

Request for Approval – MVES Sinkhole and Playground Pad Project

From Eisa Cox <eisa.cox@ashe.k12.nc.us>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 10:35 PM

To Todd McNeill <toddmcneill@ashecountygov.com>

Cc Josh Roten <josh.roten@ashe.k12.nc.us>; Jody Corum <jody.corum@ashe.k12.nc.us>; Amanda Coldiron <amanda.coldiron@ashe.k12.nc.us>; Adam Stumb <adam.stumb@ashecountygov.com>

 12 attachments (10 MB)

Ashe County Schools - Letter - Mountain View Elementary - Storm Drainage Recommendation.pdf; wolverineexcavationllc_estimate_297.pdf; Mountain View - Concrete Play Area - Photo 1.jpg; Mountain View - Concrete Play Area - Photo 2.jpg; Mountain View - End of Existing Pipe.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Path.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Photo 1.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Photo 2.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Photo 3.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Photo 4.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Photo 5.jpg; Mountain View - Excavated Pipe Photo 6.jpg;

Good evening, Todd. I hope you have enjoyed your travels this week. Thank you for keeping the High Country in the minds of our national leaders.

As I shared on the phone earlier this week, we would like to request permission from the county to use the remaining funds from the chiller project toward addressing the MVES sinkhole and installing the playground pad. One unknown at this point is whether the playground will remain usable once the work is completed. Should the playground need replaced, not just the pad, we would like to use some of the remaining funds to complete this project. At this time, we only know of the \$61,060 needed.

Attached you will find:

- Photos of the site
- The vendor's explanation
- Project cost estimate
- Timeline from Amanda

As you can see in the photos, this project started out as a FEMA request as the sinkhole formed following the tremendous rain of Hurricane Helene. For your convenience, the key project details are summarized below:

Drain/Sinkhole Project Timeline

- Spring 2025: Solicited quotes from three vendors (two responded after multiple attempts)
 - Wolverine: \$38,436 (selected)
 - Osborne Land Development: \$52,000
 - Carolina Grading and Utility: No response
- An engineer hired per FEMA's recommendation to monitor the project
- Wolverine began work on 9/8/25

- The engineer determined that the pipes leading to the sinkhole were deteriorated due to age (see attached letter and photos)
- State FEMA liaison confirmed that this is not FEMA mitigation work and will not be covered
- Received a change order from Wolverine for the total project cost: \$75,300 (a \$36,864 increase)
- FEMA will cover \$14,240 related to sinkhole damage from Hurricane Helene
- **Request:** \$61,060 from County funds previously appropriated for the chiller project

Chiller Project Cost Savings

- Initial cost analysis was completed in early 2024, before chiller manufacturing stabilized
- The vendor included electrical work that NC DPI School Planning later deemed unnecessary
- Costs have decreased due to improved availability of chillers
- Using NC DPI School Planning for design and bidding resulted in lower costs and free design services for Ashe County Schools
- **Available Funds:** \$363,860 remains from county-allocated chiller funds

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support. Let me know if you have questions.

Dr. Eisa M. Cox
Superintendent
Ashe County Schools
Eisa.Cox@Ashe.k12.nc.us
 336-246-7175 Office



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LURAY ENGINEERING SERVICES, P.C.

PO Box 71 – 716 Mount Jefferson Road
West Jefferson, NC 28694
(336) 846-2555

September 10, 2025

Ashe County Schools

PO Box 604

Jefferson, NC 28640

Attn: Jody Corum, Maintenance Director

Re: Mountain View Elementary School in Jefferson, NC
Site Inspection and Evaluation – Storm Drainage System

Dear Mr. Corum,

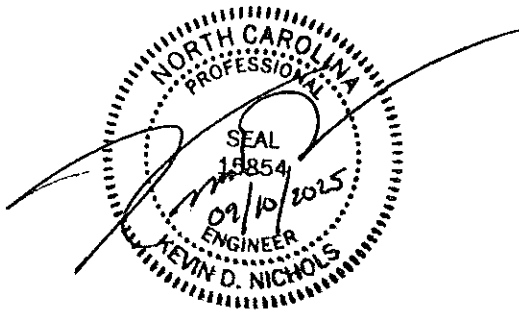
I performed a visual inspection of the site at Mountain View Elementary School located in Jefferson, NC on Monday, September 8, 2025, to evaluate the condition of the remaining existing storm drainage pipe after the removal of the existing collapsed storm drainage pipe that had caused a sinkhole in the surface of the ground as indicated in my previous letter dated February 12, 2025. The previous letter addressed the remediation of the sinkhole area due to the rain associated with Hurricane Helene on Friday, September 27, 2024. This inspection is intended to cover the portions of the site that could be examined visually. No excavation, removal of surface materials, or any other means was used to examine any subsurface conditions on or around the premises that could not be examined visually.

Based on my inspection after the excavation of the ground and the removal of the existing collapsed pipe, the remaining existing 24" diameter galvanized corrugated metal pipe that was visible was deteriorated, rusted through on the bottom of the pipe and subsequently needs to be replaced. My recommendation is to remove and replace the existing 24" galvanized corrugated metal pipe from the catch basin at the corner of the parking lot down to the creek where the existing pipe originally drained with a 30" corrugated double wall (smooth interior) plastic pipe. It is my understanding that there is approximately 260 lf of existing metal pipe to be removed and replaced. Included in this demolition of the pipe is the removal and replacement of the concrete play area along the pipe's route that must be removed and repoured after the storm drainage pipe is replaced. All new pipe will be installed and backfilled per the manufacturer's recommendations, and all backfill will be compacted to support the new concrete pad and subsequent lawn area.

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Mountain View Elementary
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I have attached a few photos of the excavated pipe and the end of the pipe above the sinkhole area. I have also attached photos of the concrete play area that will be affected by the removal and replacement of the existing storm drainage pipe.

If you have any questions, please call me anytime.



Sincerely,

Luray Engineering Services, P.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Kevin D. Nichols", written over the company name.

Kevin D. Nichols, P.E.
President