

Florence Public School District One
Board of Trustees
Community Meeting

1) What is a mill?

The amount per \$1,000 that is used to calculate taxes on property. Millage rates are most often found in personal property taxes where the expressed millage rate is multiplied by the total taxable value of the property to arrive at the property taxes due. School boards use millage to calculate local school taxes to be collected, based on a derivation of the total property value within school district boundaries.

2) What is the difference between Operational Millage and Capital Millage?

Operational millage is funding used to operate the day to day operations of the school district (personnel, fringe benefits, instructional supplies, utilities, etc). Revenues from operational millage is provided through state and local tax collections.

Capital millage is funding used for capital improvements (roofing, paving, new construction, renovations). Revenue for capital millage is provided from the 8% of the district's assessed value or from an obligation bond approved by the public.

3) What are the district's plans to address overcrowding at the three high schools?

In order to reduce the populations of the three high schools (South Florence, West Florence and Wilson), Poynor will be converted into a Performing Arts High School.

4) Will the district have to acquire additional land to build new schools?

Unless it is decided to relocate North Vista from its current site, Florence One presently has property to complete Phases 1, 1A, and 2.

5) Will there be any rezoning as a result of this plan?

As the new school is completed in Phase 1, revisions to the attendance zones will be required to populate the new classrooms and eliminate overcrowding. Phases 1A and 2 will not require rezoning.

6) What is the district doing about Green Design?

The district's new Design Guidelines incorporate energy efficiency into all future facilities. Where it is justified based on life cycle cost and available funding, green technology will be a part of future consideration.

7) When will construction begin on the first project?

With board approval, architects will begin planning in the Summer of 2010.

8) What will it cost to operate the new school?

Approximately \$1,000,000 (some of the costs would be funded by other sources, i.e., cafeteria).

9) How were the projects selected?

In 2005, Florence School District One contracted with educational planners, architects, engineers, and construction managers to conduct a long range comprehensive school facilities study. This study included a technical evaluation of educational facilities. From this study, recommendations were made to Florence One about how it might best accomplish its facilities goals of operating in the twenty-first century.

10) Why can't the school be built from the district's fund balance?

The purpose of Florence One's fund balance is to provide the system some financial security during periods of recession. A strong fund balance also provides a district leverage in securing lower interest rates for construction and long term projects. A fund balance serves as a "self insurance" fund for unexpected needs. In addition, a fund balance allows a cash flow during periods of low tax collections. Without a strong fund balance which provides the cash flow, some school districts are forced to borrow funds to meet payroll during low tax collections.