

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**April 21, 2022**

**OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**OFFICE OF SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOLS**

M. Approval of a new school site for the Stone County School District

Background and Purpose: Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-315, the Stone County School District requests approval of a site for the construction of a new Stone High CTE Center/Proposed Stone County High School (with an enrollment of 670 students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade). The site is located on the west side of Highway 49 at the intersection of Highway 49 and Highway 29/Woodland Drive.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

NINA SHAW  
Beat One

DIANE JOHNSON  
Beat Two

JACOB SMITH  
Beat Three

# Stone County School District

Inita Owen, Superintendent  
214 Critz Street • Wiggins, MS 39577

Telephone: 601-928-7247 • Fax: 601-928-5122

RODNEY BEECH  
Beat Four

JULIE BOND  
Beat Five

January 5, 2022

Mr. Tyrone Dixon, School Facilities Supervisor  
School Buildings and Grounds  
Safe and Orderly Schools  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

RE: Site Approval of New School Construction

Dear Mr. Dixon,

The Stone County School District respectfully requests permission to have the following site approved for the construction of a new Career Technical Education Center as well as a proposed new High School.

## Stone High CTE Center/Proposed Stone High School

### Justification

- To provide a Career Technical Education Center for the district. The CTE courses are currently being housed at the high school as well as rented facilities within the area.

### Location

- The proposed site is located to the west side of Hwy 49 at the intersection of Hwy 49 & Hwy 29/Woodland Drive

### Grades/Enrollment

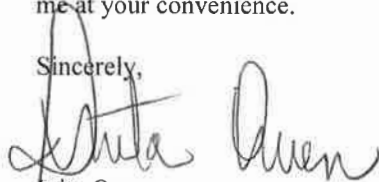
- 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Enrollment count approximately 670 students for the high school

### Method of Financing

- 80% of the CTE Center will be financed with funds from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund, 20% with District Funds
- A proposed bond issue will fund the high school

I hope this information is sufficient for State Board of Education approval. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Inita Owen  
Superintendent  
Stone County School District

**EVALUATION OF PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL SITE**

Regardless of the source of funds, new school facilities shall not be constructed on any new site until the site has been submitted to and approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education. School sites will be approved according to the criteria established by the Mississippi State Board of Education.

One of the most important steps in the new building program is the selection of an adequate site. The site should be convenient to streets and roads and should be planned so as to avoid traffic hazards. It is recommended that an elementary school should have 5 acres of land with one additional acre for each 100 students enrolled. A high school site should have at least 15 acres of land with one additional acre for each 100 students enrolled. The following minimum requirements must be met or exceptions noted and approved:

1. The site serves an area with enough children (present and future) to warrant its existence as a school center.
2. The site is located in a reasonable proximity to the present and future school population.
3. The site environment is free of the odors, dust, dirt, noise and smoke that are usually associated with factories, stockyards, railroads, mills, agricultural chemical aerial spraying, etc. The site is free of hazardous waste.
4. Public utilities such as electric power, water, sewerage, telephone, fire protection and gas service are available to the site.
5. The size of the site is sufficient to provide adequately for the educational program of both the present and the anticipated future.
6. The site grounds are at sufficient elevation to prevent flooding or standing water.
7. The sub-soil conditions are such that foundations, footings, athletic fields and lagoons can be built.
8. The site can be purchased at a fair market price. Copies of two certified appraisals of the land must be attached whenever the purchase price is greater than \$50,000.00. Please refer to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(aa).
9. A survey plat of the property is provided with this application.
10. The proposed new school site is plotted on the school district map and is provided with this application.
11. The site is accessible by both vehicles and pedestrians.

*Exceptions to the above minimum requirements must be noted and explained in detail.*

**Additional information for proposed new school site:**

1. **Physical location of the proposed site** The site is located to the west side  
of Hwy 49 at the intersection of Hwy 49 & Hwy 29/Woodland Drive.
2. **Grades to be housed/served** 9th through 12th grade
3. **Student enrollment count** 672
4. **Is the proposed new site located on 16<sup>th</sup> section land owned by the school district?**  
 Yes       No

If yes, how many acres are available? 85 Acres

If no, please describe the financing of the site purchase or explain how the land was acquired and the number of acres available for the proposed school site.  
(attach documentation)

All of the 85 acres does belong and has been deeded to the Stone County School District 40 acres of this property was donated by two local businessmen, Dan O'Neal and Wynn Alexander. The other 45 acres was purchased as in lieu lands for the sale of 16th section property in the southern part of the county. These 45 acres will be classified as 16th section. All 85 acres of this property is owned free and clear by the district.

**5. Will the school district have fee simple title?**

Yes       No

**6. Is there organized opposition to the proposed site based on, but not limited to, the location of the school, acquisition of the land, safety issues, and/or community concerns?**

Yes       No

If yes, please explain.

**7. Please provide justification of the need for the proposed school site.**

The Stone County School District recently received a Gulf Coast Restoration Grant that is enabling us to build our first Career and Technical Education Center. The current location of the Stone High School is landlocked and does not have room for any new construction. Our ideal situation is to build the CTE Center on the newly purchased property as well as a proposed new high school. They should be located within close proximity to each other to best serve our high school students.

We would also like to use this property to build a stadium for athletic events. We have always used and currently rent the MGCCC Perkinston Campus Stadium. However, it is apparent that we need to move forward and have our own facilities. The community has embraced this opportunity and the school board feels that this is the right time to move forward with our CTE Center, newly proposed school and athletic stadium.

In addition, relocating would also give the district a great opportunity to use the vacated building to offer PK a program and a Boys and Girls Club which we have never had room for. Both of these highly successful programs are offered in other communities and we would love to give our students the same benefits and opportunities to succeed.

Last but not least, we believe that being able to build at this location will enable us to facilitate safety measures on this new campus that are lacking at the secondary level now. We will also construct the building to meet the design and technology aspects needed for producing a prepared workforce and more importantly, productive citizens.

We, the President of the Board of Education/Trustees and the Superintendent of the

Stone County School District hereby certify to the Mississippi State Board of

Education that this Evaluation of Proposed New School Site for the construction of

A CTE Center/Proposed New High School location at off of Woodland Drive/Hwy 49, Wiggins  
(street or rural route, city)

meets the minimum requirements previously stated or exceptions have been properly noted. Further, this Evaluation of Proposed New School Site has been duly adopted and approved by the Board of Education/Trustees of the Stone County School District as evidenced by action taken by the Board of Education/Trustees of the Stone County School District at an official board meeting held on the

3rd Day of January, 2022.

President

Jacob H. Smith (Print)  
Jacob H. Smith (Sign)  
1/3/22 (Date)

Superintendent

Janita Owen (Print)  
Janita Owen (Sign)  
1/3/22 (Date)

School Board Attorney

SEAN A. COURTNEY (Print)  
Sean A. Courtney (Sign)  
1/3/22 (Date)  
Rhonda M. Burton



Notary Public

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this  
the day of 3 January, 2022.