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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The architectural firm of Hobbs & Black Associates of Lansing has been selected by Charlotte Public Schools (CPS) officials to complete all remaining design work relating to the district's November 2010 voter approved bond proposal.

The district had previously engaged the services of Beta Design of Grand Rapids. "We decided to seek a new design partner when two of Beta's architects, the two individuals we had worked so closely with over the past two years, suddenly chose to leave the firm," said CPS superintendent Dr. Nancy Hipskind. "Fortunately for the district, it took place at a time when a smooth transition could be facilitated without affecting our previously approved budget.

"We recently interviewed numerous design firms and because many of them participated in our original selection process, we were already quite familiar what they have to offer. Hobbs & Black was a close runner-up when we hired Beta. By hiring them, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to engage the services of local firms and vendors whenever possible."

Phase 1 of the district's bond issue is currently underway at Parkview Elementary School and work will begin at Washington Elementary within the next two weeks.

Individuals seeking additional information about CPS's current district-wide improvement program are encouraged to phone Mark Rosekrans, assistant superintendent of operations, at 517.541.5113, or to visit [www.charlottebond2010.com](http://www.charlottebond2010.com).

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