



## The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

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Elyse Dashew, At-Large  
Jennifer De La Jara, At-Large  
Lenora Shipp, At-Large  
Rhonda Cheek, District 1  
Thelma Byers-Bailey, District 2  
Dr. Ruby Jones, District 3  
Carol Sawyer, District 4  
Margaret Marshall, District 5  
Sean Strain, District 6

### Dispute between CMS and Mecklenburg County resolved

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners have resolved their dispute over county funding for the 2021-2022 school year.

“We are delighted to turn the page on this budget dispute. The children of Mecklenburg County need us to work together on their behalf,” said Board of Education Chair Elyse Dashew. “We look forward to collaborating with the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners -- respectfully and strategically, in accordance with our distinct roles and responsibilities. This kind of collaboration is key to making progress in addressing the systemic issues that challenge so many of our students.”

As part of the mediated agreement, the county commissioners will remove the conditional-allocation restrictions placed on \$56 million of the current appropriation, making the funds immediately available to CMS.

In addition, the county will provide an overall increase of \$17.2 million in operating funds for 2021-2022. This brings total county funding to \$538 million, which is \$11.1 million more than originally appropriated for CMS.

The county will also make available up to \$1 million for the district to improve its website so that information is more accessible for families and the public. As part of that effort, School Improvement Plans and related reports will be accessible in a centralized location on the CMS website.

Both boards will participate in a facilitated workshop on Student Outcomes Focused Governance, as well as at least one additional joint meeting a year.

The full mediated agreement between the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners is attached.



## Board Member Comments on Agreement

**Thelma Byers-Bailey (Vice Chair, District 2):** “I am encouraged by the outcome of our collaboration with the BOCC. It represents a win-win for our students. I believe the strategies that both our boards will be developing using the Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG) model will prove to be a game changer for CMS.”

**Jennifer De La Jara (At-Large):** “We purposely invited an expert from the UNC School of Government to our December 10th joint meeting to explain in plain language exactly what would happen if the County Commissioners chose this destructive path. They chose this distraction anyway to the detriment of our community and to the detriment to our students. I do hope we can move forward with a collaborative spirit, but it would help if the political theatre coming from the BOCC toned down.”

**Lenora Shipp (At-Large):** “The children must come first. I am glad we are committed to this collaborative effort to do what is in the best interest of all children. My hope is that we will continue to develop relationships that will ensure our students graduate ready for the next step after high school so that they become productive citizens in a global society.”

**Rhonda Cheek (District 1):** “Now that this is behind us, we have a great opportunity to work together and focus on the needs of children in our county. Both groups have work to do to improve the lives of children and doing it collaboratively benefits everyone.”

**Dr. Ruby Jones (District 3):** “I am very pleased that our two boards have been able to take this important first step by agreeing on CMS funding. Our children need us now more than ever -- and resolving this dispute means we can be there for them with full focus and attention.”

**Carol Sawyer (District 4):** “I am glad for this first step in improved collaboration between our boards. I am pleased that the mediation process has increased CMS funding — and I hope we will work together in the future to increase funding to support CMS staff to address the social and emotional needs of our county’s children.”

**Margaret Marshall (District 5):** “More than ever, our community needs all our elected bodies to work together as we simultaneously recover from the effects of the pandemic and remove barriers that prevent educational attainment. The forward motion needed to address these issues is only possible if we are working in conjunction with each other. I see better days ahead for our children and their families.”

**Sean Strain (District 6):** “I am encouraged by the renewed commitment to partnership for our youth in Mecklenburg County. Public schools need to be funded sufficiently, and the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners has stepped up to increase local funding more than 13% over the last four years when accounting for inflation -- a period during which both the state and federal funding for CMS have increased substantially as well, despite falling enrollment. I am also encouraged by the renewed Board of Education focus on student outcomes and accountability. Our youth need us to be student-centered, mission-focused, data-informed and performance metric-driven. For every student. Every day.”