



Muscofee County School District

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NEWS RELEASE

2009 SPLOST Projects MCS D Implements *Phase One* Plans

(Columbus, GA)-It's an exciting time in the Muscofee County School District as plans to implement *Phase One* of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) 2009 projects are underway. Saturday, November 21, 2009, during a Board Retreat/Planning Conference, the Superintendent, Dr. Susan Andrews and district administrators shared details of recommendations for considering project delivery methods, which included pros and cons of project management. Mr. Bobby Hecht, Director of Construction, updated the group on the progress of selecting an architect pool for major SPLOST projects, and the role of the architect selection committee.

In addition, the district is in the process of selecting a bond underwriter. According to the Chief of Finance, the district is seeking a \$70 million dollar bond to begin some of the projects immediately. Mr. Myles Caggins, Chief of Operations and Facilities, also explained a detailed plan that outlines the recommendation on how to best relocate students and employees, in order to begin the demolition and rebuilding of a new George Washington Carver High School.

"I will be working with the district and architects to help develop a plan/design for a 21st century school that we will all be proud of, but will most definitely serve the academic needs of our number one priority, our students," said Chris Lindsey, Carver High School principal.

During *Phase One*, employees and students of Carver High School will be relocated to Baker Middle School. Using a school within a school concept, Baker Middle School students and employees will relocate and combine with Marshall Middle School. The principals of all three schools are planning information sessions for parents, students, and employees to help educate them about the temporary transition that will

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take effect in August of 2010.

The plans will not impact the current school year, but parents, employees, and students can look forward to informational meetings where details will be shared on the upcoming changes and logistics.

“The focus is really on the students and how we can best serve them,” said Dr. Marvin Crumbs, principal of Baker Middle School. “We’re going to do everything possible to make sure the transition is smooth and we will make sure our staff is ready to meet the needs of our children by the time school starts next fall.”

“We’re excited about this opportunity to unite and understand the need to make these temporary adjustments while working as a team with all of our students, parents, and employees because we need their support,” said Melvin Blackwell, principal of Marshall Middle School.

Additional classrooms at Northside High School, purchasing land for new schools, air conditioning middle and high school gyms, and building a new middle school are also included in *Phase One*. The district plans to work on *Phase One* projects immediately; other projects will begin as soon as money is collected.

Phase Two plans include security upgrades, building a new elementary school, air conditioning elementary gyms, additional classrooms at Richards Middle School, and upgrades to alternative education programs.

Phase Three plans include building a fine arts academy, athletic upgrades, a new Fort Middle School gymnasium, an auditorium at Jordan High School, and a new elementary school #2.

Phase Four plans include upgrades at Lorenzo Road facilities and technology upgrades will be ongoing throughout all phases. Construction on all of the projects should begin within the five years of the SPLOST. Each project will be completed as money is available. Small projects, such as money for the museum, library, and buses, will be interspersed among the larger projects as money is available.

“These are exciting times for us as we move forward in completing this work,” said Andrews. “We did not outline specific dates for each project because we must wait for our financial partners to assist us with developing a cash flow timeline. We presented the projects in phases rather than in priority order.”

For more information, contact Communications, communications@mcsdga.net, or call 706-748-2034.

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