



## Morrisville Town Council

Business Session

March 24, 2015, 6:30 P.M.

### 6. Presentations

- Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation - March, 2015

The Proclamation was read.

- WCPSS Site Selection and School Design Presentation

*Joe Desormeaux, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities*, provided an overview explaining the Wake County School Site selection and design process. There are 211 schools in Wake County, which is an average of six new schools per year. Development of high schools take four years from the time land is obtained to construct, middle schools take three years on average, and elementary schools take two years. There are set building designs and outdoor requirements to accommodate educational programs. Limitations are increasing because of growth. Educational specifications are used to create schools models. The specifications change over time and renovations must also occur. Facility Design and Construction is an area on the Wake County Public Schools System website that covers what is happening with the bond including expected school construction and design. There are specific areas where it has been determined that schools are needed. One area called for an elementary school within area E33, which included Morrisville. There would be another review of school requirements in the near future to include updated municipal planner data expected next month. This may cause some changes.

Council discussion occurred. If there is a building that can be redeveloped, that may be an option if there is no land. A Wake County bond was in place to cover school construction costs through 2017. The next bond would need to be funded in 2016 to keep building schools after that time. For the new school projections in 2020, it was possible that if land was designated in Morrisville, that it could be used to develop a school before 2020. It was mentioned that school capacity is not being increased at the rate growth is occurring. The presenter noted that sites were selected based on current growth, needs and expected capacity. Regarding previous bonds, 54% of funding went towards existing schools in 2000. With the recent bond, existing schools only received 41% of the total funding because of new school needs, even with an increased bond amount. There are some schools with no major renovations for 40 years. There are 26,000 seats in temporary facilities, and overcrowding is an issue. There was a \$2.2 billion need for schools identified that included about 40 schools. With available funding based on market, funding and maintaining debt ratios, the number was updated to just under \$1 billion to keep up with expected growth. There are several stakeholders that collaborate on this matter from acquisition to design and finally construction. Time and resources can be challenges for all involved. A Joint Facilities Team was created and is comprised of the County and School System to improve communication and create more involvement and information sharing. The County funds the construction of the school, and the goal is to have students graduate and be prepared for higher education and to be productive members of the community.

Citizens were encouraged to attend Wake County School Board Meetings and communicate with representatives to address the need for schools to keep up with growth. It was noted that the Little Drive location was not an option at this time. It was asked if land could be purchased now to meet a future need in that particular area. Wake County determined it was not an option to purchase at this time based on the need for that area. Staff was asked to post the presentation on the front page. It was already available on the agenda on the Town Website.