



January 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tuscaloosa City Schools is in the concluding construction stage of an ambitious \$180M building plan which includes large and small scale renovations and new schools. We embarked on this plan with a vision of making all of our facilities first-class and of high quality. It was our goal to make sure each building and each classroom had the same level of high quality so that our students and teachers across our system could have optimal teaching and learning environments. This plan could not have been done without quality partners like Ward Scott Architecture.

Ward Scott works collaboratively with the other architecture firms, construction managers, and general contractors. In a project this large, we rely heavily on the expertise of our architects and construction managers. Ward Scott is easy to work with, easy to connect with other partners in other projects, and very responsive. In order to pull off a building plan at this scale, it meant that all of the groups had to work together so that we could have the same level of quality and consistency in each project. Ward Scott delivers in every aspect of this requirement. They met with our school personnel to get their input, they met with our system team bi-monthly with updates, and they were always a phone call away. They always make their expertise available to me, to our staff, and to our Board of Education. In our many construction meetings, they listened carefully to our input and they provided professional and accurate guidance and direction.

Ward Scott delivers quality designs of which we are enormously proud. As we close the construction phase of this plan, we are able to step back and look at facilities in which we have a lot of pride. Ward Scott pushed the envelope on school design while also delivering function grounded in school safety, positive teaching and learning environments, and practicality. Ward Scott took one of our oldest buildings and renovated it to match the beauty and quality of a new facility. We have other examples of older schools where they recommended keeping some portion of them for cost savings and rebuilding the rest. The results are partially new schools with some existing spaces that look amazing and function perfectly. They assisted us in

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minor renovations that they treated with the same care and expertise as large, new school projects.

Aside from quality design and service, Ward Scott has architects with strong integrity and commitment to their work. I invite you to visit any of our schools served by Ward Scott where you will see incredible function and design as well as thousands of satisfied students, teachers, parents, and board members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MDaria", is positioned above the typed name.

Mike Daria, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MD/Jf