

| Agenda Item | cover sheet

for consideration by the Apex Town Council

Item Type: CONSENT AGENDA

Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

Item Details

Presenter(s): Councilmember Terry Mahaffey, Sponsor
Jeff Hasting, President, Apex Historical Society

Department(s): Governing Body

Requested Motion

Receive as information an update on the Rosenwald School Project in Apex.

Approval Recommended?

Yes

Item Details

The "Apex School" built in 1932, now known as Apex Elementary School, was an original Rosenwald School funded by the Rosenwald Foundation. Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck and Co. offered matching funds to rural black communities for pre-designed schools on landscaped lots with playing fields. The initial cost of the school construction was estimated to be \$11,200 and the land was donated by the Baldwin Family.

The Apex Rosenwald School was a "four teacher school" and most of the materials were shipped by Sears, Roebuck and Company to the site by Train. Over 100 black and brown students attended the school. In 1942, the Apex Rosenwald School was the first Negro School in Wake County to be accredited by the N.C. State Department of Education. During the mid-forties, Apex Elementary became Apex Junior High with grades 1 through 9. In the fifties, a 10th and 11th grade was added. The school became Apex Consolidated High School. By 1970, a 12th grade was added.

The original school building is located in Apex. A group of residents from the Friendship Community, Councilmember Mahaffey, Apex Historical Society, Capital Area Preservation, and a number of key Town Staff have been meeting to develop a plan for the restoration of this building, potential sites that would be suitable, and the future of this facility with such rich history.

Several neighboring communities have restored Rosenwald Schools including Panther Creek, Sanford, and even Zebulon.

Attachments

- N/A

