

ECKA

Descriptor Term: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS
Descriptor Code: ECKA
Presented to the Board: September 16, 2014
Adopted by the Board: November 6, 2014

Contributions for New Construction, Facility Additions and Renovations

The Board of Education recognizes that within the community there are various agencies, organizations and individuals (referred to as “funder[s]” for purposes of this policy) who wish to fund capital improvement projects on Guilford County Schools’ properties. Funders have identified capital improvement projects for the school district, or an individual school, which involve new buildings, additions to existing buildings and/or renovations to school property. While the Board of Education strongly advocates for adequate public funding of public schools and school districts, it does recognize that the active search for and prudent use of private philanthropic funds are a major support means to help meet capital improvement needs in Guilford County.

The Board of Education will allow funders to submit proposed projects, which shall be subject to a review process conducted by the principal, the Superintendent/designee, and any other pertinent GCS staff. Projects will be designated as small scale/low risk or substantial. Capital improvement projects that go through the proper review process and are identified by the Superintendent/designee as small scale/low risk projects are not required to transfer funding to Guilford County Schools, and basic oversight will be provided by appropriate GCS staff. Projects designated by the Superintendent/designee as substantial will require approval by the Guilford County Board of Education. Funds must be transferred to GCS and all phases of the capital improvement project must be managed and directed by GCS staff.

For a project designated substantial, the Superintendent/designee shall direct, where feasible, that any unused funds be retained in the capital improvement account of the school where the project was completed.

Plans and proposals from funders for capital improvements to land, building structures and/or equipment must be submitted by the principal to the Superintendent/designee for review and approval prior to starting fundraising, design and on-site construction.

As part of this review process, the principal, the Superintendent/designee will ensure that the funder’s project:

Is aligned with the Board’s vision, mission, goals and objectives as outlined in the GCS Strategic Plan and meets the needs of GCS students;

Adheres with all applicable State statutes as well as GCS policies and procedures;

Takes into consideration the impact of increases in operating costs for GCS or identifies a funding source and estimated budget for the increase in operating costs to GCS;

Meets GCS educational standards and guidelines for capital projects/new construction/renovation;

Is sufficient based on the scope of the project, the estimated budget, proposed timeline, and the results of an initial feasibility analysis conducted by pertinent GCS department personnel.

Once the principal, the Superintendent/designee have reviewed the proposal and have determined that the proposal is feasible and meets the requirements stated above, the project will be designated small scale/low risk or a substantial project. If designated and approved as a small scale/low risk project and all required information, documentation and verifications have been provided as defined in the procedure, the project will be approved to begin and the principal and funder representative will manage the project

with basic oversight from the appropriate GCS staff. If designated a substantial project, the proposal shall be forwarded to the Board of Education for its consideration.

Approval by the Superintendent/designee for small scale/low risk projects, or the Board of Education for substantial projects, in no way obligates the Board of Education to pay for donated constructed items, furniture, equipment or other capital needs in the event the funder is unable to meet his/her obligation(s).

Capital improvements shall not commence until all funds have been raised, secured in an account designated specifically for the capital improvement, verified by appropriate GCS staff and, when required, such funds have been received by the Board of Education.

It is understood that donations and contributions made by funders, once accepted by the Board of Education, become the property of the Board of Education and are fully subject to applicable North Carolina statutes dealing with school property and finance. The Superintendent/designee will develop procedures to minimize the possibility of the transference of excess funding. Where feasible, the Superintendent/designee shall direct that any unused funds be retained in the capital improvement account of the school where the project was completed.

The Board of Education does not assume any debts or liens attached to contributions to the school system. The Board of Education also maintains control of the educational program, use and purposes associated with its schools, including community use.

The Board of Education shall only be responsible for purchases made in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes and purchases made in accordance with GCS purchasing policies and procedures.

Community/Shared Use

Funders who desire access/use of GCS facilities are subject to Policy KG and Procedure KG-P, "Use of School Facilities," unless a separate partnership or shared use agreement has been approved by the Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, and the Board of Education.

Naming Facilities

The Board of Education does not assign or grant permanent naming rights of any GCS facility or program, or part of a facility or program, in exchange for donations. See Policy [FDCA](#) / FDCA-P, "Naming Facilities," for guidance.

Procedures

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent/designee to develop appropriate procedures in keeping with this policy.