

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

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

Charlotte Board of Education Plans for Future

The Charlotte Board of Education will hold its regular board meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Charlotte High School Lecture room. The community is invited to attend as the Board of Education will be considering several important items at their meeting.

Bond Steering Committee Recommendation - The Board of Education will hear a presentation and recommendation from the Bond Steering Committee on the potential November 2018 bond proposal. The steering committee has met regularly since last October reviewing and assessing district infrastructure, building by building program needs, athletic components and classroom learning environments. The committee has also participated in and evaluated comments from the two community engagement sessions that were held in January. The Board of Education will take the recommendation under consideration for two weeks after the meeting giving them an opportunity to seek public input and gauge all aspects of the recommendation. This two week period is critical. The Board wants to be open and accessible to the community. They want to be deliberate and thoughtful about the bond scope and its associated costs. The Board will then meet again on February 26th to formally take action on the November 2018 bond proposal.

Reopening of Galewood School - Also on the agenda for February 12th is a presentation and proposal to consider reopening Galewood School as an Early Elementary School. The Early Elementary School would focus on Developmental Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Great Start Readiness Program and Early Special Education services. As previously shared in past articles, the district has experienced growth in our lower grade levels. The increase in students has filled our buildings, including the portable classrooms, to capacity at Washington and Parkview. This limited space capacity, enhanced learning, emotional development, social benefits, and the desired removal of the portable classrooms are several of the reasons for the consideration of reopening Galewood School. The Board of Education will hear the information gathered regarding the reopening of Galewood School and make a determination how to proceed and if so, whether to move forward in 2018-19 or in later years so final planning and program development can occur.

High School Alternative Education Program - The Board will also hear a presentation and proposal regarding a High School Alternative Education program we are initially calling “Project Success”. Project Success would be another educational opportunity for students that are non-traditional learners or who have not experienced success at the High School level. Project Success will be geared towards students who are credit deficient, have attendance or discipline concerns or who are not meeting standards or achieving

expectations, and failing core course(s) in the freshman academy. Project Success has many innovative concepts to try and meet student needs in a different school / classroom format while also creating a connection to Career and Technical Education (CTE), a Co-op work experience or a community engagement experience (community service). At their meeting, the Board will also be asked to make a determination on this program for 2018-19 so planning and program development with internal and external stakeholders can begin.

District Strategic Planning - Gartner Marketing will attend the February meeting and will share their plan on upcoming surveying efforts of students, staff and the community related to the Strategic Planning efforts that will take place in this 2018 calendar year and give a brief outline on the completion of the process. The goal at the end of the calendar year, is for the Board of Education to have fully developed a Strategic Plan which is reflective of the input gathered by school and community stakeholders leading into the next five years – 2019 through 2024.

The presentations and proposals are very important for the school district going forward. Our goal is to be responsive to our school programming, operations and functions, as well as to community input and desires. The presentations and proposals will be done under the Superintendent's report on the Board meeting agenda. The Board of Education, will consider some of them for approval that evening under the items of business section on the agenda.

As with all Board of Education meetings, this meeting will be open to the public. If your schedule allows, please feel free to attend the meeting and hear the information presented in person. This will help you to be informed and fully understand each of the Board of Education's decisions.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!