



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 3, 2014

### **Wilmington Chamber Board Passes Resolution in Support of Proposed School Bond**

Wilmington, N.C. —The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce board of directors expressed their support today for making improvements at area schools by passing a resolution in favor of the \$160 million bond referendum proposed by the New Hanover County School system. Funds from the bond would be used to construct additional schools, renovate existing facilities, improve safety and security, and upgrade technology.

Superintendent Tim Markley presented the case for the bond at the Chamber’s April board meeting. The data presented included the following:

- facility needs at area schools total more than \$390 million;
- New Hanover County Schools are already 3,548 students over capacity (1,960 elementary, 422 middle, and 1,166 high school students) and are projected to add another 3,000 students in the next seven years; and
- 84 mobile units are already being relied on to house students, the equivalent of three elementary schools.

“There are huge needs at our area schools and we need to invest in building and technology improvements so that we are not short-changing students and so Wilmington continues to be an attractive location for business,” said Chamber Board Chairman Rickey Godwin (McGladrey LLP). “The Chamber board recognizes the seriousness of the issues at the schools and urges the County Commissioners and general public to support the proposed bond.”

The resolution passed by the Chamber board is attached.

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