



Charlotte Public Schools Faces Challenge of Aging Facilities

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Charlotte Public Schools

Question – What is the age of our oldest Charlotte school buildings?

Answer – The average age of the oldest school facilities is 50 years.

The actual age and year a school building opened is as follows:

- Charlotte High School – 47 years old (1963)
- Washington Elementary – 56 years old (1954)
- Galewood Elementary – 57 years old (1953)
- Parkview Elementary – 41 years old (1969)

In addition to the above, Charlotte Middle School is our newest building at 8 years old, with an opening date of 2002.

As you can see, the age of most of our school buildings is getting up there. What does this mean for managing the maintenance side of our facilities and how does it relate to the November 2 bond issue?

The real answer lies somewhere in balancing declining revenue resources and creating quality conditions for high student success and achievement.

The ideal answer would be for our students in classrooms, labs, gyms and at all of our school buildings to feel safe and valued. Students should have school settings in which they are focused on learning and instruction. Students should be in a place where they feel safe, where the temperature is comfortable, and where the technology is current.

The reality and over-riding fact now is that our school buildings are aging and in need of serious attention. I am proud of how our custodial and maintenance staff has maintained our facilities. However, just like our home heating systems, equipment wears out. The 47-year-old high school heating system, installed in 1963, is no longer efficient and parts are not available for replacement. The current system is outdated and beyond repair, and just like your home, you would not continue to maintain a 47-year-old failing heating system built with outdated technology.

Because of the age of our heating system, we have high school classrooms where some of our students must learn in classrooms that have temperatures in the 50's on cold days. New equipment and energy efficient window replacement is expected to save \$150,000 annually or \$4.5 million over the course of the bond through improved energy efficiency.

The schools were all built in the 1950's and 60's (middle school excluded) and all need to be able to restrict unwanted visitors from entering the buildings. Single entry points will assist in monitoring incoming traffic into the buildings. The bond will address these issues as well as removing remaining asbestos in buildings.

Please become informed and educated about the bond proposal and all of its features that serve students. Visit www.charlottebond2010.com for facts, frequently asked questions, ballot language, pictures and more. You may call 541-5100 if you have questions.

Locally, citizens are very much in control of what form their school buildings will take, as well as the learning conditions created within them. Our children and grandchildren's schools will continually change now and in the future. These are the learning and teaching facilities for 3,000 students in our community. Please exercise your right to vote on November