



# CHEROKEE COUNTY

75 Peachtree Street  
Murphy, NC 28906  
828-837-5527

## County Administration

Randy Wiggins, County Manager  
Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board  
Candy R. Anderson, CPA, Chief Financial Officer  
Darryl R. Brown, County Attorney

## Board of Commissioners

Randy Phillips, Chairman  
Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman  
Ben Adams, Member  
Jan Griggs, Member  
Cal Stiles, Member

20 August 2024

Re: Joint meeting on 16 September 2024

Dear Superintendent Woody & Members of the Cherokee County School Board,

It is the sincere desire of Cherokee County Government to make the most of the joint meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners and the Cherokee County Board of Education. While it is easy to spend an inordinate amount of time talking about disagreements and controversies of the past, we wish to make this meeting focused on moving forward to the future for the benefit of all citizens of Cherokee County and most especially, our children.

Cherokee County Government welcomes the Board of Education's presentation of its vision for the future. We also welcome input from the public and its views on the future of education in our county. On September 16, 2024 the Commissioner's meeting will begin with public forum. It is intent of the Board of Commissioners to hear from all members of the public that wish to speak. The time for each speaker shall be determined by the Chairman. Presentation by the Board of Education will then be made, discussion among members of the Boards will follow.

In order to maximize the joint meeting, Cherokee County has identified the following areas of concern to be addressed:

1. A long-term specific plan or plans should be presented. How does the Board of Education see county school facilities in 5, 10 and 20 years? What, if any, alternatives are there to the plan?



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2. Explain how the recent reorganizations at Martin's Creek/Murphy and Ranger/ Hiwassee Dam have furthered the plan. What additional re-organization will be needed to further the plan?
3. What phases are to be implemented in the long-term plan? Specifically, what needs to be done first including the size and location of new construction. Is the acquisition of additional property necessary? What is the second phase priority? The third?
4. What does Cherokee County Schools see regarding the renovation of existing structures? How old are the current facilities and in what condition?
5. What plan does Cherokee County Schools have regarding the upkeep, maintenance and expansions of existing school facilities while implementing the new construction and re-organization plan?
6. What are the expected costs for:
  - a. New construction?
  - b. Renovation of existing facilities?
  - c. Maintenance of existing facilities?
7. How does Cherokee County Schools intend to finance new construction or major renovation:
  - a. Grants? Where would grant matches come from? Is the plan entirely dependent on getting partial financing from grants?
  - b. Long-term loans? How does Cherokee County Schools intend to finance repayment while maintaining facilities and operational costs?
8. Would the Cherokee County Board of Education agree to a joint meeting at least every 6 months to evaluate and discuss the plan and the immediate steps needed to execute the plan?

Cherokee County Government looks forward to the upcoming meeting and is open to administrative communication and exchange of information beforehand to foster greater understanding and progress as we move into the future. The hope of Cherokee County Government is that this meeting will be the dawn of a new relationship between the governing boards. We anticipate a healthy, productive conversation between the boards and the public that we all serve.

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Maria Hass

Clerk to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners