

Date: May 11, 2009

AREA: Curriculum and Instruction
AGENDA ITEM(S): Paul Braxton Facility
CONTACT PERSON(S): Superintendent Logan, Mr. Moody, Dr. McCoy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATION

I. Synopsis of Agenda Item (Overview & Purpose)

The Paul Braxton facility requires a great deal of upkeep due to the age and condition of the building. In the upcoming year, if we continue to use the building for preschool, we will need to invest in improvements to the playground and to the building steam system. In considering cost saving measures throughout the district, we have identified the Paul Braxton facility as one significant savings to our maintenance and facilities budget.

The preschool classes in Siler City originally served migrant and Title I four year olds and were housed at Paul Braxton because the Siler City Elementary campus could not accommodate them. The classes are no longer solely Title I or migrant classrooms and serve students representing all segments of our student population. There are four Chatham County Schools preschool classes housed at Paul Braxton and two preschool classes associated with Chatham Child Development Center (CCDC), a part of the Chapel Hill Training Outreach Program.

We now have space available at Virginia Cross for three of the CCS preschool classrooms and Siler City Elementary has space for the fourth preschool CCS classroom. CCDC will need to find another space for their two classes. Also, 4 CCS itinerant preschool exceptional children staff persons who will need to have a base in a school building and our preschool coordinator and secretary will need a space. We are discussing these space issues with appropriate staff.

II. Organizational Impact (Academic, Fiscal & Personnel)

There are many advantages to moving the preschool classes from the Paul Braxton facility. Among these:

1. Housing the preschool classrooms at SCE and VCE allows preschool students to attend preschool in the same building they will attend as kindergarteners. Families and children can begin to form relationships with the principal, teachers, and staff and therefore aid in transition to kindergarten for children and families.
2. Currently our preschool coordinator spends the majority of her time acting as a building administrator for the six classrooms located at Paul Braxton. This move will free her to support all preschools in our district and to assist us in long range planning and implementation of preschool services in our district.



3. We will save funds for the building upkeep at Paul Braxton. This year we anticipate a minimum of \$14,000 in playground renovation and \$30,000 for steam repair. In addition, we will save approximately \$4,500 in ongoing maintenance costs; \$1,800 in yearly electricity costs; and \$720 in lunch transportation costs and \$735 in lunch preparation costs. These costs do not include those unexpected, but likely, maintenance emergencies that occur in buildings of this age and condition.
4. The vacated Paul Braxton facility will be available for much needed district storage space.

III. Superintendent's Recommendation

Close the Paul Braxton facility to students and staff and utilize the building for storage.

IV.

Suggested Motion: I move that the Board of Education approve the closing of the Paul Braxton facility.