

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Cabarrus met for an Agenda Work Session in the Multipurpose Room at the Cabarrus County Governmental Center in Concord, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025.

Public access to the meeting could also be obtained through the following means:

- live broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Channel 22
- <https://www.youtube.com/cabarruscounty>
- <https://www.cabarruscounty.us/cabcotv>

Present - Chairman: Jeff Jones
 Vice Chairman: Laura B. Lindsey
 Commissioners: Larry G. Pittman
 Kenneth M. Wortman

Absent - Commissioner: Lynn W. Shue

Also present were: Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager; Aalece Pugh, Assistant County Manager; Douglas Hall, County Attorney; Lauren Linker, Contract Analyst and Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Pittman provided the invocation.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Work Session Agenda

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

3. Discussion Items - No Action

3.1 County Manager - Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) Report

Dr. John Kopicki, Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) Superintendent, thanked the Board for the integral role it plays in the success of the school system. Dr. Kopicki introduced Karl Sain, Cabarrus County Schools Chief Information Officer, who presented a PowerPoint on the 2024-2025 CCS School Performance Grade Overview.

Mr. Sain provided an overview of key performance metrics tracked by the school system, including academic achievement, growth, and college and career readiness. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Cabarrus County Schools continues to outperform the state of North Carolina, with higher overall letter grades and proficiency rates.
- Overview of school performance, growth, and achievement trends.
- End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) proficiency rates.
- Comparison of EOG/EOC performance with the 12 largest school districts in the state.
- CCS ranking in North Carolina over time (2023-2025).
- Graduation rates.
- English Learner (EL) student progress.
- ACT qualifying scores and indicators of college and career readiness.

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Dr. Kopicki and Mr. Sain responded to questions from the Board.

4. Discussion Items - For Action

4.1. Finance - Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) Change in Mix of FY2025-26 Maintenance Projects

Jim Howden, Finance Director, reported each year Cabarrus County approves the deferred maintenance budget for Cabarrus County Schools. As part of the FY 2025-26 budget development process, Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) prioritized maintenance projects by separating them into various categories: projects under \$25,000, projects between \$25,000 to \$500,000 and projects that exceed \$500,000.

Additionally, the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners approved \$10.1 million for deferred maintenance projects. Funding was provided for the top 36 projects

in the \$25,000-\$500,000 category, and no funding was given to larger projects, which the School System later deemed may be of higher priority.

Cabarrus County Schools proposed a revised allocation to prioritize projects based on importance and urgency, while keeping the total budget unchanged at \$10.1 million.

Mr. Howden then introduced Phillip Penn, Chief Financial Officer, Cabarrus County Schools (CCS), and Chuck Taylor, Director of Facilities, Cabarrus County Schools (CCS).

Mr. Penn advised Cabarrus County Schools would like to make changes to the allocation of maintenance funds. While the specific projects proposed would change, there would be no change to the appropriations previously approved for maintenance work.

Mr. Taylor advised when developing the hybrid list, staff focused on the same priorities used in past years: three roof replacements, three parking lot projects, and three HVAC replacements annually. The original project list was reviewed, with projects in the \$25,000 to \$499,999 range identified as essential and projects exceeding \$500,000 identified as critical. Staff evaluated the projects in the over \$500,000 category that could be accomplished within the previously allocated \$10.1 million.

Mr. Penn reiterated the proposal maintains the same \$10.1 million total, resulting in no additional financial impact on the County. He stated the proposed hybrid approach between project categories was sensible from a budgetary perspective and allows the County to maximize the reduction of assets that have exceeded their life cycle on a systemwide basis.

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Mr. Penn and Mr. Taylor responded to questions from the Board.

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Wortman, seconded by Vice Chair Lindsey and unanimously carried, the Board suspended the Rules of Procedure.

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board approved fund allocation changes for school maintenance projects in the Cabarrus County Schools' FY 2025-26 budget.

4.2. Active Living and Parks - Ordinance Amendment

Ian Sweeney, Active Living & Parks Assistant Director, presented a request to amend the Active Living and Parks Ordinance to allow the sale of alcohol at County-sponsored events or events in which the County is a partner. The amendment would not apply to private events held on County Property. The request was in preparation for a potential future fall event, which would be held at Frank Liske Park following completion of the new park entrance. Mr. Sweeney stated any sale and consumption of alcohol would follow specific guidelines regarding where alcohol may be sold and consumed.

Mr. Sweeney introduced Dominique Clark, Communications Manager, to provide additional details regarding the proposed event. Ms. Clark explained the concept for a countywide festival. During research, staff found similar events of this scale have been successful. The events typically included the sale and consumption of alcohol as a contributing factor to success.

Mr. Sweeney stated the original intent was to seek guidance from the Board before engaging in detailed event planning.

Commissioner Pittman **MOVED** to remove this item from the agenda.

Due to lack of a second, the **MOTION** failed.

A discussion ensued. During discussion, Mr. Sweeney and Ms. Clark responded to questions from the Board.

4.3. Fire Marshal - Cold Water Fire Apparatus Certificate of Need

Jacob Thompson, Fire Marshal, reported Coldwater Fire Department recently placed an order for an apparatus. During this process, the department ordered a second truck to replace a current engine. The required Certificate of Need was not completed; however, Mr. Thompson stated the request was justified. He requested retroactive issuance of a Certificate of Need to the Coldwater Fire

Department for the purchase of the new fire engine. Mr. Thompson then invited Cold Water Fire Department representatives to speak.

Benjamin Preddy, Captain, Cold Water Fire Department, advised the Coldwater Fire Department is under contract for the purchase of a 2028 Pierce fire engine at a cost of \$1,040,000, which will replace a 1997 Pierce engine that is approximately 30 years old. The 1997 engine lacks many modern safety features found on current apparatus, and replacement parts are increasingly difficult to obtain due to its age.

Mr. Preddy noted that, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1900, fire apparatus are recommended to be used in a frontline capacity for 15 years, followed by 5-10 years in a reserve capacity, and that apparatus exceeding 25 years of service be replaced.

Jim Preddy, Chief, Cold Water Fire Department, was present and also participated.

A discussion ensued, During discussion, Mr. Thompson responded to questions.

From the discussion, the Board reached a consensus to review existing contracts and remove the Certificate of Need requirement in future contracts. Current contracts will remain in place until updated agreements are implemented.

4.4. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) - Resolution Supporting North Carolina Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Legislative Requests for Increased Recurring Funding for Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, Community Programs, Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers, Short-Term Residential Contract Sites, Transitional Living Programs, Medical/Mental Health Crisis Unit Capacity Increase, and North Carolina Secure All Firearms Effectively Campaign

Heather Mobley, Vice Chair of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) and Staff Attorney, presented for the Board's consideration a resolution in support of The State of North Carolina providing recurring funds for Juvenile Crime Prevention programs. No county funds are required.

4.5. County Manager - Update on Holloway Group

Kelly Sifford, Interim County Manager, at the request of the Board, provided an update on the Holloway Group. She noted that the legislature's inactivity has impacted the Holloway Group's ability to make significant progress or production on behalf of the county.

A discussion ensued.

This matter was tabled until November's Work Session meeting.

4.6. Boards and Committees - Appointment - Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee (HCCBG)

Chairman Jones reviewed the Board/Committee appointment item and asked if there were any questions or comments.

A discussion ensued regarding all the board appointments. During discussion, the placement for all boards/committees' items was determined for the October Regular Meeting.

4.7. Boards and Committees - Removal - Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee (HCCBG)

Refer to item 4.6.

4.8. Boards and Committees - Removal - Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee (HCCBG)

Refer to item 4.6.

4.9. Boards and Committees - Removal - Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee (HCCBG)

Refer to item 4.6.

4.10. Boards and Committees - Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Refer to item 4.6.

4.11. Boards and Committees - Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Refer to item 4.6.

4.12. Boards and Committees - Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Refer to item 4.6.

4.13 Boards and Committees - Appointment - Region F Aging Advisory Committee

Refer to item 4.6.

4.14. Boards and Committees - Appointment - Tourism Authority

Refer to item 4.6.

5. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

5.1 BOC - Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended for the October 20, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Recognitions and Presentations

- Proclamation - Planning & Development - Weatherization Day 2025
- Proclamation - Veterans Services - Operation Green Light
- Proclamation - Veterans Services - Veterans Day Proclamation

Old Business

- County Manager - Update on Holloway Group

Consent Agenda

- Active Living and Parks - Ordinance Amendment
- Boards and Committees - Appointment - Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)

- Boards and Committees - Removal - Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)
- Boards and Committees - Removal - Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee
- Boards and Committees - Removal - Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee (HCCBG)
- Boards and Committees - Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)
- Boards and Committees - Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)
- Boards and Committees - Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)
- Boards and Committees - Appointment - Region F Aging Advisory Committee
- Boards and Committees - Appointment - Tourism Authority
- Fire Marshal - Cold Water Fire Apparatus Certificate of Need
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) - Resolution Supporting North Carolina Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Legislative Requests for Increased Recurring Funding for Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, Community Programs, Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers, Short-Term Residential Contract Sites, Transitional Living Programs, Medical/Mental Health Crisis Unit Capacity Increase, and North Carolina Secure All Firearms Effectively Campaign
- Sheriff's Office - Awarding of Service Weapon to Detective Eric Brown Upon His Retirement
- Tax Administration - Refund and Release Reports - September 2025

6. Closed Session

6.1 Closed Session - Consult with an Attorney

UPON MOTION of Commissioner Pittman, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board moved to go into closed session to discuss matters related to pending litigation as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

7. Return To Open Session

UPON MOTION of Vice Chair Lindsey, seconded by Commissioner Wortman and unanimously carried, the Board returned to open session.

8. Adjourn

Consensus was to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



Ariadne Olvera

 Ariadne Olvera, Clerk to the Board