

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ORANGE COUNTY “OUR SCHOOLS, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS” 2016 BOND REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, The Orange County bond referendum gives local voters the opportunity to support existing and future school facilities needs and affordable housing projects;

WHEREAS, NC Law G.S. 115C-521 gives the Orange County Board of Commissioners responsibility to provide capital funding for school facilities;

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools has garnered national attention for demonstrating overall performance and graduation rates in student accomplishments while designating resources to close achievement gaps across racial, ethnic, disability and socioeconomic groups;

WHEREAS, 46% of Orange County Schools’ campuses are over 40 years old, and as a whole, the school district is at 90% percent building capacity;

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools has implemented sound fiscal management by opening new schools, redistributing students through redistricting, and adding portable classrooms in high-growth concentration areas;

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools has sought and received input on facilities needs from parents, teachers, employees, and elected officials, examined projections of enrollment, analyzed the current state of facilities and presented capital needs and recommendations to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools has requested funding for new construction and improvements to existing facilities to accommodate community growth and to provide equitable learning spaces for all children through safety and security updates, HVAC system and roof maintenance and replacement, high school facilities improvements, mold and water infiltration remediation and technology upgrades;

WHEREAS, investing money into the quality of education provided to Orange County area students is an investment in the financial and economic future of the community;

WHEREAS, affordable housing is important to the success of education, benefiting students, teachers and families in our community and the bond will help Orange County reach its goal of creating up to 1,000 affordable housing units in five years for rental and home ownership;

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners may provide the funding and levy additional taxes without voter approval, but has chosen to seek community support and buy-in for a bond initiative, working side-by-side with taxpayers to responsibly address growth within both school districts and the Orange County community;


THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY:

RESOLVED, that the Orange County Schools Board of Education supports the efforts of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to issue a bond for school facilities needs and affordable housing;

RESOLVED, that should the school bond election pass, as good stewards of taxpayer dollars, Orange County Schools will provide updates and information as it relates to the status of the projects to be funded by the bond referendum;

RESOLVED, that the Orange County Schools Board of Education urges the local voters to vote in favor of the Bond for "Our Schools, Our Neighborhoods" on November 8, 2016.

Executed this 24th day of October, 2016.

Signed: 
Dr. Stephen Halkiotis, Board Chair
Orange County Schools