

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

By Guest Writer: Courtney Quinn, Charlotte Upper Elementary Teacher

Solid Foundation for CPS Students

A solid foundation allows our students to effectively transition to become future leaders of our community. Studies show that students work better in effective learning environments. In order to thrive, our schools need to provide classrooms that support engaging, relevant and personal learning experiences.

As my fellow teacher, Charlotte High School mathematics’ chair and varsity soccer coach, Ryan Sisco shares, this can have far-reaching consequences. “For Charlotte to continue to develop and thrive, we need our future leaders to come from this city. When you have the learning environment that allows for vast curriculum and includes athletic opportunities, you create an investment in the future. This investment can come back years later in places of business being opened by current students here in Charlotte.”

CPS teachers and staff work hard to provide our students with the best learning situation possible. Over the years has become necessary to utilize portables for instruction due to the lack of availability of elementary classrooms. The portable classrooms, while functional, pose issues with safety, effectiveness and quality of learning/teaching environments for both students and teachers. In addition, they are reaching the end of their useful lives which will require a significant investment in replacement structures.

The current bond proposal will help to provide a proper learning environment for our students, and will assist us, as teachers, to not just encourage our students to succeed, but truly help them be ABLE to succeed.

The bond will decrease our dependence on portables and update our schools with technology, safety and needed infrastructure, which includes air conditioning and heating needs. While air conditioning may seem like a convenience, for those who attempt to teach and learn in 90-degree heat, it is a necessity. School now begins earlier in August when the days are long and the temperatures soar. Our students struggle to concentrate in this heat.

Ryan Sisco summarizes this best when he points out that, “Parents can search data, athletic facilities, and school environments, and a common question they ask is: does the school provide a climate that is conducive to teaching/learning? Many school districts have climate-controlled environments, updated desks and equipment, pipes that don’t leak, ruining ceiling tiles and classroom equipment. Having to compete with schools of choice and charter schools didn't exist in our day.”

We MUST be the best we can be. We already have the best teachers and students. The improvements included in the bond could provide them an environment where they can thrive and be competitive. Many teachers invest more than the \$3 - \$4 per month the bond would cost the average homeowner to help educate our students. Together, we can continue to climb the ladder of success to take Charlotte to the top.

An investment in our schools is an investment in our children and our community, and could make Charlotte a place where families choose to live for generations.