



ROANOKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

5937 Cove Rd. Roanoke, VA 24019
(540) 562-3900 x 10112

February 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

Board Members:

Chairman
Donald T. Butzer
Catawba
Magisterial
District

Vice Chairman
Mike A. Wray
Cave Spring
Magisterial
District

David M. Linden
Hollins
Magisterial
District

Tim D. Greenway
Vinton
Magisterial
District

Jason B. Moretz
Windsor Hills
Magisterial
District

The Roanoke County School Board would like your support in urging the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors to approve funding for a new Burton Center for the Arts and Technology. Specifically, we asked the Board of Supervisors to agree to placing a financing bond referendum on the ballot in November 2021. If the bond referendum is approved by the voters in Roanoke County, construction of the new Burton Center would begin during the summer of 2023. The existing Burton Center is located within the jurisdiction of Salem City. The building was completed in 1962 and is in a flood plain. The existing building has far exceeded its useful life and cannot be renovated. The new center for the arts, the trades and technology would be built adjacent to the Roanoke County School System Administrative offices located on Cove Road.

Under the existing school construction funding allocation provided by the County Government funding for a new Burton Center would not be available until 2031.

Why do we need a new center for the arts, trades and technology? A modern facility would be beneficial for many reasons including new opportunities to collaborate with business and industry and the community in ways the current facility does not allow. Correctly implemented, a new facility could allow for additional capacity to serve more students as well as increase collaboration with outside partners to enhance workforce and economic development in Roanoke County. As applications continue to remain high for certain programs, maintaining or increasing capacity for RCPS students to be able to participate in the “right programs for the right reasons” remains essential. A new, modern facility would send a strong signal regarding the value and economic importance of CTE programs.

Please contact your member on the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and ask them to approve placing a bond initiative on the November 2021 ballot. Cost estimates for the new center are \$50M. Their email addresses are listed below.

dradford@roanokecountyva.gov
pnorth@roanokecountyva.gov
pmahoney@roanokecountyva.gov
mhooker@roanokecountyva.gov
jpeters@roanokecountyva.gov

If you would like to learn more about the benefits to the students and the community in supporting a bond referendum to build a new center, please review the document entitled “Burton Moving Forward” found on the BCAT website at www.rcps.us/BCATmovingforward.

Sincerely,

Donald T. Butzer
Chairman Roanoke County School Board-Catawba District
540-553-2380