

## CCS Reconfiguration

### Proposed School Board resolution – concept design

Following over thirteen years of community discussion, the Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) School Board reaffirms the need to reconfigure the present allocation of grades in the elementary and middle schools, and to modernize the facilities on the Walker and Buford campuses, in order to further academic and equity goals. Currently, students in CCS transition from six neighborhood elementary schools to Walker Upper Elementary for grades five and six, and transition again to Buford Middle School for grades seven and eight before transitioning to Charlottesville High School for grade nine through twelve. Pre-K is available to a limited number of income and special needs qualified students within the neighborhood elementary schools. The School Board proposes a renovation and addition to Buford Middle school, allowing it to serve a planned capacity of 1,050 students in grades six through eight. Pre-K will be centralized into one location at the Walker site, and fifth grade will move to the existing elementary schools.

A plan to explore various design concepts with the citizens of Charlottesville was reviewed with the School Board at the May 21, 2021 School Board retreat, and again at a joint work session of the School Board and Charlottesville City Council on May 26, 2021. Potential scopes of work were developed and discussed over seven public meetings with the Community Design Team (CDT) and informed by numerous outreach and engagement efforts. The CDT's conceptual design recommendations were presented to a joint work session of the School Board and City Council on September 15, 2021. This recommendation includes:

- Grade level reconfiguration achieved by August of 2026
- A combination of demolition, construction, and heavy renovation at Buford resulting in approximately 187,000 square feet and based on the "Build in the Bowl" option
- Pre-K temporarily occupying "Building A" of Walker in 2026
- New furniture to accommodate fifth grade students at the elementary schools
- A plan for a new Early Childhood Center, based on the "Rose Hill Drive" option, to be built on the southern end of the Walker Campus that would be executed as soon as funding is available.

These recommendations were also presented as "Exhibit A" to the School Board as an information/action item on September 23, 2021. Having carefully reviewed the extensive input from the CDT, the design consultant, CCS and City staff, and the community, I move that the School Board approve the recommendation of the CDT as generally described in Exhibit A.

By approving this motion, the School Board approves the following:

- A proposed scope of work and budget to achieve reconfiguration by August of 2026.
- A request that the City replace the Fifty million dollar reconfiguration placeholder in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in FY 2025 with a Seventy Five million dollar total project budget, anticipating a construction start in FY 2024. If the stated reconfiguration is funded solely by real estate taxes, the School Board understands this would require a 5 cent increase.
- A request that the City plan for CIP funding of the Early Childhood Center as soon as possible, with a target date of FY 2027.