

A. PRINCIPLES

The board strives to provide safe, orderly, healthful and inviting schools for students and staff. The board also strives to provide other facilities needed to support the educational program. Long-range planning by the board and superintendent is essential for providing an educational environment in which students can succeed. The Director of Facilities is responsible for the design of facilities that have been identified in the long-range facility needs plan and have been approved for funding. The Director of Facilities/Resident Architect will strive to ensure that all legal requirements are met in the design of new or renovated buildings. The Director of Facilities/Resident Architect may utilize services of outside professionals, including other architects and consultants, in the facility design and construction.

B. LONG-RANGE PLAN

The board will adopt and approve a long-range plan that identifies the facility needs of the school system and sets forth a plan for how to meet these needs. The plan will address the issue of whether to renovate existing facilities or build new facilities. The plan also will incorporate, where appropriate, creative options for meeting the needs of the educational program, such as expansion or reduction through modular construction, future alternative uses of space, the availability of community facilities, the use of temporary facilities or leasing arrangements, opportunities for capital lease financing of facilities through public/private partnerships, and sharing facilities with other school systems.

C. PROCESS

The following information will be considered in developing and adopting a long-range plan:

1. data that reflect documented membership trends over time indicating the possibility of enrollment declines or increases as well as other demographic changes in the population of students that is or may be served;
2. a facilities survey entitled "Property Accounting" shall be maintained and updated on an intermittent basis as necessitated by the amount and extent of facility modifications across the system and to provide for an effective planning resource.
3. the availability or anticipated availability of innovations in construction or design that would allow existing buildings to be renovated or new facilities to be constructed at a lower cost, in a more energy-efficient manner or in a way that would better meet the needs of the educational program;

4. consideration of equity between schools within the system and in compliance with NCDPI recommendations;
5. utilization of construction funding to reduce long term operational costs;
6. anticipation of necessary replacement of facilities, major systems, and/or equipment due to age, obsolescence, inefficiencies, equity;
7. the annual Capital Outlay process will solicit, document and address facility capital needs requested from each school and from each System-wide department. Verified needs that are excessively high in cost shall be referred to the long range planning "Building Program" for consideration by the Board through alternative funding sources.
8. Encourage community and intergovernmental communication regarding the Plan.
9. Consider the Utilization Rate (membership/capacity) in analysis of schools.

The superintendent may utilize the services of consultants to obtain information necessary for the long-range planning process. All professional contracts must be approved by the board except as exempted per 143-64-31 and 143-64-32. Ref Section 9110 for design professional selection. School staffs, students, and parents should be involved in considering the needs for new and renovated facilities.

The board, will work with the board of county commissioners, when possible in developing a five-year and 10 year capital improvement plan. The board and superintendent will endeavor to communicate with other governmental bodies and the public in a positive and persuasive manner about the need for school construction and, consequently, the need for necessary funding.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -204, -276, -426.2, -521, -524, -530, -531, -532; 143-128.1C(I), -129; 153A-164

Cross References: Selection and use of Architects and Engineers (Policy 9110)

Adopted: June 5, 2014

REPLACES BCS POLICY 517