a school construction bond referendum in the amount of \$1,600,000,000 (see attached list of proposed projects) on the November 2020 election ballot for approval by the voters of Guilford County.

This the 10th day of March 2020.

Deena A. Hayes, Chair
Guilford County Board of Education

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D.
Superintendent