Welcome!

From Dissolution to Resurrection

School District of Florence County & Miron Construction Co., Inc.

WSPRA Annual Fall Conference | November 9, 2017
Positively Affect the Lives of Children
The Facts

- Florence, county seat of Florence County
- Only school district in the county
- Low per-pupil spending
- Declining enrollment
  - 1998: 900 students
  - 2005: 600 students
  - 2017: 383 students (+14 since 2016)
- Consolidation of district buildings
- Recession = exodus of local industries
May 11, 2004 – Non-Recurring Referendum for District Operation and Maintenance

February 15, 2005 – Non-Recurring Referendum for District Operation and Maintenance

June 28, 2005 – Non-Recurring Referendum for District Operation and Maintenance

$214,000
Road to Resurrection

• Rebuild general fund
• 10-year capital plan
• Staff accountability
• Maintain class offerings
• Regain the trust of the community
The positive change in culture within our district has occurred not just from within, but from outside the walls via a supportive county that shows great pride in its school system.
Success & Growth

• Business collaborations & partnerships
  • Florence County Economic Development Program
  • Local colleges
  • Local businesses
  • Community Fab Lab

• Professional Learning Community (PLC) model
  • Positive change in culture
    • Major disciplinary referrals decreased 57%
  • Strong strides in closing achievement gap

• Successful $14.5 million dollar referendum
#1 - Start Early

Putting in the time...

12 organized meetings over 13 months
#2 - Build a Strong Team
Dear Florence County,

As of the end of October, all of the state aid and budget numbers have been finalized. Great news for the taxpayers of the School District, as taxes will be slightly less than what we were projecting over the past few months. At the School Board’s October 24th meeting, the final tax levy was approved. We projected the mill rate to be $8.61, but upon receiving final certified aid and property values from the state, it will be lower than expected at $8.45. Additionally, the final debt payment for Florence Elementary and Hillcrest will be less than annual amounts in recent years due to the district refinancing this debt several years ago at a lower interest rate.

The most commonly asked question outside of the process and final recommendation for the Community Force was “How will this affect the tax impact to the local property owner?”

This graph illustrates relations. The most recent historical mill rate, along with what was estimated and the estimated rate for this current year. Again this year, the mill rate will be $8.45.

The graph shows data relative to the surrounding school districts.

School District of Florence County Fab Lab

The Forest Republican

Frog Country

WJMQ-FM 92.3
The Board of Education of the School District of Florence County authorizes the creation of a Community Facility Task Force to be charged with the task of seeking solutions to our district’s facility needs. The Community Facility Task Force is charged to review all pertinent information regarding our facilities, based upon the outcomes of a soon-to-be-completed assessment of all of our facilities...

Engage all stakeholders: staff, administration, community members, business owners, civic organizations, etc.
#5 - Assess the Needs

- Facilities assessment
- Space program
- Identify needs
- Prioritize needs
- Create options

Quantify opinions
- Facilities Task Force
- Community-wide survey

Build Recommendation
#6 - Evaluate Financial Impact

- **Objective**
  - Needs vs. wants

- **Complex**
  - Perception vs. reality

- **Proactive**
  - Cost of doing nothing

- **Comparisons**
  - Historic
  - Local districts
#7 - Be Open to New Ideas
#8 - Keep it Simple
Celebrations