

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jason Chappell, Chair
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COUNTY MANAGER

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101 South Broad Street
Brevard, NC 28712

March 11, 2024

Mr. Richard Kimsey Jackson
Chairman, Transylvania County Board of Education
225 Rosenwald Lane
Brevard, NC 28712

Dear Mr. Jackson:

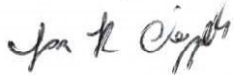
The Education Capital Work Group was an endeavor that required both of our boards to commit to a collaborative process placing the interest of our community as the central focus of our next steps to fix our schools together. We tasked our organizational leaders- Superintendent Dr. Lisa Fletcher and County Manager Jaime Laughter to represent us on the work group. Last Monday we were jointly presented with a plan endorsed by our staff that was well thought out, clear and that addresses necessary improvements for all of our schools with funds that we have the ability to access this year if we take the next step as quickly as possible. Our staff stood alongside two retired peers- retired County Manager Steve Wyatt and retired Superintendent Dr. Bo Caldwell in a unified presentation based on a professional building assessment that presented clear steps starting with investment in our schools to protect the investments we have made together as a community with the school bonds already approved by citizens.

Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Caldwell shared valuable insight from their success in Henderson County that emphasized how important continued collaboration is and that working in silos separately does not work. They challenged the two boards to step forward together with Step 1 Investment establishing a new and improved way of assuring our school facilities are maintained. The list of projects and the next steps are clear. We must act now to fix leaking roofs, improve school safety, and repair deteriorating exteriors and aging mechanical systems to protect the school buildings our community built. We know that you join us in the desire to get those improvements started to support our teachers and our students in those buildings.

Commissioners entered into this process with a commitment to the Board of Education to see this process through in the spirit of collaboration and we know you did the same. We recognize that time is of the essence and our Superintendent and County Manager along with the work group have made it clear that we can start these improvements by the end of this year. That timeline hinges on joining together and committing to the next steps outlined by the work group for Step 1. There is no time to waste.

Tonight, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to empower our staff to move forward as quickly as possible with Step 1 Investment as recommended in detail by the work group as soon as the Board of Education votes the same. We have taken this step with faith in the work that we commissioned together, and we are ready to take the next step as two boards- together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason R. Chappell".

Jason R. Chappell

Chairman, Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Members, Board of Commissioners
County Manager
County Attorney
File