



Chatham County, NC

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Monday, March 2, 2026

6:00 PM Chatham County Schools Central Services, 468 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro

Special Joint Meeting with Board of Education

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present: 5 - Chair Amanda Robertson, Vice Chair Franklin Gomez Flores, Commissioner David Delaney, Commissioner Karen Howard and Commissioner Katie Kenlan

[26-0091](#)

Welcome and introductions

The members of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and the Chatham County Board of Education introduced themselves.

BOARD PRIORITIES

[26-0086](#)

Receive a presentation on enrollment projections by OREd

Attachments: [OREd Presentation 03.02.2026](#)

Chatham County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operation Chris Blice informed the Board members that Program Manager Thomas Dudley and Research Assistant Brian Godfrey from the Operations Research and Education Laboratory (OREd) could not be in attendance at the meeting due to prior commitments. Blice began the discussion with the 10-year population projections for Chatham County. Blice reminded Board members that information is gathered from county and municipal leadership, along with community stakeholders, to determine residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as infrastructure capacity. Discussion was held regarding projected enrollment through the 2034-2035 school year. Several schools within the district are projected to exceed brick-and-mortar capacity. Also discussed were the effects of water and sewer capacity within Chatham County since an agreement was reached with Tri-River Water in Sanford. The anticipated growth over the next 10 years within the district is unprecedented.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

[26-0087](#)

Receive a presentation from Chatham Park

Attachments: [Chatham Park Presentation 03.02.2026](#)

Chatham County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Blice began by providing information regarding current and future development of the North and

South Villages of the Chatham Park development. The original plan for Chatham Park consisted of 7,100 acres and 22,000 dwellings. The current development is projected to include 8,500 acres with 24,000 residential units. The Storyliving by Disney community, "Asteria", will consist of approximately 1,500 acres with over 4,000 units. The school site for the North Village is approved for development off of Grant Drive. The development of 5,000 acres with approximately 14,000 units in South Village is underway. The Del Webb 55 and older community is also in progress. Chatham Park has designated a proposed school site location within the development. Discussion was held concerning the possibility of a middle school instead of an elementary school.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

26-0088

Receive a presentation on school growth

Attachments: [School Growth in Chatham County Schools](#)

Chatham County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Brice and Director of School Safety, Security, and Operations Brad Walston outlined the tasks involved in planning for growth. Outside partners primarily include county government agencies, County Commissioners, and the County Manager's office. An overview of current school buildings, along with construction dates, was provided. A tour of the oldest buildings was scheduled for March 4th with the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners, including district administrators. In order to project student population, the district works closely with ORED, utilizing the full land use study to determine areas of ongoing growth or decline. The study currently takes place every other year. Projections are based on live births in the county, approved housing projects, as well as commercial growth and development. Student population projections were reviewed, keeping in mind that ORED tends to be conservative. It is projected that the district student population will exceed 12,000 by the 2025-2026 academic year. In addition to building additional schools and/or adding classrooms, the district must consider the additional personnel required to support instruction, along with other budgetary implications.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

26-0089

Receive a presentation on the alignment of capital and long-range planning

Attachments: [Alignment of Capital and Long-Range Planning](#)

1. New Elementary School – North Village

Chatham County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Blice and Director of New Construction and Maintenance. Randy Drumheller presented information to the Board regarding the design of a new elementary school in the North Village of Chatham Park. The design would be similar to Chatham Grove Elementary, but would include possible expansion of classroom capacities in the future. The opening of the school would include the creation of a new attendance zone and possible redistricting of existing PreK-5th grade attendance zones in an effort to create needed classroom capacity for the future across the eastern half of the district. The design would begin in the 2027-2028 academic year with an anticipated opening for students at the start of the 2030-2031 academic year.

2. POD at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School

Blice and Drumheller provided information regarding an additional six classroom pod

that is currently scheduled for placement at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School in the proposed 2027-2033 Capital Improvements Program. The anticipated date would be during the 2029-2030 academic year. With the addition of the first pod on the campus two years ago, the serviceable capacity is projected to provide for classroom capacity for the next ten years. With several housing developments in the attendance zone waiting for water and sewer capacity to become available, student population projections will need to be evaluated prior to placement of an additional classroom pod.

3. Three Gymnasium Replacement Update

Blice and Drumheller outlined the design progress of replacing gymnasiums at Bennett, Bonlee, and Silk Hope Schools. The design contract has been awarded and a group of school personnel from each school are meeting with the architect to discuss early design considerations. Construction bids are expected to be announced in July 2026. The project has a scheduled completion date during the 2028-2029 academic year. The current structures will remain in place until the new gyms are ready for occupancy, at which time the current structures will be removed and the space repurposed to address current needs.

County Manager Bryan Thompson and Assistant County Manager Darrell Butts presented a listing of the Capital Improvement Plan scheduled projects to the Board members. A summary of future projects that are not currently scheduled was also provided. Discussion was held regarding the budget for the year and the cost of projects that the County currently plans to fund. A question to address in the future was what factors need to be considered when forecasting growth and the potential impact on future capital planning and investments. With the anticipated growth in Chatham County, both Boards recognize the need to establish plans accordingly.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

26-0090

Discuss next steps and future coordination

Attachments: [Next Steps & Future Coordination for School Planning](#)

Chatham County Schools Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Blice and Director of School Safety, Security and Operations Brad Walston presented information regarding a Stakeholder Advisory group for new school planning. The purpose of the group is to engage administrators, students and parents, and to ensure representation across all 20 schools and feeder patterns. The desired outcome is to gain credible, organized feedback to inform design and planning, with an increase in trust and shared ownership. A projected timeline was presented with a projected introductory meeting and membership survey presented to the Board in May of this year. Quarterly meetings of the advisory group would be anticipated during the 2026-2027 academic year.

This Agenda Item was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Robertson called for a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Franklin Gomez Flores, seconded by Commissioner David Delaney, that the meeting was adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Robertson, Vice Chair Gomez Flores, Commissioner Delaney,
Commissioner Howard, and Commissioner Kenlan