

Rebuilding Nicholas County Schools Mediation Process

Compilation of Public Input April 26, 2018

This document compiles all public input received by the [Consensus Building Institute \(CBI\)](#) on behalf of the mediation team between March 29, 2018 and April 24, 2018. Public input was received via email at ncschoolsmediation@cbi.org and in the form of public comment cards, index cards, and sticky notes placed on posters at a public workshop held on April 12, 2018. All forms of public input are treated equally and all public input is provided to the mediation team (comprised of representatives of the West Virginia Board of Education and the Nicholas County Board of Education) for their review.

Comments are reproduced here as they were received, with slight edits or redactions made in some cases to protect the identity of the commenter or to remove references to specific individuals named in comments. In addition, in some cases individuals providing input via email provided comment in the form of attachments and those have been appended to this document.

Please feel free to contact CBI with any questions or concerns about this document at ncschoolsmediation@cbi.org. Comments about the mediation emailed to this address will continue to be compiled and shared with the mediation team throughout the mediation process.

Date	Comments
3/29/18	Media Communications: Participants agree not to speak independently to the media about the ongoing deliberations, but rather to work through neutral and jointly-acceptable statements. No participant (mediation team of 3 ncboe) will attribute statements to others involved, seek to present or represent the views or position of other members, nor attempt to speak on behalf of the deliberations as a whole in or to the media. "Media" for these purposes includes the press, television, radio, websites, social media, blogs, and any public information distribution mechanism. Participants will abide by these ground rules in "all communications during in and out of meetings. Apparently you have a Leaker among you. the rumor on the street is that you already have a decision and Richwood is not getting their High School back, but a 1-8 school. We have attended all but 2 of your board meetings and have heard nothing about this. Can you explain why this information is floating around?
3/30/18	Does this seem equitable? Months ago rumors soared that _____ would continue to build her palace in Summersville and would throw up a shack in Richwood so everyone would transfer to Summersville. This looks like that plan. Why is the vocational school moving to Summersville? If there are going to be two high schools in Nicholas County, why destroy a perfectly good Career Center? If they want the Summersville schools to be with the Career Center, why not build their schools in Craigsville and save LOTS of money. Why destroy Nicholas County High School that is supposed to be refitted for the elementary school; if it is fit for elementary students, then it is fit for high school students. Are we trying to save Summersville and the Business Park or trying to do what is best for ALL the students in Nicholas County. This plan is not good for the elementary students in Nicholas west. It is not the best plan for any student in Nicholas east. If this plan comes to fruition, no bond or levy will every pass in Nicholas County again. That will devastate the education of students attending Summersville Elementary. Even if her plan to retrofit NCHS for elementary students evolves, those children will remain in an unfit school for another 10 years before the retrofitted NCHS is ready. Are these the only plans you have?
3/31/18	The plan not to make vocational classes available to Nicholas east students without them changing schools and traveling an extra 25 miles to the "geographical center of Nicholas County" appears to be in opposition of the The Recht Decision of May, 1982. in the Pauley, et al v. Kelly, et al, lawsuit.
3/31/18	Why did you choose Nicholas County High School for the public meeting? I believe it was discussed in the meeting agreeing on the mediation process that the public meetings would be held in a neutral environment. Pretty sure the high school is not a neutral environment.
3/31/18	We are ready to go. Let's get this show on the road. Students don't deserve to be punished, walking from pod to pod in the rain snow and mud.
3/31/18	To whom it may concern: I read the proposal from Mediation the County Board Posted. I have a few questions. Why does Richwood need a new grade school? Why does NCHS get all new athletic fields and RHS does not? RHS fields were ALL flooded. Will RHS get a Career Center also? What will happen to the existing Career Center in Craigsville? Can RHS still use that as our Career Center? If only NCHS gets a Career Center then how does RHS take Career Classes? Will they be bussed to Summersville? Or will they have to be a student at NCHS to take Career Center Classes? If we get a new grade school in Richwood then could we use the old CRE for a Career Center? Just seems fair for both schools to have a chance to take Career classes at their own schools. Thank you.
3/31/18	I do not feel this plan is in the best interest of every student in Nicholas County. Both schools should have access to a vocational center. Richwood lost two schools, which by the way could have been repaired. I find this proposal a huge waste of taxpayers money. It is said that we should trust our local board, that is hard to do when they have lied to us since day 1. As a teacher in Richwood, I know this email will only make the target on my back get larger. I think equality in education is a must and this plan does not present equality. Sure if the students want to spend more time traveling and being pulled from their community it is, but what about the student who feels safe in the smaller community school? How is it fair to deny them of a vocational course? We stress family time and students who have to travel great distances are deprived of the valuable family time. These students who travel for more than an hour one way do not get to participate in sports or other extra curricular activities. This plan deprives all students of an equal education. I pray that there will be changes made to this proposal to ensure all Nicholas county students can thrive in their given communities.

4/2/18	I am glad that the process is moving forward on our schools. I do not feel that people running for BOE seats should be allowed to speak at the forum on the 12th. They do not need a bully pulpit. 3 of the candidates are very anti consolidation & very anti NCBOE. One has already spoke out against the plan. This plan does not need hijacked by their personal agendas, which is to destroy our BOE.
4/2/18	I am emailing with what I, and others, consider to be a violation of the mediation agreement or at a minimum, statements that will prohibit the process from being received well. As the agreement stated that "No participant will attribute statements to others involved or seek to present or represent the views or position of other members nor attempt to speak on the behalf of the deliberations as a whole and or to the media." I stated in a previous email, the ABC PAC is a Political Action Committee that was formed to support three candidates seeking election to the NCBOE, one of which is Mr. Fred Amick who serves on the mediation team. As this organization is anonymous, no one can be certain who is behind it and where the information this organization presents comes from. However, and current BOE member, , have a direct connection to this PAC as they rode through a parade in a truck sponsored by the PAC and giving out gifts purchases by the PAC. Also, current Board employee , Director of Personnel, brought a banner to the truck the candidates/BOE members rode in at the parade. You can understand with this connection, as well as signs sponsored by the PAC on at least two current NCBOE members property, that people feel there is a DIRECT connection between this group and the members of the NCBOE and mediation team. I have attached screenshots of Facebook posts from the ABC PAC. Additionally, I'll point out that the recent statement issued stated that the NCBOE was financially sound however this organization continues to undermine that by stating the opposite and insulting a significant portion of the county with the amount they pay in taxes. I hope that you will follow up on these issues.
4/3/18	I recently read your suggested proposed plan which would build a small K-12 school in Richwood and a comprehensive middle, high and vo tech school at Glade Creek. I am very much in favor of this plan.
4/3/18	Hello, I would like to be able to show my support for the proposed mediation plan but I won't be able to attend on April 12th.
4/3/18	I just want all of the students in Nicholas County to have a permanent place to go to school.
4/3/18	To whom it may concern: I am sorry that I am unable to attend the public meeting scheduled for April 12 as I will be out of town. I want to let you know of my support for the mediation plan submitted. I have spoken at 2 Board of Education meetings in regard to the consolidation process. At the second meeting, I concentrated on the need for a centralized votech in the county and you can view my individual comments on the SCTV video. As a public defender here in Summersville for over thirty (30) years, I can assure you that my clients do not usually attend post-secondary schools, and it is my firm belief that a centralized votech would greatly assist my clients in obtaining job skills and subsequent employment. Many of my clients over the years have indicated to me that they do not attend the votech because it required additional bussing. Some students could not participate in AP classes and still attend votech because of scheduling issues because of the 2 locations. I also noted in my speech that very few from Richwood attended vo tech programs because they could not participate in both band and votech and the band was the preferred choice of the vast majority of the Richwood High School student population. After my speech, the I am Richwood page made numerous derogatory comments about my speech on the expansion of the vo tech program. made particular fun of some of the job skills that could be provided, which included dog grooming. He obviously is not aware of the fact that some people, including many of my clients, could actually learn that vocation and provide a good living for their family instead of collecting a monthly check from the State of West Virginia. I believe the mediation team came up with a great compromise that gives Richwood the small community school they desire, but also gives the majority of students in Nicholas County a chance for an excellent comprehensive educational component which will be available to all students in the county regardless of where they live. I will note that, in my opinion, there will be many Richwood students that will choose to attend the comprehensive high school when given a choice. Thank you for your consideration of my comments and your hard work in coming up with this proposal.
4/3/18	I am a working/ tax paying Nicholas County resident. My wife and I are the parents of two young children who will eventually attend one of our county's middle and high schools. I cannot attend the upcoming meeting on April 12. However, I would like show my support for the current proposed configurations and locations of our county's schools. I think the mediation process has been successful and the current plan of a small school in Richwood and a large comprehensive facility in a central location is fair. I also agree that the centrally located facility should house the vocational school. Most importantly I feel that this configuration is what is best for our students and our county's future. Thank you for taking time to read this.
4/3/18	I will be unable to attend the public comment meeting on April 12th. As someone with 2 children in the Nicholas County school system, I would just like to express my support for the plan released by the mediation team. I think that it takes into consideration all groups and areas of the county. Thank you for working together to reach a fair compromise.

4/3/18	I may not be able to attend the workshop on April 12, 2018. However, I wanted to let you know that I am in full support of Plan A. I am a graduate of NCHS, my daughter is a graduate of NCHS and presently my niece will be in grade for the next school year. These kids will be the same ones affected by continued mediation. It would be nice for her to have a school that she can proudly be an alumni from. Monetarily Nicholas County can not support multiple schools. Summersville City is and has been providing financial assistance to Richwood Schools for a while now. Before the RHS was torn down, Summersville City was asked to pay for the blinds in the school. The economic situation is dismal in Richwood. I would think a readily accessible hospital and law enforcement would be of great interests to all with the threats of increased safety of our school children. Please consider this and do what is in best interest of all involved. Let's get these kids schools, Plan A is acceptable
4/3/18	I am a parent of a Richwood High School student and I also support your plan to build a comprehensive high school and vote in Summersville and pre k-12 in Richwood. My son deserves the best education possible and I believe the plan for the Summersville School will provide just that. I cannot attend the meeting, but I do thank you for all the work that you have put in to resolving this problem.
4/4/18	I fully support school consolidation in Nicholas County. While the present proposal is not the most cost effective for taxpayers. It does represent a settlement between the different groups. Please note for the record all the many fiscal issues with the Richwood city's varied problems and potential insolvency. Richwood corporation used to be the largest district by population and property taxes that support schools and local government. It is now the very smallest in the county by both population and tax base. In turn Summersville Corporation is now the largest in the county. Good effective schools and government was the basis for sound decisions regarding all children in Nicholas County. Very disappointing that politics got in the way!
4/4/18	This antagonistic language appears nowhere in the mediation post by you: since is the "A" in the ABC of this post and both he and are the NCBOE, they are responsible for this announcement. In addition, they add the WVBOE to this, implying your approval. Did you authorize and participate in this release? If not, are they not in violation of the media communications protocol which states; "Participants are not to speak independently to the media about ongoing deliberations. . . No participant will attribute statements of others involved, seek to present or represent the views or position of their members, nor attempt to speak on behalf of the deliberations as a whole in or to the media." Why hold the FEMA hearings in Summersville instead of Richwood, the community most affected by the flooding? Could there not be two meetings, one in each town? What difference does it make that the Nicholas County Career and Technical Center be in the "geographical" center of the county? Only the two high schools participate in the program and the current school is exactly centered to both. The building was not touched by flooding and this faculty has expressed a desire to remain there at the previous hearings. Why does FEMA even include schools which did not sustain any damage in the deliberations? Do they plan to waste money on a new athletic field within sight of an already premier complex while Richwood students may travel up to three miles to their field? Are they really going to allow the purchase of up to 80 acres at a cost of \$4 million?
4/4/18	I am a tax paying citizen of Nicholas County and I do have a child that will be affected by the proposed plan to rebuild the schools. I am FULLY in support of the proposed plan, it is by far the best and most economical plan that the mediation team could agree on. My only concern is, can the town of Richwood, with its current infrastructure problems, (i.e. water and sewerage) support a K-12 school.
4/4/18	During the agreement of mediation between the State Board and the Nicholas County BOE it was stated the public meetings would be held on neutral grounds. This was discussed in this meeting. I have emailed the mediation team with my concerns and have not received any word back from them. I ask you to please require a meeting to be held on neutral territory or hold one in Summersville and Richwood. Nicholas County High School is not neutral ground.
4/4/18	I was a member of the Richwood mediation group who met with you at the public library there. We are very upset over here that information about the Nicholas schools workshop in April is being shared on the ONC website. Details about how it will be conducted. This implies they are getting information from the Nicholas Board office. I hope the state board and Superintendent understand how this undermines our trust in the mediation process.
4/4/18	I am a tax paying citizen of Nicholas County and I do have a child that will be affected by the proposed plan to rebuild the schools. I am FULLY in support of the proposed plan, it is by far the best and most economical plan that the mediation team could agree on. My only concern is, can the town of Richwood, with its current infrastructure problems, (i.e. water and sewerage) support a K-12 school.
4/4/18	I am sorry but I believe in my heart that the plan is unfair to RHS students...There is a lot of RHS students that go to the votech my daughter a year ago couldn't get in the class she wanted because it was full..That is punishing RHS students to go to a school that they won't like just cause of the votech..I believe if you can't offer different vo tech classes at each high school than I believe the vo tech needs to stay were it is at between the 2 schools..I believe there is more RHS students that attend votech than NCHS someone needs to check on that..In order for them to get the glade creek industrial park to put a school there it has to have a vo tech in it from what I am told..Might want to check on that also...I am just worried that the RHS is not getting a fair shake in this at all

4/5/18	I appreciate all the time that you have spent in trying to arrive at a solution for Nicholas County. I also understand that the mediation process needs to involve the primary litigants. However, you obviously recognize that the pro community schools people need to be involved or nothing will ever be solved. It appears that a two hour workshop will not be sufficient for all concerned individuals to express their concerns. Will there be other workshops? Will individuals be able to express their desires if they do not have an opportunity to attend the workshop? There are so many negotiation points that need to be evaluated that you have a long road ahead of you.
4/5/18	I recently read your suggested proposed plan which would build a small K-12 school in Richwood and a comprehensive middle, high and vo tech school at Glade Creek. As a taxpayer and voting citizen of this county, I am very much in favor of this plan. I will be in Mobile Alabama on the 12 April meeting date and unable to express this view at that time. However, I wanted my support to be noted. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please remain steadfast in delivering on this initiative. It is way past time to start buying land and finalizing the construction plans.
4/5/18	I would like to share my dissatisfaction with the initial proposal. As a parent of students that attend RHS, this is nothing short of an insult. Richwood students deserve an equal education. Moving the career center to Summersville is unfair to the RHS students who may want to participate. I'm also concerned with the proposal of building a K-12 in Richwood when there is not a need for a new elementary school. As a taxpayer I believe that is a wasteful plan. Our students deserve an equal opportunity to participate in sports and extracurricular activities. We currently have one gym that is shared between both middle and high schools. It is difficult for our athletes to get adequate practice because there is not an additional gym for them to utilize. I'm a taxpayer, I'm a parent and it truly breaks my heart when my girls ask me why their school isn't worth saving. It's hurtful when there is still talk of consolidation as if our kids, and the additional 52 miles from Richwood to Summersville and back is irrelevant. I've driven some long commutes in my career and it's difficult and a waste of time. Students getting up earlier and getting home later is not conducive to a good attitude towards school and learning. I'm not wealthy, politically influential or anything special but I love my children and my community and I believe we deserve to be treated fairly and with considerably more respect.
4/7/18	I thought that you might want to read the Recht decision since the mediators are from out of state and may not be familiar with it.
4/7/18	I really wish I could attend the meeting however due to scheduling conflict I am unable to attend. I do want my opinion to be heard though. I've been silent on this issue for a while only for not wanting to hurt the feelings of my friends that are very vocally Pro-Richwood. To the point that the only opinion that matters is theirs. I feel a lot of people have shared my stance just to avoid the nastiness of some of the Pro-Richwood supporters. It's not that we don't care, we do a lot. We've just chose to take the higher road and not get into conflicts that really don't help the situation at hand. For almost 2 years this divide of our county as raged on. To the point long time friends are no longer friends, opinions have been kept to oneself just to avoid confrontation mostly from the Richwood side. Nobody wanted to have to endure a flood, so much devastation and loss but out of this can come something wonderful for the students of this county. I live in Birch River our little community was destroyed in places by those raging flood waters a few more feet the waters would have made it to our grade school. Seeing a place I love so destroyed, homes I trick and treated as a child gone and my Aunt's old ceramic shop filled with 3 feet of mud I understand the heartbreak faced by those of the flood. The community of Richwood has so much pride in it's town and school yet the land situation makes rebuilding a school very difficult. I understand their sadness at losing their high and middle school. But they are not the only community to lose a school. I attended Nicholas Co. Middle school (it was still the junior high then) there I met me future husband, walked down halls with people I am still friends with today and met educators that I now have the joy of teaching aside. It was difficult to watch that building come down but out of tragedy can come wonderful things if we are open to accept it. The students of this county DESERVE to have the opportunity to receive the best education possible. New schools bring, new technology and new opportunities to bring new programs to the NCCTC. Programs that can excite and enrich the lives of those students who college may just not be for. Having the center on the same campus as the new NCHS campus makes sense, you have a larger portion of the student body that will have the chance to attend if everything is on one camps. Some students want to attend now but due to scheduling conflicts they cant attend. The number of students that attend RHS and RMS makes building 2 career centers not an option. With slowly dwindling enrollment in the Richwood area the town will not be able to support its own career center. It's not only enrollment but space where would you build it. Then staffing, the increased salary pay out from having to staff the career center too. The NCBOE has done a great job of trying to do what's best for the students of this county only to be met with resistance and ridicule from the other side. The proposed K-12 school with new playing fields and gymnasium for the Richwood community and the new high and middle school with career center that will serve the whole county is possibly the best compromise for everyone. The children of Nicholas Co. deserve these schools, as a parent I want my boys to have the best education possible and as a teacher the thought of teaching in a new school with new resources at my disposal makes me really excited for the future and the minds that I help shape. The new proposal has tried to make both sides happy. You wont please everyone though. Someone always wants more. That's just human nature, something no one can avoid no matter how hard you try. Pride in ones town/community isn't a terrible thing but we can't let ourselves become so blinded by it that we miss out on amazing opportunities. This should never have been a Richwood vs Summersville issue but it was made that way. Years ago yes there was a feud but those days are long gone. The old ways need to be that the OLD way. We are ONE COUNTY with ONE GOAL the education of our children. Please lets build these schools, let us move past this we want/they want bickering back and forth and concentrate on educating our children to become successful, contributing members of society. Thank you for listening to my voice in this matter. The mediations may get ugly but we must remember that ultimately it's what's best for the children not TOWN'S.

4/8/18	First of all, let's say that two new teachers and begin a new job at the same school. One teacher is given a pencil and told to go teach the class and is told 'GOOD-LUCK BECAUSE WITH ONLY A PENCIL, YOUR STUDENTS MAY BE SUCCESSFUL BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF WORK AND IF YOU CAN'T TALK KIDS INTO REGISTERING FOR YOUR CLASS---WE WILL JUST GET RID OF YOU" On the other hand, the other teacher is given, not only a pencil, but paper, books, laptops, ipads, and the works.As a student, which teacher would you choose? That is exactly what is being given to RHS/RMS--A PENCIL. NCHS/SMS are being given the works. There is already a divide in the county of the classes being offered to each school. In the final closure hearing, admits that student are given a better variety of classes than the Richwood students and it's been going on for years. Your proposal is absurd because it is further dividing a county that can sustain 2 high schools. I am not sure if you know this, but RHS was under water...including all fields. Yet, Summersville will get 2 new school and all fields. HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THIER FOOTBALL FIELD COMPARED TO RHS? I am not asking for fairness, I am asking that each school be given the essential for BOTH school to sustain for many years to come. The votech was not flooded and does not need moved. That's called taking advantage of the free FEMA money. So my question is: why can each side not get a high school/ middle school and both sides get new fields -----and leave the votech alone? The only reason they want the votech at Glade Park is to get out of a 13 million dollar land agreement that went sourLook into the facts and see that Summersville gets everything....RHS will be gone in 3 years....
4/9/18	I have several concerns about the proposed plan for rebuilding Nicholas county schools. Richwood has an elementary school that does not need replaced at this time. Richwood does, however, need grades 6-12. Both the middle school and the high school were damaged by the flood and located in the floodway. A new 6-12 school with a vocational school would serve the students much better than a K-12 school. If the only CTE is in Summersville, that would restrict many options for our students. If they want a vo tech class, then they would have to travel to Summersville to school. That is unfair to these students. According to the 1982 Recht decision, this is also not legal. Over the years, there have been many laws passed to prevent this exact discrimination to students. The Individual Disabilities Act requires equal opportunity for all students. In the city of Richwood, we have two sawmills. Craigsville has Columbia. There are many local businesses that will benefit from students being educated in the Career and Technical Center. If you make our students be bused all the way to Summersville for school, participation in the CTE for our students will decrease. With the current set up, 17% of RHS students participate in the votech (14% of NCHS students participate). Please rebuild adequate facilities in Richwood for our students.
4/11/18	I will be unable to attend the mediation meeting on April 12th but I wanted to let you know that I am in favor of the proposed plan. Thank you.
4/11/18	*My main concern is who is representing what Richwood's schools need??? We know it's not the NCBOE because they all voted to close Richwood's schools and consolidate. Yes in the proposal Richwood is getting a school BUT it's like Summersville would be getting a 5 STAR SCHOOL with all the AMENITIES--- (6-12) school -VOTECH- art facilities- educational opportunities and a FULL SUITE of athletic facilities(mind you not ONE of their fields was under water and their HIGH SCHOOL wasn't was flooded). Richwood would be getting a 1 STAR SCHOOL(which is the basics and get to use their EXISTING FIELDS that were ALL UNDER WATER! WHICH SCHOOL WOULD YOU CHOOSE??? Richwood' schools will be closed before it even opens. Doesn't both Richwood schools and Summersville schools DESERVE the SAME EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES since the county is PHYSICALLY HEALTHY and FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE?*Why is it ok for Richwood to have a Pre K - 12 school BUT not ok for Summersville to have a Pre K -8 school?? Richwood's Cherry River Elementary is the 3rd newest school in the county and wasn't flooded! Summersville Elementary is in DESPERATE need of an elementary school NOT their high school..It was quoted from a NCBOE member at the Meet the Candidate last night that "Summersville Elementary is a ticking time-bomb."
4/11/18	As I read the information in the mediation report one sentence caught my eye in particular....."Communities support their schools and trust their school boards." From the beginning of this fight we learned to not trust the Nicholas County Board of Education because they would not give us a voice to express our thoughts. We were the ones to have two schools flooded, but they made up their minds to not listen to us. Until the WV State School Board gave us a voice, we had none. We also do not have a voice on the mediation committee. We are hoping that has been our voice; we have no other. I believe you will find out at the meeting that my thoughts may be similar to a lot of other Richwooders. 1. We need a new middle school and high school in Richwood. 2. We do not need a grade school. We have Cherry River and it appears to be in good shape. 3. We do need a Career-Tech Center in Richwood. It is not fair to the students to say that if they want to go this route they have to go to Nicholas County High School. This penalizes them when they have done nothing wrong. We should have our own Career-Tech Center in Richwood or the one should be left alone in Craigsville and expanded if desired. There will be many Richwooders attending the meeting tomorrow night. We are hoping that the board or the Superintendent will be available to represent us. We really do not have much trust in FEMA since they apparently started this mess in the first place. Our only trust is in you. Please help.

4/11/18	After hearing about the "Meet the Candidates Night in Summersville last night I am sure that Richwood is not being represented by your mediators when a NCBOE member publically states that looking at the numbers the mediators are on NCBOE's side. I actually thought someone was looking out for Richwood's interests. What a sellout! Why wasn't Richwood represented by Richwood people? How did we get left out? How can anyone sleep after knowing the FEMA is being used to give Summersville an unneeded high school to replace a perfectly good high school, allowing a Vo-Tech to be built while a centrally located Vo-Tech which is undamaged is in Craigsville, and improvements to Summersville High School's undamaged football field. All the while we have to listen to our own Superintendent state that she will do everything in her power to keep a new school from being built in Richwood. After I attended the SBOE meeting in Charleston I was impressed with the State Board of Education and how I thought you really cared for the kids of this State. I have now changed my mind and know you are no different than the Judges and the NCBOE. It's all about money and who has the most power. Our kids have had a very bad winter with these awful Pods.....But Who Cares!!!!
4/12/18	Why is Glade business Park the only location discussed for a school in Summersville?
4/12/18	A 6-12 RHS/RMS and or SMS/SES with 1) a VOTECH in Craigsville (*1st choice* more money and programs added) or 2) a VOTECH program in both HSs that offers specialized different classes including agriculture and forestry (RHS is located primely to move kids directly to these fields especially if medical marijuana is legalized in WV). Combining SMS/SES would provide a much needed new SES and give SMS back a permanent home
4/12/18	What does "community school" mean? Students only living in town at Richmond or very near by?
4/12/18	Learning more about tech school most important to me. Same class at both school.
4/12/18	The workshop was very helpful. We were not sure if the proposal was for a k-12 in Richwood or a 6-12? Richwood does not need a new elementary school. You need to ditch the "community" versus "comprehensive" terms. What are the differences between the two? I would like to see a side-by-side comparison of the programs/options both schools will have. Do both schools get updated sports facilities? If students are allowed to pick their school, you will create something similar to private wealthy schools that will recruit desired athletes. Enrollment from year to year will fluctuate tremendously. Transportation costs will skyrocket. Boundaries need to be set and followed. If parents do not like the school their children are required to attend, then move to the desired area. Sports programs will suffer along with educational opportunities. CTE is also a big problem. Richwood children should have the same opportunities as NCHS. Keep the VOTECH at Craigsville and update it. The problem with low enrollment in Votech, I feel, is the lack of choices children have. They need computer classes, drafting and a larger variety to choose from. SES needs a new school. They do not need a retro-fitted high school. As I sit here in NCHS, I do not see where it is damaged or falling apart. Why is it proposed to build a NCHS? They were not flooded, their children are not displaced. I would be totally ok just replacing the 3 damaged schools. After all, those are the ones that are lost. Heal our country.
4/12/18	If you have 2 on-site CTE programs, you wouldn't have to duplicate personnel. You could have staff switch schools to teach the courses at both schools. Students shouldn't have to move schools in order to get equal education. Leave the CTE program where it is currently; it is central, the same travel. Use the 428 mones for the CTE program to expand the fantastic CTE program that is already centrally located
4/12/18	I am genuinely concerned about moving the Vo-tech away from the equal travel time as it now stands. There are plenty of improvements that can be made without penalizing the Richwood students with longer travel time. Also, due to the amount of parents without transportation, I am extremely concerned about school placement. Fair and equal education for every single student is a MUST.
4/12/18	We need our schools put back in Richwood. The Vo-tech needs to stay in Craigsville or Richwood get one. Why do we not have a person from Richwood represent Richwood? Susan Johnson would make a great representative. If Summersville gets new fields and art culture programs, then we should get them also. We just want what is fair and equal.
4/12/18	I would like to see a Nicholas Co school system and that fair and equitable for all students.
4/12/18	I don't understand why the Board doesn't follow their CEFP from before the flood and build an elementary school for Summersville elementary students. According to , NCBOE VP, that school is a "ticking time bomb." Why would you build 2 high schools and only provide career ed to one?

4/12/18	How can students in Nicholas East prepare without career ed? In the presentation they said that CRE would be left alone and fields would be built in Richwood. Semantics in the proposal make it sound like there is great disparity.
4/12/18	We need a state of the art VOTECH and I love the plan set in place. We need to move forward ASAP with construction on the selected plan
4/12/18	I think finding a way to keep the current VoTech in place and adding one in Summersville or splitting the Votech between campuses would make the planned proposal attractive to all parties. Perhaps this could be accomplished by using satellite classrooms like are used at New River Technical. Thanks!
4/12/18	Both communities receive a school complex and that both schools have the opportunities to attend a comprehensive VoTech school. Both schools need advanced special ed programs geared towards advancing special needs children to living independent lives.
4/12/18	Both schools to have a votech even if you use Craigsville Votec for Richwood
4/12/18	I am thankful for the opportunity to extend my support for the equal chance of education, to restore the town of Richwood from devastating loss and the ability to rebuild itself. A VoTech available to all students is a must!!!
4/12/18	We want a RHS and RMS together if needed and our grade school updated if needed. Keep our Votech in Craigsville and expand it for all students. RHS needs a Votech. We have a nice Vo tech in Craigsville. 2018-19: 34% of RHS signed up for votech, 29% NCHS
4/12/18	The present proposal currently offers the most effective solution for our current state, although people who support this plan feel hindered to speak their mind even at the small discussion. People from Richwood are still aggressive and hostile. I feel that people who support the mediation team's proposal will not turn out.
4/12/18	Please put a vocational school in both schools
4/12/18	RHS is called Richwood High School, not Richwood Community School. NCHS isn't Nicholas Comprehensive High School
4/12/18	We need our schools in Richwood, middle in Summersville, and trade schools in both areas
4/12/18	Can students in Craigsville and Nettie areas go to the school of their choice?
4/12/18	Define and describe a community school for public.*Be fair and equitable: CTE at both schools or keep current CTE and upgrade it. Have CTE at both schools, ie. Summersville: nursing, autotech, food services and Richwood: forestry, engineering, welding. If student in Richwood wants to be in the programs offered at Summersville, can be bussed to NCHS for these and still graduate from RHS and vice versa
4/12/18	Why would CRE be replaced when it's the 3rd newest school we have? We would like what was lost to be replaced, 6-12. We would like the Votech left in Craigsville or a Votech added in the new Richwood HS. High school built on Collins Hardwood Property.
4/12/18	I supposed consolidation. I think it's the best plan, but I can live with the compromise because we have at least one school with an integrated Votech.
4/12/18	I don't feel the needs of the students of the whole community are being considered. Has anyone bothered to ask the students what they would like in a setting where they could give a comfortable and honest answer?

4/12/18	The Nicholas County Board of Education made a statement that "Nicholas community local BOE should capitalize on the unforeseen circumstances (the 1000 year flood) to seize the day" was very telling. I feel this attitude has permeated the process. I feel the outcome of this mediation process should be fair. I believe both Summersville and Richwood should have new middle/high schools with programs and facilities that are equal, the same opportunities given to all county students. Students should not be forced to "choose" a school based on one school having more options than the other school. After sitting through the discussion, I feel that the two sides of the county cannot come to agreement or compromise. Too far apart.
4/12/18	More information needed to Nicholas County families to facilitate understanding of this process (definite plans). Decisions must be made quickly to ensure that all of our FEMA monies are maximized. Make clear how the "no boundaries" options work so that families can explore all options for students
4/12/18	There needs to be more communication as to what exactly the expectations of the students will be in choosing which school to attend. Will RHS students be allowed to attend vo-tech? How will they be expected to make up the extra time spent on a bus?
4/12/18	BE EQUAL
4/12/18	Good, clear process. 1) The County BOE needs to control information in order to avoid negativity and misinformation 2) Equality and Equity for both schools
4/12/18	Richwood citizens and surrounding areas want things to be fair and equal so that students do not have to choose a school because of course offerings or vocational training. A centralized vocational school would provide equal opportunities. Also a community school doesn't mean that we don't want the same offerings as a comprehensive school. We want the students to have the same opportunities.
4/12/18	Fair and equal Leave CTE in Craigsville and bolster it to grow Build school in Richwood Build school in Summersville Fair and equal
4/12/18	I like the plan as presented. Thanks for coming up with this plan. However, questions about CTE -- will a bus be provided to bring students to CTE and return them to RHS?
4/12/18	Why go with the 428 plan? What are the alternatives and cost differences? RHS and RMS should be built to accommodate the students of the future. RES exists in Richwood. Incorporate SMS & SES.
4/12/18	I commend the State Board of Education and Governor for going the extra mile to ensure that what best for all children transpires. It speaks volumes to your morals and character. I feel with two of Richwood schools destroyed and one school in Summersville, it is vital that funds be allocated as evenly as possible. If a disproportionate amount of money is sent to the Summersville, it would outrage the community of Richwood. Also construction or openings of the schools needs to be simultaneous. Parents and students are extremely eager to leave the pods behind. They will flock to whichever new facility opens first. Mostly thank you for putting all of the children first.
4/12/18	Middle school + high school - auditorium, band room, gymnasium, cafeteria, use existing fields for Richwood. K-8 School for Summersville, board stated high school was in excellent condition. Equal education for all students Vocational school left in Craigsville so students will not have to transfer to Summersville.

4/12/18	I believe the mediation process can work if all ideas are looked at and considered equally. I just wonder why there was no representation from the Richwood side. I believe every area should be treated fairly. Richwood lost both their secondary schools with all those students being in pods. I would like to see Richwood schools replaced first because 100% of our middle/high schools students were displaced.
4/12/18	I would like to see equal distribution of educational opportunity. Is it fair to expect some of the students to endure a long bus ride while others get the benefit of having a school built less than two miles away from where NCHS currently sits? NCHS was not damaged and doesn't need to be rebuilt. Rebuild RHS/RMS. It's simple.
4/12/18	CTE for both schools or one that is neutral for all students. All students should have access to the same education without extra travel time added to only certain students.
4/12/18	I fully support the consolidation plan and local Board of Education. Since the Governor did not want that, I will support the plan as submitted by the mediation team. it is the best compromise. Everybody seems to get what they want.
4/12/18	I liked the original plan of consolidation to have awesome facilities for all students in Nicholas County. When that got axed, and the mediation team put in place a new option, I honestly feel they came up with a good compromise. Small community middle-high school in the Richwood community and a comprehensive CTE/Middle/High school at Glade Creek.
4/12/18	Richwood needs CTE - existing so many more students benefit including Webster Co. Title IX - for equality across the entire county.
4/12/18	I want to see our schools in Richwood!!!
4/12/18	Build one consolidated school and put the ones in it that want to come. Build a big votech to where the kids can learn a trade. The taxpayers of this county can't afford a school at each end of the county.
4/12/18	Moving Summersville Elementary into NCHS (a 40-year-old school) built for 1000 students is not fiscally responsible, efficient, or sustainable without closing other small community schools and consolidating.
4/12/18	Two separate, highly equipped schools (labs, athletics, everything) Leave votech in Craigsville unless a separate one can be built for each school
4/12/18	Why votech only one area? Need votech in both ends of the county!
4/12/18	Summersville Elementary is listed in the current CEFPP plan. How does the proposal affect that situation? What is the target date for new facility? Where will it be located? What will it cost the citizens?
4/12/18	I live cross the river from Richwood High School and was flooded. We had federal flood insurance. RHS was obviously in the floodplain and if totaled in the flood, did it have flood insurance and where did the money go?
4/12/18	I would like to see the money used to replace three flooded schools and facilities. Nothing wrong with the other school buildings. Be good stewards of taxpayers' money
4/12/18	Replace what was destroyed by the 2016 flood. Rebuild RHS, RMS, SMS in their cities. Give bus drivers a raise.
4/12/18	I think Richwood deserves new fields and a votech.
4/12/18	If Richwood had not flooded, how were you going to propose paying for a new Summersville Elementary School? They do need a new school.
4/12/18	What good are these meetings? Why are there not any Richwood people in this mediation?
4/12/18	I want the school back in Richwood (high school and middle school). Build a new middle school in Summersville and leave the Votech in Craigsville.

4/12/18	The current proposal is unfair to the eastern side of the county. Please do not sacrifice RHS/RMS students to bail Nicholas county out of a bad debt in the business park. SES needs to be replaced. Build a pre-k-8 at the previous SMS site. Build a consolidated RMS/RHS at Richwood. Update the current vo-tech. Stop being greedy. I will not continue to pay levies and bonds to renovate NCHS for SES students
4/12/18	RHS and RMS sustained the most damage so should receive the majority of the funds. Our schools deserve equal athletic facilities and the vo-tech should remain in Craigsville.
4/12/18	RHS and NCHS should have equal facilities. It's okay for NCHS to have what they need but RHS should have the same. RHS needs a career center also OR leave the career center in Craigsville, adding on and making it bigger. BOE has extra land besides career center in Craigsville. Be fair and give NCHS and RHS the same! RHS was flooded (more).
4/12/18	We just want to be treated fairly. Why would anyone give one side of the county more than the kids from the other side of the county?
4/12/18	I think it is very rude for Summersville to get more stuff than Richwood. I think Richwood deserves just as much stuff as Summersville. All Richwood wants us to be friends and get along and become a community.
4/12/18	We in Richwood want jr high and high school together and any updates on the grade school and keep our votech for everyone. Thank you. RHS needs votech. 17% of our students attend votech now.
4/12/18	Richwood NEEDS REPLACED: high school, middle school, rebubish elementary CRE, AND keep our career center!!!
4/12/18	Why is CRE included in the plan? When it is the 3rd newest in the county?
4/12/18	I don't understand why you even consider replacing structures not damaged by flooding. It is evident that some are trying to capitalize on our tragedy. Why even consider the votech in mediation? It is centrally located between the two schools and was totally untouched by the flooding. The building is in excellent shape and the faculty has developed outstanding programs.
4/12/18	Rebuild Richwood schools for benefit of students. Rebuild trade school in C'ville for benefit of all students that it serves (centrally located to all schools). Replace current superintendents -> too biased. Bring back or else press charges.
4/12/18	We need to leave the votech in Craigsville. I think everything should be fair - whatever Summersville gets, Richwood should get. We are a county. Richwood deserves the same as Summersville.
4/12/18	I feel that we need equality for the whole county. The injustice that is happening is so agences the children's civil rights. I feel that if equality doesn't happen, the children most affected will have a huge lawsuit.
4/12/18	All funds should be used fairly. Board members should not have lied about where money was spent. Our kids have suffered because of this and we are all supposed to be treated equally. This has never ever happened. Our kids have suffered because of this mess way too much.
4/12/18	I don't think the NCBOE is being fair to all the students. Their plan clearly favors one side of the county. The v-tech should be left in Craigsville with two high schools, to better serve the entire county.
4/12/18	I would like to see Richwood get their schools back. I think there should be votech for both ends of the county. I want what is fair for all of the children in Nicholas County.
4/12/18	I want the same educational opportunities for all the children. Richwood/Summersville.
4/12/18	I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the state Board of Education and in particular Governor Justice. Richwood has been treated fairly and given a voice they would otherwise not have received. On a side note, the way Governor Justice handled the teacher work stoppage was exemplary. The Justice administration, I feel, and the state BOE firmly believes in doing the right thing. The right thing to do in this instance is to place schools back in Richwood. Many will lead you to believe Richwood is a dying town and community. Let me assure you that a weak and dying town would not be able to bounce back in such a resilient way from such a devastating flood. Unfortunately, Nicholas BOE is attempting to benefit at the expense of a proud community. I am a father of four that willingly chose to move back to Richwood. As a father, I would not have moved my children into a community I was not proud of. If you rebuild schools in Richwood, you will be making a decision you can be proud of. Lastly, it is vital that Richwood schools be built first to avoid enrollment manipulation. Richwood appreciates all of your efforts.

4/12/18	has continually told us the importance of the career and tech center. 17% of RHS presently attend the votech. Scheduling accomodation have already been made to increase this number. We have 2 sawmills in Richwood, 2 wood manufacturing plants in Craigsville. Both sides of the county need a career vtech center!
4/12/18	You need a high school - middle school vo tech at each place (Richwood - Summersville). Please stop the Nicholas County board of ed from being so unfair to Richwood.
4/12/18	We need career tech center. has sown a need. 2 sawmills in Richwood. 2 wood product facilities in Craigsville. We could offer forestry and other programs 17% RHS uses Votec. 14% NCHS.
4/12/18	I just want what is fair to everyone. We lost it all! The vo-tech should stay in Craigsville!
4/12/18	More than money why can we have two state of the art facilities
4/12/18	Richwood community school needs to also be a complete comprehensive school with the arts, fields, out of the floodway, access to the vo tech, AP classes -- everything that a complete school needs to sustain itself as a viable option. The Craigsville votech is fine, excellent actually.
4/12/18	Fair and equal treatment for all students in Nicholas County is a must. Both facilities/ball fields/career + technical centers for both sides or keep NCCTC as a county facility.
4/12/18	I think we should set up donations for both schools and both be treated fairly. As of right now, I don't think it's fair that Summersville has gotten everything from the RHS after its destruction. This fight has to stop. We need to put the next generation first. We need to work together to build the schools. This isn't helping the education of the children
4/12/18	Richwood lost not only two schools but numerous homes. Richwood deserves to have replaced what was lost, no less! The career and technical center was not damaged and should remain where it is in order to provide equity to ALL students of Nicholas County.
4/12/18	Richwood is never treated fair. Need to be fair with all funds for county. Are making Richwood kids suffer because of unfair acts from Board
4/12/18	2 schools were flooded in Richwood -- please rebuild those schools in Richwood. If we have to rebuild CTE, make sure each end of the county gets one. The current CTE can be used and built onto if more space is needed. ALL rebuilt schools should get equal facilities and opportunities. FEMA money needs to be spent on flooded schools.
4/12/18	Both RHS + RMS and NCHS + SMS need to retain their identity. The VOTech in Craigsville should remain at its current location or students at RHS + RCHS should have equal access to smaller school-based votechs. They can each offer different classes that are specific with options for students to travel to a class that is not offered at their school VO tech.
4/12/18	I favor community schools equality equipped in Nicholas County. This means 2 high schools, 2 middle schools, and vocational training as it is presently. The school system should be working for economic develop throughout the area. I also believe out board office is overstaffed.
4/12/18	It has been proven that smaller schools have less problems than larger ones. Children spend too much time on school buses. If it is all about the children, why do we put them on buses and make them travel on long, dangerous, treacherous roads? Richwood had 2 schools destroyed. Replacement them FEMA money. Summersville had 1 school destroyed. Replace it. Stop wasting the taxpayer dollars and REMA money to build a new high school that does not need to be replaced. If is afraid to come to Richwood, she cannot properly represent the whole county.
4/12/18	Our county needs 2 high schools. Each school should have equal facilities and equal opportunity for good education. Only the flooded schools should be replaced. FEMA money should be spend on flooded schools only.
4/12/18	The votech should stay in craigsville plenty of room to build on it not then both schools should have votech. The Cherry River Elem. school should stay where it is at, nothing wrong with the school. NCHS should be kept and put middle school there. Build a new grade school for them
4/12/18	One county needs 2 high schools with the same facilities. Should be built back where they were before the blood. VOTEC stay where it is. No new one needed.

4/12/18	I support the current plan that the mediation team has proposed. I think it is a great compromise.
4/12/18	I do not believe that a consolidation plan shorts the economic development needs of career and preparatory training of the entire geographic area. Mediate the rebuilding selection separate from the issue of the Votech relocation.
4/12/18	I fully support the proposed plan. The issue with CTE was not an issue or brought up until the proposed plan with the mediation team was brought up. I remember a lady from Richwood state at a school closing hearing -- "give us four walls and a roof." Now they are not happy with the proposed plan.
4/12/18	The most logical thing is to start by replacing the schools countywide that were lost during the flood. I believe this would start the healing process and get us started in the right direction. Thank you!
4/12/18	How will transportation be handled, concerning providing options of school attendance to meet educational needs What are the current and next year % of each school's student body enrollment in the votech? Is it reasonable to force Richwood students to travel to the proposed CTE location in the NCHS proposed site. The Craigsville site is best suited for CTE.
4/12/18	Plan as presented is great. Look forward to plan being started so our children will have better educational opportunities.
4/12/18	A technical school located at the larger of the schools seems to make more logical sense and be more feasible economically to allow a larger number of students to participate. I don't see a need for two high schools in the county, even an enrollment with all of the 9-12 students at one place is still a small school.
4/12/18	Looking at sustainability, the "greener" the construction the better for "down the road." In this meeting, passion still overrode common sense.
4/12/18	Options - will there be a dividing line as to where students will go to Richwood and then to Summersville? Need vocational school on both ends of the county or keep it in Craigsville and both ends travel
4/12/18	I am a student at RMS. Most importantly I want the same amount of access to arts, classes, and buildings. I want the same opportunities as any other kid in the county. Students at Richwood need equal opportunities and better facilities than we do now.
4/12/18	How come one school needs to be a community school and one school a comprehensive school? Let's consider 2 community schools with an updated CTE in the current building, that way parents will not have to choose to send their children to the comprehensive school. Both schools will be able to offer the option of taking all classes, all students and their families want and/or need
4/12/18	I was in group #11. very informative in capturing our thoughts. Thanks.
4/12/18	Richwood packed the meeting. It was not a fair representation.
4/12/18	On WV talkline, it was stated that any proposal from the mediation team would have to go to the governor's office for approval. Is this true?
4/12/18	Keep Votech in Craigsville. Both schools have equal opportunities.
4/12/18	Equal opportunities to each student. Especially concerning CTE programs.
4/12/18	Suspend athletic competition between the town schools until they are both in the same class - A AA or AAA
4/12/18	I like the idea of expanding the current technical center and allowing students to remain there all day. They may get core content credit through a connected class from one of the other two high schools. Would save on transporting students back and forth and they could stay at the career/technical center all day.

4/12/18	For the 2018-2019 school year, 34% of the RHS student body will utilize the CTE center in Craigsville compared to 29% of the NCHS student body. RHS needs a career center.
4/12/18	Is it possible to keep the current CTE in Craigsville for Richwood and Webster to use?
4/12/18	What type of money (funding) will be used to the flooded buildings? FEMA? Can FEMA funds be used to rebuild the non flooded schools? 428 plan?? How much is allocated for upkeep of schools?
4/12/18	Keep the VO TECH school in Craigsville and let it continue to serve Webster Co as well. This is a cost savings, the school is great, and it helps keep Craigsville vibrant, and it is a WV model school already. Is it necessary to replace the Cherry River elementary? Before its use as elementary and middle school, it was OK as a building. Use existing athletic fields if possible to save money + they are in good shape in both places. Keep the schools as small as possible since small schools educate most effectively. The rebuilding will be most sustainable if you re-used the football, track, baseball, outdoor athletic already existing. They are expensive to build and there are new ones within a few miles. Community schools mean bids can participate in extracurricular activities to a large degree. This keeps them in school, helps them go to college, helps keep families together. Community school means parents can be more involved because they can reach events in the evening. In Richwood, they didn't need a car to get to football games, it's easier to get their after work. Distance to the school is a huge factor.
4/12/18	Leave NCHS where it is (building is in good shape according to _____ and _____ at meet the candidates Tuesday April 10th). Build a k-8 for Summersville Grade school, who need a new building. This would take care of the grade school and middle school. Richwood needs their high school, middle school, gym, bandroom, auditorium. Our grade school is a sound building. The Votech should stay in Craigsville, it was updated with new electrical, cameras, ventilation, and internet just recently in the amount of 50,000. If this is not possible, then if NCHS gets a new career + tech center, Richwood should have one also. All students deserve the best education and training possible.
4/12/18	For special education students, traveling to Summersville for vocational school will create hardship. My blind daughter cannot drive to pick up a sick kid.
4/12/18	Equal education is an equal travel time to the same opportunities.
4/12/18	Go with the plan you have developed! :)
4/12/18	I agree it is a good plan. However, I still feel consolidation is the best place. Richwood folks still want everything or nothing. Enough is enough, build now!
4/12/18	CTE should not just be in one side of the county. Not equal!!!
4/12/18	Need CTE in Richwood. Construction needs to get started soon in Richwood. It's not fair to send my child to Summersville to transfer to NCHS to only receive a vocational class. BOE needs to attend functions in Richwood. They have to start mending problems in the county. A higher percentage of students attend CTE from Richwood than do NCHS. RHS has 17% vs NCHS 14%.
4/12/18	The proposed plan seems to be an excellent compromise. I am ready to move to action and get these kids back in a school.
4/12/18	Glade Creek Industrial park is not the place for a school. It will take away from future tax base from lost business.
4/12/18	Leave NCHS as is. Build a k-8 grade school in Summersville. Richwood needs a HS, middle schools, gym, bandroom, auditorium. Their grade school is in great shape. The Votech should stay in Craigsville with updates if needed. I feel if a votech is built at NC high, Rchwood should have one also. Rotc should be offered at both high schools. I think that Richwood or eastern Nicholas County should have representation on the mediation team.
4/12/18	All children deserve the same options and access to programs, regardless of where they live. Vocational education should be available at either school, without having to transfer schools or travel 30+ miles to access it.

4/12/18	We need equal opportunities for each end of the county. What are the other options available for our county? How can you can sustain the finances if another school level fails?
4/12/18	Our kids have been disrupted enough. For Richwood schools to be build 1st because we have two schools in pods. Summersville has only one. We are always get left behind. Our money and we should be 1st because of two schools.
4/12/18	Retaliation has to be stopped. Sending to and ... needs stopped
4/12/18	We need equity in this county. Major pressing issues = choice of schools will cost \$\$\$\$. Career tech must be equal - never pass a levy again without this. Before = sports complex. Test out other options for NCHS and SMS. Trust has gone out the window - major lack of transparency!
4/12/18	This plan is unequal. Either build a vo-tech at both schools, which is a waste of money when we have a great vo-tech in Craigsville already. Spend money on upgrades for Vo Tech. Keep both high schools and middle schools or make two middle-high schools. Keep our local elementary schools where they are. Refurbish or build new elementary schools where needed.
4/12/18	I would like to know where the geographic center of the county is.
4/12/18	Richwood needs to begin construction first so if funds are exhausted, RHS and RMS are built. Transparency of mediation process - we have not been part of this process. 3) Votech in Craigsville is still in good working order. If new building is needed, add to existing building. Good central location. 4) Nicholas county residents already pay an unusually high tax bill in form of excess levy - new grade school would not be sustainable 5) Equality of both schools. Does not seem right to build a huge state of the art school and small barebones schools. Does not seem to be fair to any student, much less all students. Taxpayers are taxpayers. 6) Glade Creek Park is too expensive. If the BOE is concerned about sustainability, this should be addressed. Bad area to bus kids on the main road. 7) Facts have not been presented accurately. Screen listed new athletic fields but plan did not. 8) Students have consistently done better at smaller RHS. They deserve the same opportunities as other students. 9) Transportation concerns for families that have students with different interests - only one votech is not an option unless it is centrally located 10) Sustainability of grand school in Glade Creek is a concern for me. two equal schools is the only way the citizens will support this plan. 11) Retaliation must stop
4/12/18	1. Richwood schools needs built first. That way when Summersville spends all the money we won't be obligated to pay attentional taxes to finish our school. 2. NCBOE needs to stop retaliation. 3. Equity - both school complexes are equal, same facilities on each end
4/12/18	I feel that the schools should be equal. If Richwood doesn't get a tech school, then the dropout rate will greatly increase. Children need to be a part of extracurricular activities, otherwise, they will have nothing to do but get into trouble. If the students have to enroll in a career center in Summersville, they won't be able to participate in extracurricular activities. The tech center needs to stay at Craigsville or each school should have one.
4/12/18	Please give both schools NCHS and RHS equal facilities. RHS needs a career center also or leave at Craigsville and share between schools and ad on. Please be fair, if the career center is at NCHS only, it may draw more students to NCHS and leave RHS to dwindle.
4/12/18	1. Ensure all students have equal opportunity for a well rounded education. Rather it be in the classroom, after school activities or the votech. 2. Regardless of outcomes, ensure everyone has opportunity to prepare not only for college but career trades too (both schools) while being economically conservative. 3. Ensure that no matter the grouping or organization, the playgrounds, lunchrooms, etc. can sustain the size of k-12 or whatever the case may be. We need separate areas for the different school levels.
4/12/18	1) What is the capacity of the current CTE compared to the future CTE - what are the expected rates of attendance? 2) The expense of the land seems to be such a concern - can we place make it clear as to why the land that has been proposed is what was chosen? 3) Is the acquisition of the Glade Creek property to get the county of the debt? And needs the CTE to have the property?

4/12/18	Would it be better to purchase cheaper land - not 80 acres at \$50,000/acre = \$400,000? Put this into construction. Why build a new NCHS field in sight of one of the best in the state? The mediation team from Nicholas County has never considered any option except consolidation and others with different views not represented.
4/12/18	I feel that both RHS and NCHS need their school and vo-techs in each school. Give the current Craigsville votech to Richwood so RHS and WCHS can make use of it. Both towns would benefit by schools in their towns and will pull more tourists and development in both areas. Once that happens, more people with interest in the areas will promote growth!
4/12/18	I agree with each school keeping mascots/culture/names. NCHS + RHS > Attend NCCTC in Craigsville. I do not think it is beneficial for each school to have their own NCCTC. Leave our NCCTC in Craigsville. It is fair for both ends of the county. Our NCCTC is doing really well! If it's not broke, don't fix it. It's not broke, it's excelling in Craigsville!
4/12/18	It is not fair for students from RHS to transfer from RHS to NCHS in order to be able to attend CTE. If students from zela area are attending NCHS and a parent decides to transfer to RHS, is NCBOE going to bus that student to Richwood?
4/12/18	Looking around the NC high school cafeteria, auditorium, etc. It seems so nice. Then looking/driving through Richwood - why is this even a discussion? The students from Richwood need some schools! As promised!
4/12/18	It is our conclusion that the plan that has been proposed is appropriate to meet the needs of all students in Nicholas County. Please proceed as planned.
4/12/18	I am for the proposal.
4/12/18	We just realized we sent the incorrect version of the document earlier. This is the Corrected Final Version.
4/12/18	I agree with the current plan. Unable to attend meeting tonight.
4/12/18	I am unable to attend the mediation meeting tonight but I feel the plan set forth would work for all students in the county. A k-12 would service the Richwood community and middle/high schools with vocational center would service the rest of the county.
4/12/18	I have seen the proposal for the new schools. I emphatically agree that there needs to be a secondary school in Richwood. I noticed that the proposal mentioned K-12. We have a good grade school in Richwood, and I hope that you are not planning to destroy that in this process. Richwood needs 6-12 with a career and technical center (unless you plan to leave the vocational school in Craigsville for the use by all of Nicholas county and the students in Webster county). Richwood needs the gym and auditorium that were mentioned. They also need a band room. I believe Richwood has the largest single A band in the Nation (or very close to it if not the largest). Another concern I had was the mention of a CTE in Summersville. Are you thinking everyone that wants votech should go to Summersville to school? _____ had previously threatened the staff saying that she would send all of the students in Richwood to Summersville to graduate as a Grizzly. I am concerned that this proposal will require any student on the eastern end of the county to go to NCHS in order to take vocational classes. This would require up to 100 minutes of travel time each way. Many students don't want to leave their friends, sports, and band to become a NCHS student. It doesn't seem like a valid plan to make them choose between a vocational class and everything else. Is this proposal legal in light of the Recht Decision, the Civil Rights Act of 1965, Title IX, and the 1989 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act? It appears that progress has been made in rebuilding our schools, but that there is still much that needs planned. I would hope that since 100% of the secondary students in Richwood are in unconnected pods, that the school building process will begin there. That school can be started while the land preparation begins in Summersville.

4/12/18	I plan to attend the meeting tonight. I wonder however, if you fully understand the hatred most, not all, have for the supporters of our superintendent, BOE & consolidation. I know we have told you but you seem to either think we are lying or ignore our voices. Anyone that disagrees with the anti consolidation side is a target. Our professions & jobs have been targeted. Instead of picking up a phone, which would easily solve an issue, they go to facebook or the media. Examples are: 1. _____, a BOE candidate, at the beginning of the school year posted about the BOE not providing janitorial supplies the gym used by RHS & RMS. A phone call would have told her it is the principals job to supply those things. 2. _____ went on facebook to announce an indefinite closure of RHS for a catastrophic event. School was closed for one day so that snow could be removed from to walkway roofs. 3. School had to be closed at RMS this week due to the city's lack of a proper sewage system. Instead of accepting that it was the city's fault, the media was called. These are only 3 examples of many. This is the type of people our superintendent & BOE deal with on a daily basis. Then there is the transportation issue for tonight. It is ridiculous that you are providing transport 3. They get around just fine. They make it to Walmart several times a week. They are not helpless. They make it to BOE meetings to protest everything. _____ has a business & a car. Why would he need a ride? I hope you are ready to deal with these people. They do not like being told to be quiet. They like to shout & boo. They don't like to listen. However, it might be good for you to see & feel what we go thru on a daily basis. I hope you are willing to have the law escort them out. If not, I fear your meeting will not go well. As stated I will be there. Several supporters of our BOE will be there & we will respect you. Don't expect that same respect from the IAR side. After all they can't even leave our campaign signs up. They keep stealing them. I am looking forward to tonight's meeting. By the way, if they have their way & win the election, their plans are to fire our superintendent. I am sure they will void any school plan you have.
4/12/18	I was originally scheduled to attend the meeting this evening in Summersville but my involvement with youth sports in the area will keep me from being able to attend however my wife will be there. I am a father of 3 kids who attend schools in Nicholas County and we live in the Craigsville area which is currently the largest populated area that feeds the Richwood schools. That being said our children attend schools in Summersville and not Richwood due to certain academic and sports related activities they offer that are not offered in Richwood. My daughter recently signed a letter of intent to play collegiate soccer for Glenville State College in the fall. If she would have been forced to attend Richwood area schools this would not have been a possibility as they do not have a soccer program. I believe the proposal put forth by the mediation team was adequate and was accurate to what I mentioned myself in the mediation meetings held in Summersville. I am a pro consolidation supporter but I also understand the viewpoint of others that are part of this process. Not all of what I wanted to see happen was accomplished by this proposal but I am willing to accept the recommendation and move forward. I have already heard grumblings from the anti consolidation crowds that they are not willing to accept anything unless it includes everything they demand and this is troubling to me. I feel this attitude is what will hold this process up and keep our children from prospering in the future. I also feel that with multiple campuses there will still be shortages of qualified teachers to cover all the schools in the county and that was a major concern of mine and why I supported consolidation.
4/12/18	The Vo Tech should stay in Craigsville, the building is in good shape with room to grow and only makes good sense.

4/12/18	I am writing this email in my absence of the organized mediation meeting held April 12, 2018. I was unfortunately unable to attend as I was scheduled to work that night. I am an LPN employed at Summersville Regional Medical Center Extended Care Facility. I am a lifelong resident of Nicholas County. I graduated from NCHS in , my daughter graduated in and my son will graduate in . My husband is a graduate of Richwood High School . My son was directly affected by the flooding of SMS. He was housed in the Armory for half of his grade year then housed in the pods for the last 1 1/2 years. This has been a fluid situation that needed everyone's cooperation and tolerance in order to do what was best for our children's education. I believe for the most part, this has occurred. I want you to know that I support the current mediation plan. I think this is the best compromise for all involved. Richwood will be able to keep a school for those who wish to attend it, while maintaining their identity as "Lumberjacks" along with the traditions they wish to keep. While at the same time, building a progressive, state of the art school in the center of the county allowing the children and parents the ability to decide what is best for their education track. I have been in love with the idea of the Vocational School being on one campus since the beginning and was the turning point for my support of consolidation. The travel time and expense, loss of education time (approximately 180 hours a year per student) and the difficulty in being able to gain vocational skills while maintaining a college preparation track are obstacles that can be eliminated by including the facility to one campus. This also allows the middle school students the ability to have access to vocational training that they do not have access to at this time. The number of electives available at SMS are all musical. Not all children are musically inclined and it leaves their schedules difficult to fill with experiences that they need to have in order to determine the direction they wish to take their lives. Exposing these children to culinary art, photography, welding or HVAC will allow them years to grow as students and as humans. I believe consolidation is the best thing for our county but in order to maintain a balance the current plan is the best option. Richwood doesn't have the infrastructure or fiscal ability to maintain a large school in my opinion. The school that you are proposing will be sufficient for the needs of those students wishing to attend a small community school. I don't believe the best interest of the children are being served by limiting their ability to chose the education path that best suits them and their needs. I don't believe it is in the best interest of the children to draw lines and require them to attend a specific school. I believe building in the center of the county best serves all the students, not simply one part. I don't believe that a K-8 school for SES and SMS is a responsible way to go either. I don't understand how anyone can possibly consider putting 1,000 children K-8 in a building, yet believe 1,000 high school students is much too large. It's not practical to create two Vo-Tech sites either. The cost and staffing would be nearly impossible to maintain in the economy of our county and state. I believe NCBOE has worked to do what is best for all the students of this county while enduring inhumane treatment from those whose opinions differ. I understand that there are details that the public is not privy to and they understand better than I what is required to educate Nicholas County's children. I believe they are good men who are doing a difficult job at a difficult time. I respect their ability to remain strong and do everything in their power to maintain the highest of education goals for the children attending every school in this county. I know the Richwood crowd is loud and that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. However, I urge you to do what will best serve all the children of the county. Mediation is a compromise made by both sides of the argument. In a compromise, no one person gets everything for which they are asking. Richwood is getting to keep the school and traditions that they love. To my understanding, that was their only wish but now they want more. I apologize for the length of my email. I do wish I had been able to attend the meeting. I wanted to make sure that you understand there are others who believe as strongly in the mediation plan as it is now as the Richwood citizens are against it.
4/12/18	I am writing to enter my support of the plan proposed by the mediation team with a consolidated school and technical Center near Summersville and a K-12 facility near Richwood. Unfortunately I am out of town and unable to attend this evening's meeting
4/12/18	I see the best solution to configuration of Nicholas Co Schools is to build one countywide high school and middle school with Vocational School near the geographical center of the county. To build a new high school/middle school in Richwood with declining population and small numbers would not be cost efficient nor in the best interest of all of Nicholas County.
4/12/18	We support the plan proposed by the mediation team but are unable to attend the meeting tonight.
4/12/18	I am a student at Richwood Middle School. I will be attending Richwood High School next year. It has been almost 2 years since the flood. The new schools have not even been started yet. I have to go outside in between every class on slick, wet walkways. I had hoped to graduate from a solid, real high school. I am concerned with the first proposal from the mediation team. It says the plan is to build a small K-12 school in Richwood. We already have a good elementary school. The only way I could attend the vocational school would be to travel to Summersville. I enjoy participating in sports in Richwood. I know if I have to transfer to NCHS, I will not be able to participate in sports. It would take me over an hour each way to travel to a school in the Glade Creek Industrial park. Since the vocational school in Craigsville did not flood, why would you build a new one? Can all students still use the CTE in Craigsville? If so, you could rebuild SMS, RMS and RHS. Those are the 3 schools that flooded. Richwood lost 2 gymnasiums, 2 cafeterias, an auditorium and the schools. I would hope as you finalize plans for rebuilding the school in Richwood that you consider the needs for all of our students.

4/12/18	I am a teacher at Nicholas County High School and I will be unable to attend this evening's mediation workshop. I would, however, like to voice my support for the proposal created by the mediation team. I feel that it is more than fair, and all concerns and issues were considered when making this plan for the schools to be built in Nicholas County. As a teacher and a parent in Nicholas County, I have a lot invested in the future of this area. I grew up in Summersville, WV and I feel that Summersville and Richwood have always maintained a healthy rivalry. I am sad to see so much bitterness between the two towns after we came together to pull forward after the devastating flooding of our county. It is my hope that the preservation of both schools/mascots/etc. will allow both towns to finally move forward. I am in total support of the idea of having schools in both areas, but it only makes sense to build these schools based on the populations of the towns in which they will serve. There is no reasonable explanation for allotting additional money than what has been proposed to the construction of the Richwood School when their population is so much smaller than that of the Summersville area. The difference in the number of students should be and seems to have been a guideline for the plan and funding of each school. It looks as though this matter has been analyzed and well-thought-out. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.
4/12/18	If you don't stick with the plan that you have proposed you are proving to ever kid in the county that even if you are the very small minority and you yell the loudest, you win. Almost all of the ones yelling the loudest do not have kids or if they do their kids have already got the hell out of richwood as fast as they could.
4/12/18	I support the plan the mediation team came up with. I have ten grandchildren in Craigsville that will be going to Summersville school and not richwood. I had my children trapped 2 times in richwood due to flooding. They refuse to send their kids to richwood. They are in grade school now and they are what I am fighting for.
4/12/18	What has happened to your believe that community schools are best for all students? What happened to your belief that one large mega school would not save money? What happened to your belief that students from low socioeconomic families would fall through the cracks causing low graduation rates or rising drug problems? These are just a few of the things that you were so concerned about last summer. I don't think there has been any change in any data to prove these problems have been solved. I attended a meet the candidates event in Summersville. Present board members continue to give false information to citizens. I wonder why and have seemingly changed their minds...it doesn't seem like a change in the consolidation philosophy could come about this fast. Please re consider this proposal of the mediation team. It makes no sense on so many levels.
4/12/18	I am unable to attend the meeting this evening, as I have a school meeting and two sports practices previously scheduled. I do want to express my support for Nicholas County Schools, and your mediation plan, so I regret that I cannot attend the meeting, but am hopefully this email will be sufficient. I have two children attending Nicholas County Schools, and I work in the finance office of the Board of Education. I feel I have an understanding of the needs of students in Nicholas County, the costs involved in meeting those needs, and the finances of Nicholas County Schools. I have reviewed the proposed mediation plan, and I find it to be fair. I believe we need to move on, get the students out of temporary locations, and get something built! I feel this opportunity to offer expanded academic facilities and experiences for the children of this county should not be wasted. I feel the county needs to take advantage of available funding and use it to it's fullest potential. While I understand the concern from Richwood residents about the changes they are facing, I feel this opportunity to create a centralized location with offerings for all of the students of the county would benefit the students from the Richwood area, as well as every other small community in the county.
4/12/18	If you build a school in Richwood, will you make it flood proof. After the 2003 flood, the US Corps of Engineers suggested making buildings water proof enough to withstand future flooding. In the 1800's there was reportedly a flood serious enough to wiped out Richwood, after which it reportedly claimed fame for its ability to rebuild. According to a number of reports, the 1954 flood was higher than the 2016 flood. Are you taking precautions for a 2016 flood or a 1954 type flood? Are you preparing for a flood like that which reportedly occurred in the 1800's?
4/12/18	Below is a letter that I paid to have published in the Nicholas Chronicle for the April 15, 2018 issue. for your convenience it is also attached to this email.. Please consider the points of fairness and safety for students. In My Opinion: FEMA, Fairness and Safety for Students with Two High Schools, How Big or Small and Where? What Is FAIR and SAFE for Students? For those that are interested, I paid over \$200 to have this in my opinion letter published in the Nicholas Chronicle.

4/12/18	I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but I am IN FAVOR OF CONSOLIDATION of the Nicholas County Schools. In my opinion, I think the education of the children should be first and foremost in the decision. Give the students of Nicholas County an opportunity to attend an updated technical center to help them become educated for their future. My opinion is based on education which I firmly believe is more important than the memories of a school in a dead town which cannot sustain a water and sewer system for its residents now without adding an additional school. Please provide the children of Nicholas County with the best education possible-CONSOLIDATE!!
4/12/18	I was invited to attend the community meetings. I have reviewed the proposal and I feel that this is a solid plan. Both sides will get exactly what they wanted.
4/12/18	Thank you for your plan and proposal for our county; however, I was for the consolidation of our schools. Now it's time to move on and build it. Please don't let this plan be thrown out or changed. You will NEVER please them.
4/12/18	The proposed plan set for Nicholas County schools is a great idea ! I hope to see this plan push further .
4/12/18	I would like to say that I think your plan is excellent. I agree with the plan you have set forth.
4/12/18	I support the proposed mediation plan and the current Nicholas County Board of Education.
4/12/18	I cannot attend the meeting tonight, but I would like my voice to be heard. I am in full support of the agreement reached! I think it is a great compromise! Win-win! Build it!
4/12/18	Good morning, my husband and I registered to attend the meeting this evening. Plans have changed and we are unable to attend. Please know that we fully support consolidation! It is what is best for the kids and our county. The county population is dying and changes need to be made to accommodate these changes.
4/12/18	As a proud father of two daughters in the Nicholas County school system. Want the mediation team to know, my family supports the school system you have chosen. We, think it's a great idea. I still think consolidation would be better for Nicholas County, but, the proposal you have put forward is a great idea. Thank you too each one of you for your hard work.
4/12/18	In lieu of my attendance I wanted to send this message to say I am in support of the plan that the mediation committee has come up with. My husband and I are alumni of NCHS and we live and pay taxes in the county. We have a nephew that is currently in the public school system and we are happy to think of this plan being implemented So that he will have a wonderful school to attend.
4/12/18	I think that most, if not all, recommend Vo-Tech at both high schools
4/12/18	Either call both schools community or comprehensive (not make one sound better than the other); Keep Vo-Tech at Craigsville or give both schools a Vo-Tech; Put the towns that were going to Richwood go back to Richwood; Do not allow parents to send their kids where they want; Have Art Culture at both schools; What one school gets, the other school gets it too; Keep Special Needs children in the forefront
4/12/18	I approve of the arrangement of this mediation meeting. My group was composed of 8 people, 7 of which were from Richwood. The conversation was overwhelmingly critical of the proposed configuration of schools, largely catered around the location of CTE. There was no discussion of the merits of the comprehensive facility proposed in Glade Creek . There seems to be little concern for anyone west of Summersville.
4/12/18	Vo-Tech in both schools/ends of county. What area does Richwood School draw its students from?
4/12/18	Why are the lower socioeconomic students in our county once again ignored?
4/12/18	I support the proposed plan. The biggest concern I had throughout this process was financial sustainability. Because of this, I originally supported consolidation. I felt that if all three schools were replaced, and the county continued to decrease in population, thus forcing consolidation down the road, then I didn't want the burden of raised taxes to build a consolidated school. I believe that with this plan, it does give Richwood the opportunity to grow with a high school, but it also gives taxpayers a relief if things don't turn around in the county in the coming years. I also support the Vo-Tech being onsite. I think the participation will increase with it being in the same location as the high school. I would support an additional Vo-Tech at the Richwood site, but only if it makes financial sense.

4/12/18	I think the current configuration will work. Students may have the choice to attend whatever school will best meet their needs. Our group discussed CTE on both sides but not duplicated classes. However, I'm concerned that this would not be sustainable financially, thought it would be good to let students have input as to what kind of CTE classes they are interested in and if it would not put a financial burden on the NCBOE. I just want to see steps forward, as this will be the best thing for all students.
4/12/18	Each community having its own junior high, high school, and vocational technical center to meet the needs of each community; keep all traditions of each school; utilize community leaders to meet the needs for instructors for unique vocational programs and duplication of programs needed on each end of the county, ex. Nursing, Accounting. Unique programs to Richwood: Forestry, land management, oil and gas industry, guide services for fishing/hunting, operation of a small business to open opportunities to own businesses. Give Richwood back what it lost in the flood so the communities can heal and it doesn't feel like they are getting beat down again.
4/12/18	What resonated most with me is the lack of boundaries in the county. I am hopeful that Richwood will have a vocational center that will not duplicate services as that more students will receive benefits toward future careers. I believe the rift between the 2 communities will eventually dissolve. Hopefully trust will be restored with the BOE. At this point, our community is very distrusting of the current BOE. The 2 communities need to restore a good working relationship.
4/12/18	I appreciated the opportunity to meet in this manner with others, What a great meeting. Lots of great insights from both sides. I find that the mediation plan is a good match to the "priorities/needs" that were outlined by the team (those from the Institute) several months ago. A suggestions from one lady in our group: Vo-Tech classes in Richwood that included coursework that did not duplicate services offered at NCHS CTC facility or high-need courses, such as Nursing, that could be offered by both. It was also suggested to take care of Webster County by offering to lease the current NCCTC facility in Craigsville. May not be feasible, but it was a thoughtful suggestion.
4/12/18	Fairness will rule this county. Vo-Tech stays or goes on both sides of the county.
4/12/18	In a perfect world, everyone would have a vocational center in our backyard where students could go to learn skill sets, but I feel as though Richwood will not be happy with the fiscally responsible solution.
4/12/18	The strongest thought I take away from tonight's workshop is compromise is not always getting exactly what you want. I feel the mediation team compromised from the whole county consolidation to giving the Richwood community the small school they want and the comprehensive CTE high school to the larger populated areas closer to Summersville.
4/12/18	For God's sake, make a decision and do it now! The mediation plan is great- do it!
4/12/18	I think we can all agree that we all want this to be resolved ASAP. We want a safe, stable school for our children and future children.
4/12/18	Make a decision and stick to it. Build a Vo-Tech in a central location and make it state of the art. Leave the board alone; they are doing a great job.
4/12/18	Move on with current plan and get our schools built so we can get back to teaching our children in a stable environment.
4/12/18	The schools must be fair and equitable on both ends of the county. Use 428 moneys to improve NCCTC in Craigsville.
4/12/18	I think the goals are great that are being used; however, I would like to add equitable/fair education for all students. I would like to find a valid compromise to the CTE program in the county. One that would give all students in Nicholas County the equal opportunity in order to take advantage of it.
4/12/18	My hope is that schools can begin construction as soon as possible to return all students to a safe and "normal" environment. I would suggest that a CTE be built in an area that would not require NCHS students to have to choose between courses that are required for college or a trade.
4/12/18	We had a great talk at our table, but the CCT Center needs to stay in Craigsville or both schools need one.

4/12/18	Work on the schools needs to begin ASAP. Kids need to have a choice of which school they want to go to. A lot of kids go to elementary schools where they are split. Kids should have the choice to go to either school. Plan should benefit both sides.
4/12/18	Excellent mediator! 2 schools equally equipped.
4/12/18	Please keep the Vo-tech centrally located at Craigsville or have a center at each location. Be fair, keep each school equal.
4/12/18	Don't know how FEMA decided to build a new NCHS. Leave Vo-Tech where it is. Build RHS-RMS and SMS.
4/12/18	Vo-Tech for both schools and equal opportunities.
4/12/18	Just get it done.
4/12/18	As a parent and an educator, I am ready to move forward with the proposed plan. Our children deserve a safe, up-to-date environment, and our community needs to move on and heal.
4/12/18	Although I am in favor of school consolidation for Nicholas County Schools, just as our neighboring counties have already done or are in the process of currently, I accept the mediation proposal given to the public by _____ and _____. My grandchildren must be prepared for the future, whether going on to college or a skilled profession through Vo-Tech training.
4/12/18	Sustainability is a key issue for both RHS and the proposed comprehensive school. Will the open borders set RHS up for failure? Will the CTE center live up to expectations and be sustainable if levies fail?
4/12/18	School in Richwood is fine, but need to consider structure and sustainability of school - maybe offer special classes
4/12/18	This was a great workshop. It was good to hear from other voices in the county. Whatever you do - do it quickly so the healing can start
4/12/18	I agreed with the initial consolidation plan. I thought it was going to be a great opportunity for all Nicholas County students. But then the government got involved..always a good thing. Since that plan got booted, I feel that the compromise the mediation has proposed is a great happy medium. Both sides are giving and taking.
4/12/18	My main concern is the students in Richwood (RHS/RMS) that doesn't have parent support and live in low SES homes. These students need a Vo-Tech center without having to leave their friends and school to receive these important services. These students need the same opportunities as students all over the county because many will not attend college and will rely on Vo-Tech services.
4/12/18	Main concern is the time constraints. Very concerned that we will miss a wonderful opportunity and our children will suffer for many, many years to come.
4/12/18	I believe it is important that we have equality on both ends of the county.
4/12/18	I feel it was a good discussion, but not altogether fair.
4/12/18	I hope that an agreement can be made that's pleasing to both sides, and I think meetings like this are a tremendous step in the right direction.
4/12/18	The mediation plan is a great compromise between previous plans proposed for the issues at hand. Equality does not equal fairness. The county as a whole needs to support the NCBOE.
4/12/18	"Fairness does not always equate to equality." I believe in the NCBOE members, our amazing Superintendent, and I fully supported their consolidation plan. Since this is not an option, I am happy with the proposed mediation plan. I support the proposed plan.
4/12/18	Offer each end of the county the same equal education opportunities and facilities.

4/12/18	Meeting was productive. This plan is unequal. Vo-Tech refurbished in Craigsville. Upgrade 7-12 on both sides.
4/12/18	I think the workshop was very helpful. Thank you for coming!
4/12/18	Do not offer any plan that you wouldn't take yourself.
4/12/18	Equality of both schools. One Vo-Tech center in Craigsville can improve this facility easily. Transparency of process.
4/12/18	Don't offer Richwood facilities you aren't willing to take yourself.
4/12/18	Please put Vo-Tech in center of county. Be fair with sports complex. Richwood is not asking for new fields, just improved a little. Nicholas County does not need new sports complex, just upgrades.
4/12/18	Good discussion overall - everyone had good points and brought issues that were discussed in a civil way. And students were our priority on both ends of the county. We all agreed we need better communication from NCBOE.
4/12/18	We "RHS" want to expand Craigsville Vo-Tech for NCHS and RHS students to join together, which they are now with no problem. Craigsville is central for NCHS and RHS (15 minutes from both).
4/12/18	Population declines are irrelevant to this discussion, as many economic and social factors will increase population. Build schools to accommodate slightly more students than attend now.
4/12/18	Richwood needs CTE to remain - increase to Webster County to benefit as previous decades. Equality for all students. Hurry up!
4/12/18	Thank you for considering both communities. It is imperative for students at both ends of the county to have equal K-12 plus Tech Ed Centers available at both facilities to make core classes virtually available at their home schools. Use Craigsville TE for HVAC, Nursing, etc.
4/12/18	I definitely feel that both schools should be treated equally. Richwood lost both the high school and middle school. Summersville lost their middle school. If a Career Center is put near Summersville, Richwood should get one as well. The Career Center at Craigsville can serve both schools as well as Webster County High School. We are all about what is best for the kids, not to get Nicholas County and the city of Summersville out of debt.
4/12/18	(1) Ensure both schools have equal opportunity of a well-rounded education including after school activities. (2) Ensure both schools have career field options and equal access to a trade school or Vo-Tech center, while prohibiting waste and being economically efficient. (3) Ensure both schools are at capacity to hold K-12 students. I feel each group (grade school, middle school, high school) should have their own playgrounds, gyms, lunch rooms, etc. which can be done if we don't waste on unneeded projects.
4/12/18	The "whole" pie was flooded at RHS. Middle school, high school, football field, softball and baseball fields. "1/4" pie was flooded at NCHS - their middle school. Proposal states basically that NCHS will get the "whole" pie back, and RHS will get only "1/4" pie back. Please be equal and give the "whole" pie back to both. K-12 on both sides; career center left at Craigsville and upgraded; Craigsville is the center for RHS, NCHS, and Webster, maybe draw Webster kids back. If 15 minutes is too long for the Career Center, then why make RHS go 30 minutes?
4/12/18	As I was the sole western end of the county member at our table with 5 eastern end folks, it is very obvious to me that "they" will never be satisfied unless they have exactly what is built/replaced equally. They are focused on "fair" and "what they (referring to NCHS) get versus what we (RHS) get." They refuse to see the population, utilization, tax base, enrollment statistics. Build the schools! Let's get past this pettiness. Start construction of the proposed plan now!
4/12/18	Be fiscally responsible - don't waste money by moving Vo-Tech. Don't waste money on a new football field. Don't waste money by purchasing land at \$50,000/acre.
4/12/18	Computer classes and online training is the wave of the future because of economical situations.

4/12/18	This round-table discussion was extremely beneficial. The entire situation should have been handled this way.
4/12/18	I felt that our discussion went well. We all think just be fair to both schools.
4/12/18	The solution needs to be balanced. I feel it's an injustice to have one school use existing fields etc. versus all new facilities for another complex. The CTE needs to remain in Craigsville by locating it in one comprehensive facility forces the other school students to enroll at the one school in order to participate in CTE classes. I don't feel this meets the goal of increasing CTE participation. LEED building techniques need to be utilized.
4/12/18	We need Nicholas County students to thrive and succeed and have a variety of opportunities available to them. Currently, schools are not able to offer many advanced classes or a variety of elective courses because there is not a faculty to offer the courses or number of students to participate.
4/12/18	Fix roads that flood or most parents will, over time, move students to NCHS. Must also inspect above roads to identify unstable sites that will contribute to rock slides.
4/12/18	Togetherhness
4/12/18	Support a school and vocational facilities on both ends of the county. Due to our terrain and weather conditions, travel should be considered.
4/12/18	Looking at the proposed school configuration, I feel that one school serving all of Nicholas County better serves students, fiscal responsibility, and accountability to taxpayers.
4/12/18	I feel there is no reason why both Richwood and Summersville can't have their own high school and Vo-Tech.
4/12/18	I want equity in both communities. The current proposal is disproportionate, to say the least. Use of the word "community" for Richwood's school (which I feel is being taken from Richwood's own language and pride in such) is used as a carrot or sleight of hand to pacify or think we (Richwood) won't notice the 25% (RHS) versus the 75% (NCHS) (virtually) proposal. Zero reason for K-12 in Richwood. Replace what was lost. Grade school is fine. Equal schools in both towns.
4/12/18	My feelings are the proposal is lopsided. I ask that students are given equal opportunities at each school. That they aren't made to choose one school because it offers more than the other. Possible alternative solution: Pk-6 offered to Summersville to meet all needs. 6-12 school at Richwood to meet their needs.
4/12/18	I feel we need a consolidated school. Two separate schools would not work as well. Separate would not be equal.
4/12/18	For the NCBOE to be trusted ever again they need to treat Richwood students equally. Don't just offer us a choice for our students to be bussed far away to another school in order to be able to access CTE, Arts, and nice sports facilities. The 428 plan is fiscally irresponsible. NCHS does not need to be replaced. CRE doesn't either. Vo-Tech should stay where it is.
4/12/18	Save students - save lives. Smaller works. Smaller is better.
4/12/18	Nicholas County Schools should be designed in such a way that the educational process is fair and equitable.
4/12/18	I think the Vo-Tech needs to stay in Craigsville!
4/12/18	I want to see the best for both schools. I feel they must look at the number of students and I feel there is no way things can be equal. You have to look at what is available in the towns of Nicholas County. Richwood is getting a school, for both schools, however it is never going to get past that they feel Richwood is being treated unfairly. It doesn't matter about the kids, it's all about the same old stuff - Summersville gets everything. Sad! I trust the Board to handle it.
4/12/18	Provide innovative projects that could benefit both schools in the county. Follow Focal Point. Provide equal opportunity to all students.

4/12/18	A helpful experience that is appreciated. A sound foundation for a solution is present. Additional mediation required to ensure fairness as far as funding and distribution of money, construction, and school openings should be simultaneous. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.
4/12/18	Fair and equal school. Vocational school for both ends of county. Use existing sports field - both schools.
4/12/18	I realized that we all can get along as long as we set egos aside (and give and take) ideas that are shared. Be respectful and realize this is all about the schools.
4/12/18	I think Richwood is not going to be happy with anything. I believe they will not be satisfied unless they get the same thing Summersville gets.
4/12/18	is an excellent facilitator. He was very kind and handsome. But seriously - in order for Nicholas County to be whole again, both schools need equal facilities. What Summersville gets, Richwood gets! Also, someone from Richwood needs to be on the mediation team!
4/12/18	did a good job. NCBOE is doing the best they can. I trust them. Trusting mediation team to solve this school issue to the best of their ability.
4/12/18	kept the group on task. I think the proposed plan is very fiscally responsible. Great compromise!
4/12/18	In this process, not all positions and solutions were not available. We were not fully discussing the optional solutions.
4/12/18	was good; Table 13 good. Fewer buildings saves money. The proposal saves culture. The proposal gives kids options. The proposal facilitates career and college readiness.
4/12/18	(1) RHS needs a CTE option - not the same options that would be at NCHS - but perhaps more along the lines of working with Forest Service, etc. (2) I want RHS to get the updated sports facilities.
4/12/18	Both schools need CTE or one that is centrally located. I agree that we need both our schools in Richwood and Summersville. Both schools need to be more community active.
4/12/18	Table #13 - did a wonderful job. I think both schools need to be equal in everything, not one community school, and one OCEFP school. (make them equal in all ways)
4/12/18	Vocational Center needs to remain in Craigsville without favoring either RHS or RMS or NCHS or SMS. Schools on each side need to be equitable and equivalent.
4/12/18	I'm fine with the proposal the way it is.
4/12/18	There are many opportunities for both Summersville and Richwood. Those, excluding me, in my group feel that everything must be "fair" and "equal." I feel we should play to our strengths and that we could be different and support different areas. No, being the only "Summersville" person it was not easy to speak in this group and was outnumbered on most issues. But again, I do not feel that we have to return to pre-flood ideas. There are a lot of divisions in this county, but they cannot be resolved.
4/12/18	(1) CTC needs to be available to students in the whole county without students having to leave Richwood and travel to Summersville. That is a division. We are trying to keep from causing divisions. (2) Bus riders kept to a bare minimum. (3) On the financial side, if you cannot have a CTC at both schools, it needs to be left in Craigsville for availability to both high schools, without having to enroll in a different school.
4/12/18	(1) Fairness for all (2) Vo-Tech to stay in Craigsville (3) What other land has Summersville looked for this school (acreage) (4) The travel times should be reviewed to Craigsville from Richwood
4/12/18	My main concern is that if there is only 1 CTC, we are further dividing the county. The plan seems designed to reduce numbers at RHS. We have a Vo-Tech that could be expanded and used by both areas. Why waste the building we have? Too many of us it seems away as stated at RHS, "To make us all Grizzlies." This part of the plan is simply not equal or fair to all students.
4/12/18	Why would they move the Vo-Tech to Nicholas? That doesn't help Richwood's growth, citizens, or students. Why can't we just get our schools back where they belong? Can we start building our schools soon? Would it cost more money that we don't have to move or take down the Vo-Tech? Travel times though? Those need to be reviewed, especially the Marshall University study

4/12/18	My biggest concern is that both sides of the County can get what they need. That we can all get the schools where they were before the flood, and so we can stop feuding. I also think that we need to keep the Vo-Tech right in Craigsville, where it is in between. My question is what will it take to finally get our school back in Richwood? Everything was perfectly fine the way it was before. Also, travel times need to be reviewed more. Thank you for letting me express my thoughts and ask questions.
4/12/18	In order for the schools to be sustainable, you must have a CTE available for NCHS and available for RHS. If you force students to attend school in Summersville, they won't. Many parents have considered homeschooling and moving to avoid this fiasco. In order to have community support, you have to have a community school. Opportunities need to be equal on each side of the county. CTE in Richwood and Summersville. To have a middle school, high school, CTE, full suite of academic, career, and technical schools, and arts facilities, but only a small school in Richwood does not provide an equal opportunity for education in our county.
4/12/18	Build for the conditions that are current, and if conditions improve, make an adjustment. It has to be financially feasible.
4/12/18	I would love to have equality for my children and grandchildren. Healing within our county.
4/12/18	We believe that Nicholas County is profiting from our disaster in Richwood!
4/12/18	I think that Nicholas County wants to profit off of our loss.
4/12/18	We need equal opportunities in the county. Putting all schools with CTE in Summersville is not providing equal education to Richwood. More students attend Vo-Tech from Richwood (by percentage). Richwood lost 2 gyms, auditorium, and 2 cafeterias. We need those back. Richwood schools need to start construction quickly. There have already been studies done with a preliminary draft for a middle school/high school in Richwood. Many people are working together to get this moving.
4/12/18	There is no reason to replace schools that were not flooded (Vo-Tech, NCHS, CRE). Both new high schools should be comprehensive. I worry that with the principle that states "Provide options to students and families to meet their educational needs and participate in their education process" will be used to draw students from one school so that the other school will thrive and one will die. Sad - we need a win-win. (*I did win the thumb war with 19 pin for both my partner and myself.)
4/12/18	Equity amongst communities, taking into account the nature of the flood damage first and foremost.
4/12/18	I felt this was an excellent public workshop. The workshop gave everyone the opportunity to agree or agree to disagree.
4/12/18	I feel very good about this session. I feel as though my concerns were actually listened to and that was very refreshing. Definitely a positive experience.
4/12/18	Keep Vo-Tech where it is at in Craigsville - just need an upgrade. Both schools have equal opportunity.
4/12/18	Start construction soon and be fiscally responsible.
4/12/18	Each school or area must have the same opportunities. Especially when it comes to CTE programs. Build both schools and leave the Career Center where it is. Also, athletic facilities should be equal as well.
4/12/18	Better plan for Vo-Tech. (I like the proposed plan, but seems to be one of the biggest sticking points.)
4/12/18	Let our county heal! Give both locations back what they lost; make our county stronger by showing equality to both schools; keep our identities on both sides of the county.
4/12/18	Restore harmony across the county by treating all students fairly. Two equal schools serving all students.

4/12/18	After sitting through the small group discussion, I feel that the two opposing sides can't come to an agreement or compromise. The ultimate plan for the students of Nicholas County should be fair to all students and allow them the same opportunities.
4/12/18	Having a school with an integrated career-technical school is the most important. Consolidation is best, but the compromise plan is win-win.
4/12/18	To have a plan of action by FEMA deadline.
4/12/18	Fiscally responsible. We must look to the future and do what is best for the students of the whole country. A hard choice needs to be made. You cannot please everyone. Put the kids first.
4/12/18	I feel that this new plan is benefiting the majority of Nicholas County students after a devastating flood. The biggest need I see right now is safety of our students in the temporary facilities. With all the gun violence, as a teacher at SMS, the need for the new schools is of vital importance. There is no way to protect our students in an emergency situation. "Fire" 2 minutes and the building is gone. Attacked - well we have had students accidentally put knees through our doors and fists through walls. The pods are not safe for our kids. New schools ASAP.
4/12/18	Students should not be forced to switch schools to attend the CT school. Both schools should have CT schools or have the opportunity to attend the Craigsville CT school. Amenities should be the same for both schools. If money is such a huge concern, why would we spend \$50,000 an acre for property when other sites could be found? School identity must be valued. Students should have an opportunity to give their thoughts on the consolidated plan. The mediation was painful - folks who were flooded were damaged to a degree that others simply cannot understand. Maybe a mental health perspective would be valuable for the mediation team. It's much more painful, and the ongoing flood fight continues to cause suffering.
4/12/18	Once the schools are built, how will they be sustained? Children should have a choice of which school to attend. Football fields, auditoriums, gymnasiums all need to be in each new school. Schools should be treated equally.
4/12/18	Make fair and equitable at both schools. Offer AP at both; CTE at both; Gyms for both, MS and HS at Richwood Schools
4/12/18	Equal access to education opportunities (including vocational) for all children in the county. Fiscal sustainability for operating school(s) in the future
4/12/18	I believe to the bottom line. Everything needs to be fair to both sides of the county for all kids. 2 smaller schools as opposed to one huge school. Equal access to everything. I would like to see everything that is proposed to put into one school or 2 schools. Amenities proposed as to what is needed, what is wanted.
4/12/18	It's time to build the schools; time to move forward and give our Lumberjacks and Grizzlies schools. There should be no forcing kids to attend a school because of boundaries. An example would be Panther Creek Elementary and Ganley River since especially Canvas kids have always attended Summersville area schools. If affordable, both sides needs a Career Technical school. All kids aren't college kids. Our area involves more hands-on for job availability.
4/12/18	I enjoyed the process but not the recommendations. (1) The Vo-Tech needs to stay in Craigsville; the building is in great shape and plenty of room to grow. (2) Nicholas County High School is in great shape - leave the high school and build a new elementary school.
4/12/18	CTE is the main concern. Group unsure as to new location. CTE to remain in Craigsville because it is not flooded. They worried about sustainability of 2 schools. They want equity of all schools (ie. course offerings). They seemed unsure of definitive locations for new schools. Wants sports facilities. No new levies and/or bonds wanted.
4/12/18	The Richwood people have an answer for everything! Ask them!
4/12/18	I like the opportunity to be able to have a voice my opinion. I wish that my voice would have been heard prior to this meeting. With such a tragedy that happened, it's not a "time to seize the day." It's time to rebuild the flooded schools and get a sense of normalcy for my students.
4/12/18	We are at our table - or should I say we feel we all agree that we need schools built now! We need the same classes at both schools if schools are built in different areas. No new taxes or bonds to make it happen.

4/13/18	I support the consolidation of the high schools in Nicholas Co. there is not enough students in Richwood to be worth all the money it would cost. Please consider what is best for the most students despite what amount of support is shown at meetings. We have other commitments with children and JOBS that keep us from attending consolidation meetings. I would think that by now a mediation board would be looking at funding and what is the best way to help all students.
4/13/18	One of my more recent concerns is the talk of talking the vocational center to Glade Creek. This is a facility that is not only used by RHS and NCHS, but also WCHS and Fayetteville High School. From what I can understand where the building currently sits is more central to the majority of the schools that use it. I strongly believe in leaving the vocational center where it is, or talking and giving each side a vocational center. For example, Summersville has a hospital and several restaurants, take these programs and mold them to fit the new school in Summersville. Richwood has the vast national forest along with lumber mills and access to many natural settings. They also have a business in Richwood that is leading the county in programming, take this community business and see if the owner would be interested in a partnership. To my knowledge it should like he would. Take these programs and mold them to Richwood. I think it is very clear to see in a situation like this creative solutions are going to have to be made to fit the vast majority of the county.
4/13/18	As a citizen of Nicholas County, I am so weary of all this fighting. My family has been in this county for over 200 years. The center of the county is Summersville. We need the Career and Technical Center here in the center of the county.
4/13/18	I saw where i could email you and express my support. I could not make your meeting last evening because of prior commitments, I support your proposed plan. If your intentions are to make folks on both sides happy, we will never have a school. if you stick with facts, the choice is clear. Lets do this, i would like to see my grand children in a normal school building with the best of tools. Do what ya gotta do, and do your best, everything will work out....
4/13/18	I have been a huge supporter of the Nicholas County Board and the plan they came up with. I hated that it didn't work out. I have 2 young boys that will be going through the Nicholas county school system. I want them to be given every opportunity to succeed. This county could greatly benefit from an expanded Career and Technical Center. The consolidated school I felt was the best option and would've done away with always fighting the "equal" treatment with everything. I felt the plan the mediation team came up with would be a good compromise. It addressed most things that both sides felt were important to them.
4/13/18	I wish to voice my support for the mediation plan and the Nicholas County Board of Education. I have complete confidence that our BOE is working hard to ensure the future for all students of Nicholas County.
4/13/18	I attended the meeting at NCHS on 04/12/2018, but did not feel secure to voice my opinions in my group due to the temperament and number of people from Richwood that were in my group (6 to 3). My mediator did an amazing job, but those of us from Summersville and other surrounding areas still did not feel free to speak without being verbally assaulted or overturned. I would like to say that I fully trust and stand behind our local Board of Education members and superintendent, they have done an amazing job. I also feel that our State Board of Education, through mediation and cooperation with our local board and superintendent, have presented a plan that is a very fair compromise and fiscally responsible for ALL of Nicholas County. Vocational services must be offered to all of our students, but the vocational school currently sits beside Richwood High School and their number of students is still extremely low. By offering sound vocational courses at NCHS campus, we will be able to provide more curricular opportunities and diversity of curriculum for all students in Nicholas county. This would be utilized by not only Richwood, and Summersville students, but by Dixie, Mt. Nebo, Mt. Look Out, and Birch River students as well. The proposed location at Glade Creek would provide a centrally located county Vocational Center for everyone in Nicholas County. I also feel that the current plan will be very difficult to implement due to lack of land, water and sewage which do not meet inspections or are cited for code violations and lack of industry/jobs in the Richwood area to support a new complex.

4/13/18	As an older veteran teacher of 20 years who has taught in 3 different counties, I have been through a consolidation in Greenbrier County years ago when 10 Jr. Highs were consolidated into 2. While I was saddened by it because my old alma mater became an elementary school only, I was one of the teachers in the new school. It was a tremendous improvement in every way because of quality leadership, newer, up to date facilities and equipment, and the fresh start in everything from academics, teacher groupings, athletics, and fresh new goals. Consequently, I have approached this county's consolidation with hope, but because of the incredible backlash of hate and small thinking, I, as well as most of my colleagues from this end of the county, have become skeptical and frustrated by what should be an incredible opportunity for the whole county. We have been discredited and treated like traitors for almost 2 years now because an act of God brought out true colors and a need to think bigger to find solutions. After this long mess, most of us are tired of the hate and senseless drama. We have understood that hurting people hurt people, but enough is enough. It is past time to move forward, particularly for the sake of all our students. The proposed option of a new facility with the vocational facility included on one campus is so exciting to me, for so many reasons. I know that our current high school facility in Summersville has a few teachers who have no classroom and have to move from classroom to classroom each period, so a facility that is big enough for the student body needs is very appealing. I've been incredibly frustrated about having to continue to loose programs each year because of numbers because some of these missing classes are necessary for today's students. We no longer have computer classes.... REALLY? In the 21st century where we are supposed to teach 21st century skills? Students come here unable to type or navigate basic computer programs because of numbers? And, we have no business or accounting classes. We have no library. And those are just a few basics. I would love to see enough numbers to justify something more than core classes. Shoot, I would love to just have enough computers or text books to teach the students we have, but that's another story. Having the vocational campus in walking distance, instead of bussing distance is also a huge asset. As a core teacher, I strongly believe that vocational classes should be utilized by ALL students, not just those who are not academic stars. And yet, because of our current set up, none of our academic students can fit vocational classes into their schedules. Add to that the bussing time to and from the vocational school, and even fewer students are able to even think about trying a "skills" class, which I personally every student should be required to have in some form. As you can see, I'm all for providing a newer, up to date facility that has a vocational campus in conjunction with an academic campus. I married a man who took votech classes in high school, and while he has earned 2 master degrees and a doctorate, he still uses his vocational skills every time he wants to "try" something, which has included building onto and redoing our homes over the years. As a coach, I also am excited that facilities could be created to include all athletics, including soccer, which gets pushed to left over fields for practices, or cross country, which currently has to leave campus to practice at the lake or some place that is safe from traffic for practices and meets. The thoughts of a possibility of a pool really excites me because not only could students learn to swim or get life savings classes, but also could be utilized by sports team for recovery practices as well as developing a swim team. The benefits of your proposal far outweigh the hate and backlash that we have grown tired of, so I just wanted to speak on behalf of your efforts as I'm sure you will undoubtedly hear arguments against it. Thank you for your time and consideration of my one opinion.
4/13/18	I am a parent of a kindergarten student at Summersville Elementary School and a substitute teacher for the NCBOE. The NCBOE has my full and utmost support as well as the mediation plan. Unfortunately I was not able to make it to last nights meeting because I am a baseball coach and had prior obligations. There is no reason to keep our students of Nicholas County on hold any longer. They deserve a bright future and I believe those who are opposing continue to put a damper on what could be for our students. Other than my faith and family, education is a top priority for me. If this continues for much longer and/or the outcome seems to take away from the many opportunities a consolidated, new school could hold for our child my husband and I have already made plans to move out of Nicholas County so our son can receive a quality education that he deserves. As I previously stated he attends Summersville Elementary School. It was the next school to receive a new building in our county, before the flood occurred of course. Now it is on hold, and that school is debilitating on a daily basis, along with the mold issues. My son's GREAT grandmother attended grade school there, it's time for a plan and action so all of our students in Nicholas County can prosper and receive an education that is going to benefit them, our community, state, and country. My brother works for Public School System so I am well aware of the lack of education the students in our state are already receiving (not to mention the lack of diversity, culture, etc. that unfortunately they are not being exposed to). So it is a shame that we can not come together as a county for our children and give them our absolute best.

4/13/18	I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to each side. I probably will not be directly impacted by the consolidation. I will retire in four years. I do not foresee the new schools being built and people moving into them in four years. However, I do have some thoughts to share. I hate that schools and lives were destroyed. We need to try to make the best of a horrible situation. The chance to have a high school and career center in the same location will be a great benefit to many students. Students who struggle in academic classes will not lose a chance to attend the career center because they will not lose the travel time. Currently, students have to attend the career center for at least two or three periods a day to earn their certification. If they have failed any academic classes, it is virtually impossible for them to go to the career center which then makes it difficult for them to prepare for their future. Students who are planning on attending college cannot give up half a day to attend the career center. They will not be able to get the required electives needed to enter their programs in college. However, if it were next door, they could give an hour every day for four years. This would be beneficial in many ways. They might find out that they enjoy that program and want to make it a career or they might just learn a skill that will save them money down the road. They will be able to do minor work on their car or house and not have to pay someone. They might learn enough to work in that field and help pay their way through college. The students interested in going to college to be a nurse would be able to take the CNA and other medical certification courses taught at the career center. This would give them needed experience and knowledge as well as a way to earn money while in college. The engineering program they have been trying to get started at the career center would flourish. In summary, a campus with a high school, middle school and career center would be beneficial to both career center and college preparatory students. We have more students on this side of the county so the career center would receive a boost in enrollment. Therefore, more students would be able to receive certifications that will help them prepare for their future.
4/13/18	I am a _____ at Nicholas County High School. I am also the mother of two little girls who will be future students in Nicholas County. I would like to state that I am in favor of a consolidated campus for 6-12 graders in Glade Creek, including a career center. As a _____, I know that having a career center on campus will be a wonderful advantage for students. And there are simply more students on the Summersville end of the county that would be able to take advantage of that facility. As a parent, I want my daughters to have access to the best schools that Nicholas County can offer and I feel that new school facilities must be part of that plan. We must take advantage of this opportunity to provide ALL Nicholas County students with the best facilities possible. And we must look to the future and not just the now.
4/13/18	Richwood is a slowly dwindling town, it has failing infrastructure and no economic base to support what they currently maintain. The city limits are less than 5 miles from the County Line and they are on the extreme edge of the county. The large majority of Richwood High School Students are bused in from other areas of the county. The closure of this school was inevitable before there was a flood. Building a new school there especially with the amenities the Anti-consolidation moment are asking for would be fiscally irresponsible no matter how it was being paid for. I fully support one consolidated school with as many combined attributes as possible, this would serve all the students of Nicholas County. There is long bus rides for students in Nicholas County and there will always be long bus rides, it offends me they a lot of people from Richwood seem to think they are too good to have a long bus ride but its ok for everyone else to have to ride to Richwood. Please make the Wisest, Most Fiscal Responsible, and Most beneficial to ALL Nicholas County Students decision and do not bend to the pressure of a few, people who think they can relive their Glory Days from High School 20 years ago.
4/13/18	I would like to express my concern about the consolidation plan for Nicholas County. I was unable to attend last night's meeting due to a conflict of schedule. Many of the residents on the Summersville side feel we can not be free to express our concerns in public because of the endless harassment by the supporters of the Richwood position regarding consolidation. We want our concerns to be heard as well but have made every attempt to be more civil and we fear our voice is not being heard. Richwood lacks the infrastructure to support a vocational school and they have no plan to increase business and growth for their city. If they continue in the current path, their population will continue to dwindle. It makes no sense to invest millions of dollars there. The vocational school should be placed in Glade Creek. Summersville can accommodate the necessary infrastructure for this project. The vocational school serves more Nicholas County High School students than Richwood students. I live in the Western end of the county and many of our students from this county travel farther to school. Our concerns from the Dixie, Little Elk, Swiss, Lockwood and Zela end of the county hasn't been heard at all. Please understand that we do not need to invest more money in Richwood when the city cannot support a vocational school. Please leave it with NCHS where there is sufficient support by the community.
4/13/18	I fully support the mediation plan, the Nicholas County Board of Education, and our elected officials. I will have school-age children in the next couple of years.

4/13/18	I believe the best plan for the future of our county would be to go with the original plan set forth by the county BOE and the mediation team and build a small community school in Richwood and then build a middle school and high school at Glade Creek with the career center and new fields. The reason I feel this is the best plan is due to the fact that the population of the county attends NCHS and investing money into an area where the population is dwindling seems futile. I believe the original mediation plan also gives both communities what they need- schools back in the communities where they were lost and we need to get the schools back as soon as possible so our kids can get the best education possible.
4/13/18	I would like to make a comment on the proposed plan for Nicholas County Schools. The proposed plan for a Career Center at the Glade Creek facilities is the best possible plan for all Nicholas County students. With the community college being nearby and the high school and Career Center in the same building we as Nicholas County will be offering all students a unique opportunity for career exploration. A student could possibly take the standard high school courses, take vocational classes and at the same time have an opportunity to take college courses. Currently students from Richwood High School attend Nicholas County High School part time to participate in the JROTC program thus giving them an opportunity to take classes outside of their school. Therefore students who attend the new proposed high school in Richwood would still have an opportunity to attend classes at the new proposed career center at the Glade Creek facility. This would be the best economical plan for all students of Nicholas County.
4/13/18	I am a alumna of RHS, having spent 6 years as a student in Richwood schools. Furthermore, I am a current teacher at NCHS. I have years teaching experience, of which have been spent at Nicholas County High School. I married an NCHS graduate, and we have a child who attends school in the county and will, prospectively, graduate from the Nicholas County School system. The future of our schools significantly affects myself and my family, and I feel that I have a unique perspective to offer because I have a special place in my heart for both sides of the county. I had an overwhelmingly positive experience as a student of the Richwood Schools, and I can say the same for my experience as an employee at Nicholas County High School. There are people in both school communities who I love, and the school configuration issue has put me in the middle of an uncomfortable situation. Last night, I attended the mediation meeting, but I only stayed for the initial presentation in the auditorium. When we were separated into tables, I felt intimidated and reluctant to voice my thoughts, so I ended up leaving before the round table discussions ever began. I can tell you that I was not the only one who felt this way. Several other people left feeling intimidated while others stayed and became overwhelmed and frustrated; many others did not attend the meeting at all for these same reasons. Those of us who are pro-consolidation are not the minority. The truth is that many of us are just afraid to speak out. I felt that the initial configuration of consolidating the secondary schools at Glade Creek was the best option, and I still do even though it has been knocked down. As a student, I remember adult discussions of how Richwood schools were not treated fair and equitable to Nicholas County High School and SJHS. After marrying a NCHS grad and gaining employment at NCHS, I realized that there was more to the story as there usually is. To keep any of our students from being slighted and to offer all of them the same opportunities, it has always made sense to me to consolidate. I have always felt this way, even as a student, and since I was a student, both schools have had to make many sacrifices to balance the budget, resulting in the demise of the business education departments, dwindling course offerings and extracurricular programs, and the closing of our school libraries. One would think that as the years progress, progress would be inevitable in our schools, but that is sadly not the case. There were far more opportunities available to the students in Nicholas County when my husband and I were students than there are now, and as teachers, we are both concerned about the quality of education being offered to the current students and are fearful that the quality will continue to decline, especially since it will impact our child's education and future. To put it simply, we cannot continue to sustain the configuration we currently have, and why would we want to when it is failing to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students on both sides of the county?
4/13/18	The proposed plan is the most effective and fiscally responsible solution. From my own personal people who support the plan do not feel the need to comment or support consolidation efforts since we have put full faith in our County Board of Education. That being said, I believe the opposition to consolidation efforts is not truly reflective of the citizens of Nicholas County. Although the most fiscally responsible solution would involve combining the two schools, the alternative of having a career and technical center at Glade Creek (the geographical center of the county) and two separate community schools is a fair and reasonable compromise for all parties.

4/13/18	Although, I attended the round table discussion at NCHS on 4/12/18, I wish to make the following comments concerning the proposed plan to rebuild Nicholas County schools: First, the Richwood contingent arrived with typed speaking notes already knowing the discussion points for this meeting. Some of us felt blindsided as we do not understand how they obtained the information in time to type and distribute notes. It was obvious they were better prepared than those of us who were seeking additional information, but who received LITTLE information at the discussion because pro Richwood proponents were loaded for bear (and I do mean grizzly) and dominated most discussions. Second, I was disheartened to learn that ANY plan that doesn't give the east end of the county (i.e. Richwood) more money/resources/facilities than the western end (i.e. Summersville) is emphatically and aggressively opposed. Although, I felt that I had opportunity to speak, some of the Richwood proponents were taking notes, photographing the mediation plan, and it is well known that one at my table hosts the notorious Facebook site "I am Richwood." I do not relish having my comments splashed across social media, so I exercised restraint. Third, while my desire is to provide the best facilities and education for ALL students, I observed that Richwood proponents' greatest concern is not the children but using the school to revitalize and re-establish a defunct Richwood community. The comment that a career center at Glade Creek and the removal of boundaries will "kill Richwood" reveals their actual purpose; but their failure to grasp that having 3 schools in Richwood for 30 years, has not saved the community highlights their ignorance as to how to revitalize a secluded community.
4/13/18	I support the decisions of the ncboe and wvboe mediation team.
4/14/18	Thank you for having the public workshop. My take-away from the group I was with is that Richwood will not agree to any proposal until they get everything they want. I think the plan presented is great because it gives both sides exactly what they ask for: Richwood gets a community school almost exactly as Stu Matthias presented in his engineering drawings before the State Board and the local board gets what they want with an integrated CTE. The only modification I recommend is providing transportation for RHS students to come to the CTE. I suggest the RHS students ride directly to the CTE in the AM and return to RHS around noon. The students from Nettie-Leviassy and Craigsville area would come directly to the CTE and not RHS but go to RHS after their classes at the CTE. Students who live in Richwood would need a bus provided to drive directly to the CTE. (They also might transfer to another bus at Gauley River to get to the CTE) When I shared this idea with my group _____, who is a Richwood leader, vehemently disagreed. He went so far as to say that your plan was designed to destroy Richwood High School. I challenged him on that comment and he apologized for saying it. I pointed out that the anti-consolidation side has been advocating for a community school for several months. (He has posted, at last count, over 280 facebook posts about the benefits of small community schools.) He said the support for community schools has been twisted and is now being used against them!!! I only mention _____ because he has been so vocal in his position. In conclusion, I think the plan presented is a WIN-WIN and If we move forward this county will begin to heal. I just pray that community leaders recognize they need to compromise and that one can't change the rules in the middle of the game!!

4/14/18	I am totally against consolidation for several reasons and they all involve our children. As I listened to the News Thursday night after the "workshop" they had at Summersville High School one of the ladies that is for consolidation made a remark that has echoed in my head ever since. She said they can bring THOSE KIDS over here and they can go to school with our children. By calling our children "Those Kids" kind of makes me think our children will definitely not be accepted in Summersville. You know as well as I do that children usually act like the parents and if that is the way a parent feels you can rest assured our children will not be received in a good way. Also, I don't feel that Summersville should get a new High School, Junior High, Band Room, Art Studio, Vo Tech and anything else that Superintendent thinks of. They had one school flooded and that was their Junior High. They were told that the Summersville Junior High would be repaired. Before you know it that school was leveled. I wasn't there when it was leveled but I have been told that Superintendent gave the order to level it and then paid Senator to watch over the school while it was being torn down. I feel that Summersville should only get the amount of money they would have gotten for the repairs and make their high school a Junior High and High School combined. They are the ones that made the decision to tear that school down. I feel Richwood should have a new High School, Junior High School and Band Room because we lost all 3 of those buildings. The proposal as I understand it wants Richwood to have one building and put everything in that one building including the Elementary school and the Votech. The Votech and the elementary school were not touched by flood water why tear those buildings down? As I see it the following is a list of money they have wasted at our Board Office since June 23, 2016. 1. Tore down Summersville Junior High School 2. Wasted money on high priced lawyers when they had access to free lawyers. 3. Want to tear down a good Vo Tech School in Craigsville. 4. Want to tear down an almost new Elementary School in Richwood. 5. They have a Band Teacher on Administrative leave with pay and as of this day they have not found him guilty of anything except having the students best interest at all times. So another waste because we are not only paying but we have to pay a teacher to substitute for him. Needless to say the subs have no musical knowledge so the children are paying for instruments that they can not use. Another waste. 6. They gave the Superintendent a raise and a 4 year contract and I don't believe she had been here a year. A former BOE president said he never heard of nonsense like that before. 7. They tell us they are broke but yet found money to redo the Board office. 8. They gave Board office personnel a raise (after we were told the board was broke) 9. They hired new employees for the Board office after cutting teachers and making some classes split grades. They put Richwood students in Pods that are hazardous. They put Summersville students in Pods that are under one roof. Richwood kids have to go outside in snow, wind and rain when they change classes. Some of the things they have done to this county seem illegal to me. They are costing the taxpayers a lot of money with some of the silly decisions they have made. Our children deserve to have their school back without the input of the BOE because if the board makes the decisions on how to rebuild schools in Richwood we will have another mess just like the Pods. Teachers from Summersville have called us everything they can think of just to get under our skin. This needs to come to an end. Enough is Enough.
4/14/18	This is an example of why there is distrust in our county. Many days the high school was closed for no explanation. This time when RMS and CRE were closed, it was blamed on the city. Coincidentally, this was used against the town of Richwood in meetings last week concerning the schools. There is no honest communication coming from the NCBOE.
4/14/18	Sustainability and success of the proposed configuration are in jeopardy for 2 reasons : 1. By denying Richwood High School students the same easy access to CTE classes as the larger school, you are setting it up to fail. 2. By shortchanging Richwood High School families you are ensuring a failure of future school levies. Richwood precincts are the most consistent supporters of past levies. Without levy monies the county will be hard pressed to sustain expensive CTE programs
4/14/18	Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the mediation meeting yesterday. I wanted to take the time to write a few additional comments. I am sure will have more and will send as I think of them. It is important to note that the original high school enrollment areas, if enforced, would leave the two high schools with a more balanced student numbers and within about 100 student difference. In planning and designing new schools, it is important to include this into the plans as both schools should be very similar in size and scope and able to handle similar numbers.
4/14/18	Attended the mediation meeting it was very informative, and all present were professional and courteous. With that being said a strong foundation is present for a fair solution. My main concerns are as follows: The majority of FEMA funding being used on the impacted community Richwood Simultaneous construction and opening of new schools to ensure enrollment isn't affected by one school opening first Expansion of current Vo-tech as its central location is ideal and will be much more cost effective than opening a new one that will be exclusive to Summersville No amenities at Summersville that Richwood will not have as well, extra amenities would serve to entice students and negatively affect enrollment

4/14/18	I am writing in regard to the recently released Nicholas County schools mediation proposal. I was unable to attend the public workshop on 4/12/18 due to a Boy Scout obligation. My family and I reside in Birch River, WV, which was also deeply affected by the 2016 flood. We moved back to Nicholas County, my childhood home, when my oldest son was 4 years old, after living in the _____ area, where I attended college, for about 10 years. My oldest child is a student in the _____ grade at Summersville Middle School, also known as "Pod City." My youngest son attends _____ grade at Birch River Elementary. We live within walking distance of our local grade school, Birch River Elementary. We reside about 15 miles from Summersville Middle School and Nicholas County High School. Our home is located approximately 24 miles from the Nicholas County Career and Technical Center. My child's bus ride to and from SMS averages 45 minutes each way. I was, and still am, a proponent for consolidation of all the secondary schools in Nicholas County. However, I fully support the elements contained in the latest mediation proposal, as I recognize some give and take is required to reach a solution. The Glade Creek area is the most central available location for a comprehensive school complex. A central location in the county is necessary to entice children to want to attend a Career and Technical Center. As it stands, my middle schooler will likely not attend the CTE school in Craigsville when he reaches high school due to the lengthy travel time involved interfering with his participation in the band program. When I was a student at NCHS (1994-1997), the additional travel time and bus ride was the primary reason why many students did not attend what was then called the Vo-Tech. You could not be in band or choir, or take AP classes, if you went to Vo-Tech. You missed periods of instruction while you were being bussed to and fro. We need to extend the same opportunity for career and technical education to all of the children in the county. With this plan, they simply arrive at school for the day without having to get back on a bus for a 30 minute ride after riding for up to an hour in the morning, then again after school. I understand that the "Richwood delegation" is not accepting of this proposal as the community school outlined for that area was not specified to include a Career and Technical Center. They have been quite outspoken about this on the I Am Richwood Facebook group. It is my understanding that the finances for staffing two separate Career and Technical Centers just isn't there. In that case, their students can travel just as far as mine does to attend (i.e. 24 vs. 20 miles). There are students that currently live farther away than my children. It is a matter of doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Satellite or remote learning has been discussed as an option to address teacher inequities. This style of learning does not work for everyone. Technology and internet connections in our rural area are often inadequate. I have participated in these types of classes while a student at _____. I took some nursing classes that were broadcast from the _____ campus to the _____ campus. It was a disaster, and often there were days that the audio or video wouldn't come through, or there was a delay or lag. It was often impossible to ask questions of the instructor. I worry about my own child being able to learn through such a set-up, especially in hands-on subjects that would be taught in CTE. I am well aware of the problems the county's tax base along with the state aid education funding formula presents for the future of Nicholas County's students. Dwindling tax base and enrollment numbers paint a bleak picture. This is a business decision, and we can not afford maintenance and upkeep for years on all of the buildings currently owned by the BOE. We need to minimize the number of buildings and maximize the educational impact for our children. The current proposal allows for flexible options reflective of enrollment, which will undoubtedly continue to change going forward, either for better or for worse. I look forward to seeing further progress being made toward the rebuilding of our schools. Our students deserve a brick and mortar home for education in the quickest manner possible.
4/14/18	I'm against this consolidation, why in the world would anyone want to put large amounts of students together, when WV math and reading skills are already below average, this is not going to improve those scores, build back schools that were lost, We do not need to build a monstrosity that we cannot sustain in hard times
4/14/18	As a taxpayer I feel only the three flooded and destroyed schools should be the ones replaced. Let the school board find other funding for an elementary school in Summersville. Using the FEMA money, would this not take away from the other three schools? Upgrade the vo-tech and leave it centralized in Craigsville. It has worked for years. Everything should be EQUAL between Summersville and Richwood. The children deserve the SAME in both ends of Nicholas Co.
4/14/18	For half the cost you can build a second CTE center at the Summersville location. Use creative solutions like alternating days or mobile labs to bring the programs to the students instead of busing the students to the programs.
4/14/18	If one school is a CTE school, make the other an AP/IB/STEM magnet school. Parents can choose where to send their children.
4/14/18	Please consider rebuilding k-12 in Richwood first. Richwood has two schools in pods with "outside" walkways. Summersville has one school in pods with "inside" walkways.

4/14/18	I support the work of the mediation team. I did not attend the workshop and others chose not to in order to avoid uncomfortable situations and drama. It might have been better to conduct two workshops. One for those that support the proposed plan and another for those that do not support the plan. Random thoughts: Really unsure that there is a logical place to build a school in Richwood. The state board members, state superintendent, possibly the governor, and mediators (FEMA) should make a trip over to investigate the lots Richwood is proposing. I am sure they would quickly realize it just isn't feasible. Site visitations should have been done from the beginning to avoid unrealistic hopes. I would mostly support one facility for all students due to equity, staffing, and financial sustainability reasons. If Richwood booms in the next ten years then a levy could be run and matching SBA funds could be used to build a new high school over there. The eastern panhandle builds schools regularly to match the booming population. If one middle/high school is unacceptable, I would suggest the following options. Option A: If two high schools are the solution, then both should change their identities. One should be placed in the geographical center (Glade Creek—Lake Forest High School) while the other would be better placed somewhere in the Nettie area (Forest Lake High School) for the western side with equal access from the Richwood, Nettie, Leivasy, Carl, and upper Canvas area. Most Canvas citizens would probably still choose the Glade Creek center. Option B: Another possible solution might be one county high school with multiple campuses with multiple areas of study. Lake Forest Mountain Academy Rangers—green and tan A Lake campus in Summersville (business and medical focus) A Forest campus in Nettie area. (Environmental, science focus) A Mountain campus in Craigsville. (Fine arts and athletics focus) Build all athletic fields in Craigsville (current CTE center) Students choose to attend the campus that best reflects their interest. All core classes and AP classes would be available at all campuses We cheer for one high school, one mascot on Friday nights, and march in one band. Marching and Concert Band and athletics taught at end of day and after school at Mountain campus so that students from the other two campuses could participate if they wish. Option C: Pk - 8 in Richwood. 6-8 Glade Creek/Mt Nebo/Canvas/Summersville area 9-12 Glade Creek/Mt Nebo/Canvas/Summersville area If the proposed, current mediation plan is not accepted, then maybe the above options might help. So glad I do not have to make this decision. Prayers to all for resolution.
4/15/18	I attended the workshop in Summersville last Thursday and felt that it was handled professionally. The moderator at our table seemed uncomfortable in the role but did a good job. A young lady at the table was talking about issues that concerned her when an older lady started to talk over her and demean the younger lady's position. The moderator immediately stepped in and asked the older lady to step back in a very kind and pleasant way. She told her she would be allowed to talk as soon as the other lady was done. Her quick response defused what could have been a disruption in the process. Two men who were not supposed to be at our table chose to join us. One was rather adversarial, but she ignored one of his negative comments without missing a beat to get us moving on to the task at hand. I don't know if the moderator was chosen by personality or well trained, but I believe she made everyone feel heard. She even commented a couple of times that different individuals should write their comments on the comment card to turn in to the mediators.
4/15/18	This is why we don't trust our own local board of education. There is a very nasty Facebook site called ONE NICHOLAS COUNTY. They continually post their negative comments about Richwood and the new candidates that are running for the board of education. Our local BOE should not be looking at this page, let alone, liking anything on this page. So what happened this morning? OUR LOCAL NICHOLAS COUNTY BOE liked a post that was posted on the ONC Facebook page. THIS WAS TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR!!!
4/15/18	Attached are my comments and questions re: the rebuilding of the Nicholas County Schools. If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me.
4/16/18	I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the mediation team's proposal. The proposal does not meet the needs of all the students of Nicholas County. Putting the Career Center in Summersville prevents the students from Richwood from having easy access to it. Richwood lost a 1200 student capacity high school and a 750 student capacity middle school. Summersville lost a 1200 student capacity middle school. There is enough FEMA money available to replace the schools that were lost. The people of Richwood are willing to accept a comprehensive consolidated high school/middle school in Richwood. We don't need a new elementary school. Nicholas county does not need a new vocational school. The facility at Craigsville is more than sufficient. It is presently serving three schools, and is centrally located between those schools. There is ample land available in in Nicholas County that can be purchased for a lot less than 50,000 dollars an acre. The reason that the NCBOE wants to put the Career Center in Summersville is because they can't get the Glade Creek property otherwise. If the Summersville school includes a career center, then the Richwood school should also. However, if the career center is moved out of Craigsville, it won't be easily accessible for Webster County High School. All student are important. I feel that it is a waste of money to build a new elementary school for Richwood and a new career center when the facilities that we have here are sufficient. Summersville needs a new elementary school. FEMA funds won't pay for a new elementary school in Summersville because it wasn't flooded. I feel that one solution would be to build a K-8 school in Summersville. Another solution would be to build a consolidated high school/middle school in Summersville and renovate the present high school to accommodate the needs of the elementary students. I would like to add this thought: The NCBOE members and superintendent are temporary entities, especially with the current division in the county and an election for three new board members looming. On the other hand, the schools will be here for years to come, if not permanently.

4/16/18	Below are some suggestions for your consideration from a letter of mine that has not yet been published: Can We Grow More Opportunities for Students? How Many Acres? Some people want a new high school on a few acres in Richwood, while school superintendent Donna Burge-Tetrick wants 50 acres for a consolidated high school. Is there a better idea? I knew students from a high school of 200 students that was located on a 300-acre farm. Interested students provided most of the labor on the farm. They supplied all of the beef and eggs used by the school. They fed and milked about 30 dairy cows. After the milk was pasteurized, it was used at the school. Nicholas County has two high schools, plus Vo-tech at a third location. This three-way split often results in there being too few students at any one location for teaching natural science classes and training for in demand trades. Without dedicated instructors, there often isn't anyone to apply for and administer the grant money available for natural sciences. Some of the grants are for only \$15,000 to \$25,000; but, if you get enough of these grants, it adds up to serious money. If Nicholas County settles on too few acres for a new high school, I fear we will end up with buildings whose windows face mostly east and west, resulting in lots of glare in the classrooms. In Glade Creek Industrial Park there are up to 175 acres available. If we, the people of Nicholas County, what would we do with that 175 acres? 1.) Woodland studies, for example: Take the wooded part and set up outdoor classrooms for economic and health reasons. Do crop tree release experiments. Create habitat attractive for newts and salamanders. Ticks that feed on newts take in blood and the newt's antibodies. Newt antibodies kill the spirochete that causes Lyme disease. Some birds help prevent Lyme disease by eating ticks that have the spirochete. So allow students to raise and release bobwhite quail. 2.) Grassland studies, for example: Plant pearl millet, where before a lawn had been planned, for setback or buffer space. Let students count and identify insects that live there. Compare that diversity to what is reported for a corn field. Let students observe and identify the birds and mammals that feed and/or nest there. Only mow the pearl millet when it will be used to make round bale silage (haylage). Let students see how it compares with the nutritional value of corn silage and other winter foods for farm animals. 3.) Food as medicine studies, for example: Let students engage in the growing of plants and mushrooms that can prevent and treat diabetes. 4.) Foster creativity by being innovative, pretty, and practical. Instead of boring lawn, let's plant edible flowers and other edible landscaping. Let the place have some life and imagination, instead of landscaping like the outside of a prison or military boot camp. 5.) Begin agriculture programs that train students for other trades. Some equipment companies will loan backhoes, farm tractors, forklifts, front end loaders, or small excavators to schools with strong resource programs. Equipment is brought in as a one-month demo, which the company writes off as a cost of promoting its product line. This equipment allows students to learn about electricity, hydraulics and so on. Two examples follow. A variety of equipment can spread wood chips for mulching and growing edible mushrooms. Each experience would be real for students, because it is productive work and they don't have to be so on edge if they drop some woods chips or a mushroom log. These experiences could help students be more skilled and more careful when they drive an automobile. To put these and other ideas into practice would take time. Time will be needed to apply for grant money from various institutional and government sources. As we build on successes, the process will get easier and we will be considered eligible by the bigger donors. With all that could be accomplished, why are some people working to limit the possibilities by insisting on land parcels that are far smaller than the 175 acres in Glade Creek Industrial Park.
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4/16/18	I have written a number of papers on how to make schools more sustainable. During several school board meetings in late 2017, I provided copies of three papers to each member of the Nicholas County School Board. The Nicholas County members of the mediation team may have provided copies of my papers to the other members of the mediation team. If not, then the copy of one of the three papers, my 10-15-17 op-ed in the Charleston-Daily Mail, should be helpful. A copy of it follows: Children are the future, and much of their lives' direction is a result of the schools they attend. A new school building can brighten or dim their future. New schools are rarely built, but it does happen, usually after a disaster or a consolidation. Each situation leaves officials with little time for planning a new building. Opportunities are missed, because people don't ask good questions. Do you want the building to face East, South, West or North? Does it matter? An east- or southeast-facing building warms with the morning sun. If people enter such a building in the early morning, they tend to be more alert than those who have to enter on the early morning cold side of a building. Furthermore, in winter months, ice will melt more quickly on the side facing the sun. A south-facing building is better for passive solar energy. What is that? It's better use of glass and other materials to insulate a building while allowing the sun to do most of the heating, even when there's no electricity. If passive solar energy is made part of a new school building, it can be used to save money and enable students to learn the dynamics of the system. Plus, exposure to more natural light can lead to improved test scores for students. (Most consumers buy light bulbs based on the amount of light produced, rather than the quality. Farmers learn the differences or suffer losses. For example, using the wrong kind of light can cause hens to stop laying eggs, especially in winter months. Effects on other animals and humans are more complicated.) Do you want wind to be used or ignored? People think of harnessing the wind by using a windmill, where blades go around in a circle. Wind energy can be harvested by tall cylinders that spin. Think of a tall flagpole that serves as the axle for a full length cylinder that can spin around the flagpole. Would you like students to learn about other ways to use the wind that are more cost effective and environmentally friendly than the typical windmill on a wind farm? What kind of roof do you want the school to have? Do you want the roof to be closed off to students? Or do you want a roof that can be used as a learning experience? Urban agriculture is often done on roofs of skyscrapers. Do you want students to learn about urban agriculture? What about a place on the roof for students to land their drones? What about nesting areas for nightjars, which are important predators of mosquitoes? What about nest boxes for songbirds that are in trouble, because of too many free-roaming cats? How about all the water that comes off the roof after a rain, or after snow melts? Should the water go into a rain garden and then a fish pond? Would you like students to learn what a rain garden is, how it works, and how to build one? Would you like students to learn how to build a moist-meadow to grow grain and other crops? Would you like students to learn how to raise the water level, ever so slowly, so fall-migrating ducks will fly in, and feed on the grain and other plants that grew over the summer months? What kind of food do you want the students to have? Do you want them to have mostly pre processed foods that are causing so many health problems? Do you want a kitchen and dining room tailored to receiving and preparing locally grown food? Do you want a work-study agricultural program that can supply all of the lettuce and other salad greens needed by the county schools? Do you want agricultural classes that teach students how to grow plants which can both help to prevent and treat diabetes? Do you want to see these foods included in the school lunch program? All of these innovations are a possibility; yet, how much concern is there for the usefulness of the school building itself? County and state officials should be interested in building a facility that promotes realistic growth for students, which in turn supports our economy. If state and local officials don't set an example of how to plan and build buildings, how can the average West Virginian be expected to do better? New schools and other public buildings need to be a step into the future.
4/17/18	I support the mediation team results.
4/17/18	Below are my latest comments. They are also attached to this email. Compromise components for Career and Technical Education (CTE) In the discussion at table 28 on April 12, 2018 the Richwood faction complaint about not having a CTE at Richwood. This complaint persisted even when it was offered that that for each current CTE class there are only two students from Richwood. There are a number of ways to have components of CTE without having a full CTE or even a full time CTE instructor. A few examples follow below: 1.) Hydroponics could be part of a biology class and give students valuable experience. With \$40,000 of equipment could easily supply all of the salad greens for the K-12 being considered for Richwood. The room for hydroponics will be about the size of one half of a classroom. It takes very little time. In commercial operations, one worker is needed to produce a million heads of lettuce. 2.) Make composting part of the education experience. Use compostable lunch trays. See page 10 of April 15, 2018 Parade magazine and urbanschoolfoodalliance.org Ban plastic straws. See earthday.org and lonelywhale.org If students are involved in these projects, they are also likely to be less wasteful in their use of food and other resources. 3.) Edible landscaping would help students learn what is edible and why. If students pick edible flowers as part of making their salad for a meal or snack, they will gain a very different approach and attitude to eating healthy. An easy example is Calendula, because it has a long bloom period and often blooms nearly until the first frost. 4.) Utilize green space to educate students and feed students. Green space refers to land that FEMA determines is not suitable for building. A number of proposed sites in Richwood for a new school will be rich in green space, because of wetland or flood plain issues. Round bale silage would allow students to learn about the fermentation process. Can a farmer be found that will volunteer to plant pearl millet and harvest it as round bale silage on land not suitable for building? It is also a crop to provide insects, seeds and cover for bobwhite quail. A school with bobwhite calling would make for a very memorable experience. Sunroot (also called sunchoke or Jerusalem artichoke) is in some ways the best food for preventing and treating diabetes. It prefers moist soil and can tolerate flooding. Some varieties of sunroot are very knobby making them hard to clean. A few varieties of sunroot produce tubers that more closely resemble the shape of sweet potatoes. Alternating sliced sweet potatoes with sliced sunroot and then roasting can be a quick way to provide a tasty and nutritious meal. Arrowhead potato is a delicacy when roasted. It may have many of the health benefits of sunroot. It can thrive with proper design of water and sediment control structures as well as rain gardens.

4/17/18	Not sure why the mediation team is dividing the schools in the county. Your proposal says a COMMUNITY SCHOOL in Richwood with auditorium-bandroom-gym-cafeteria-and continued use of existing athletic fields. A middle school and comprehensive high school near geographic center in Nicholas County with a full suite of academic -athletic-career and technical center and arts facility*Now it's awesome that Richwood is going to get their schools back but WHY are we differentiating the 2 schools? A community school on one end and a comprehensive school on the other. ALL schools are community schools (ex.Panther Creek Elementary in Nettie - Gauley River Elementary in Craigsville - Mt Nebo Elementary in Mt Nebo - Summersville Elementary in Summersville). When Richwood has spoken about a community school, it means to keep the schools in the community of Richwood NOT 25 miles away across the county! *It sounds like the mediation team only wants to give Richwood the BASICS (auditorium -bandroom-gym-cafeteria) and use our existing fields. ALL Richwood fields were completely flooded and under water!* Summersville on the other hand is being offered a COMPREHENSIVE school with a VO TECH and an ARTS FACILITY along with A SUITE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS and how many gyms and cafeterias and bandrooms are going to be included? * None of the Summersville athletic fields were flooded OR under water.*Have you seen Summersville's HIGH SCHOOL football field with TURF? *Why is SUMMERSVILLE only being offered a COMPREHENSIVE school? * Shouldn't Richwood have a Comprehensive School giving students the same opportunities? *Will RICHWOOD have 2 gymnasiums?-one for the middle school and one for the high school? Sharing ONE gym has been unfair for ALL teams involved with lack of practice times available. Richwood NEEDS 2 gyms--one for middle and one for high school.*THE REBUILDING OF THE SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT BE DIFFERENTIATED!! Richwood is RHS and Summersville is NCHS. It makes Richwood seem inferior and it's degrading while--- Summersville is being referred to as Comprehensive which comes off as being the ELITE school causing even more DIVISION when we are suppose to making amends to become unified and united in the county.*Richwood students would be left out of the EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES available from the VOTECH. People want the best education possible for their kids. Yes Richwood gets a school but they are being left out of having EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.
4/17/18	I believe the schools lost and damaged in the 2016 flood should be and must be replaced. That would be the two schools in Richwood and the one Summersville. I believe that the Vo Tech in Craigsville is still a good facility and both schools from Richwood and Summersville should be able to use it. The Vo Tech is not damaged...why are we even considering taking it away and replacing it in Summersville?? This has been a one sided idea and anyone who says its what is best for the children has a problem. Why spend monies this county does not have to buy property and place a grand new high school and Vo Tech on for one side of the county?? Summersville did not lose their high school. The only way to keep our county together is to replace what was lost and let the students share the Vo Tech like they have for years. This county can not stand more taxes or another levy or bond which according to the plans of the superintendent and the BOE would cost millions, they much purchase land then put up the schools. This is beyond the pale. The WVBOE knows how the citizens of Nicholas County feel and they agreed to use the FEMA money to put back the schools that were lost. Be fair and stop tearing this county apart and playing with our children's future!!

4/19/18	Last year when I attended the final WVBOE meeting I was so relieved to hear that we had a chance at getting our schools back in Richwood. This meant that Richwood would finally, as stated in FEMA's Recovery Mission statement, be returned to an economically viable community. It was my understanding that the NCBOE was going to work with mediators and representatives from both Richwood and Summersville. Instead the WVBOE met with the NCBOE and came up with a plan that was a mirror of the plan proposed by the NCBOE, the one that was considered unfair by the WVBOE to begin with. They said the plan needed to be scaled for changing demographics. This plan ensures the demographic is only going to go in one direction, down. It certainly isn't returning Richwood to a viable economic community. The economic viability of this plan is non-existent as it would entice Richwood students to choose the numerous options across the county and possible move to be closer to that school. The fact is, two schools in Richwood were lost to the flood and one was lost in Summersville. We fully expected to be able to build a 6-12 Middle School/High School with state of the art technology, a vocational element, a new field, gym, and parking for our school which has had National recognition, had the highest graduation rate in the county, had access to an award winning vocational program that was centrally located, and was a classic example of the educational advantages of smaller schools. Unfortunately, this plan, while building a school in Richwood, allows the NCBOE to take advantage of FEMA funds to build a 6-12 school with its own Vocational center and Arts Center of the likes that could draw students from our side of the county to the new school 25 miles away, enduring long bus rides on windy roads, larger classrooms, and fewer opportunities for parental support of the Richwood, Fenwick and Hinkle Mountain students attending there. If we are going to build 2 schools, they should be two equal schools. It is only fair that equitable schools should be built on each side of the county, with successful programs at the current vocational school in Craigsville which is equidistant from the schools. The very successful Vocational school should be enhanced so that we provide equitable services to both schools as well as valuable access to CTE training. If there is an Arts Center at one school there should be the same at the other school. It is the only plan that is fair and equitable for ALL students. The bottom line is to have schools that are fair and equitable (which provide the SAME programming) on both sides of the county. If a course offered at one school can't be offered at the other due to staffing, it could be provided through online courses. I know this because I taught a Spanish Class in Richwood that was broadcast to Nicholas County High. There are also numerous online options. Several comments were made by a variety of people regarding the economic future of Richwood to justify their plan. However, as Chamber of Commerce President, I would like to set the record straight. Falsity vs. Truth There are no industries in Richwood (falsity) Richwood has two lumber mills, a specializes in the designing and manufacturing of Aircraft De-Icing equipment and Specialty Products, and approximately 60 small businesses in and around the Richwood Area. (truth) The lumber industry is dying (falsity) The two lumber mills ship logs, boards, and chips out every day. (truth) Richwood is dying (falsity) Both Richwood and Summersville have seen a downturn in the economy. Richwood has rebuilt itself back from the flood and added an additional restaurant and is in the process of establishing 2 new small businesses. (truth) Finally, I ask you to do what is right for all of Nicholas County. Revisit the WVBOE's initial plan to include citizens from both Richwood and Summersville on the mediation team. Build equal facilities for both sides as was suggested. After all, in your own words, the NCBOE is more solvent than many county school districts around us. Building equal facilities in Richwood and Summersville with access to an enhances CTE in Craigsville would do more to unify all parts of Nicholas County and ensure it's success and growth.
4/19/18	As you observe the mediation procedure , remember that the NCBOE and Superintendent have denied saying at state hearings that the land they wish to purchase will cost \$50000 per acre . They say they only spent \$350,000 on litigation to try and sidestep ...
4/20/18	To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in support of the consolidation. The population of Nicholas County is declining and there is no reason to see a dramatic change in that in the foreseeable future. The consolidation could help with ensuring our students could receive a high quality education with technology updates and a Career Center located on the same campus. I have two daughters in college at this time. They both attended NCHS and received very quality educations. My oldest daughter is graduating from MU this month and recently got married. She and her husband, who is also from Nicholas County, want to continue to live in Huntington. My youngest daughter attends WVU and she is not wanting to return to Nicholas County to live when she graduates. So my concern is if a majority of the young people are not moving into the county as they get older and have children, our student population is going to continue to drop. Please look into this situation very carefully when considering your choices. Thank you

4/23/18	Dear mediation team, My first email on compromised components for Career and Technical Education contained errors. A revised copy is below and attached. Compromise components for Career and Technical Education (CTE) In the discussion at table 17 on April 12, 2018 the Richwood faction complained about not having a CTE at Richwood. This complaint persisted even when it was offered that for each current CTE class there are only two students from Richwood. There are a number of ways to have components of CTE without having a full CTE or even a full time CTE instructor. A few examples follow below: 1.) Hydroponics could be part of a biology class and give students valuable experience. With \$40,000 of equipment could easily supply all of the salad greens for the K-12 being considered for Richwood. The room for hydroponics will be about the size of one half of a classroom. It takes very little time. In commercial operations, one worker is needed to produce a million heads of lettuce. 2.) Make composting part of the education experience. Use compostable lunch trays. See page 10 of April 15, 2018 Parade magazine and urbanschoolfoodalliance.org Ban plastic straws. See earthday.org and lonelywhale.org If students are involved in these projects, they are also likely to be less wasteful in their use of food and other resources. 3.) Edible landscaping would help students learn what is edible and why. If students pick edible flowers as part of making their salad for a meal or snack, they will gain a very different approach and attitude to eating healthy. An easy example is Calendula, because it has a long bloom period and often blooms nearly until the first frost. 4.) Utilize green space to educate students and feed students. Green space refers to land that FEMA determines is not suitable for building. A number of proposed sites in Richwood for a new school will be rich in green space, because of wetland or flood plain issues. Round bale silage would allow students to learn about the fermentation process. Can a farmer be found that will volunteer to plant pearl millet and harvest it as round bale silage on land not suitable for building? It is also a crop to provide insects, seeds and cover for bobwhite quail. A school with bobwhite calling would make for a very memorable experience. The male call is very peaceful. Sunroot (also called sunchoke and Jerusalem artichoke) is in some ways the best food for preventing and treating diabetes. (Its carbohydrates are in the form of inulin instead of starch.) It prefers moist soil and can tolerate flooding. Some varieties of sunroot are very knobby making them hard to clean. A few varieties of sunroot produce tubers that more closely resemble the shape of sweet potatoes. Alternating sliced sweet potatoes with sliced sunroot and then roasting can be a quick way to provide a tasty and nutritious meal. Arrowhead potato is a delicacy when roasted. Can be prepared like a hot cereal. It may have many of the health benefits of sunroot. It can thrive with proper design of water and sediment control structures as well as rain gardens.
4/23/18	Dear mediation team, There are many aspects to making schools sustainable. Some are well known, such as the potential of The New River Community and Technical College to partner with the high school at Glade Creek. Several items have been absent from the discussion. One of them follows. The XQ super school project has no participating high school in West Virginia. The Richwood High School with its smaller enrollment and perhaps poorer population has a better chance of becoming part of the XQ super school project than larger and more prosperous schools. It is interesting and perhaps significant that the primary sponsor of that project is Melinda Gates. _____ works with WV Supreme Court Justice _____ who is reportedly an aunt to Bill Gates, the husband of Melinda Gates. I suggest the mediation team make a few inquiries about making the XQ super school project a part of the new RHS in Richwood. xqsuperschool.org
4/24	Nicholas County BOE is screen shooting people's FB page and reposting. Very unprofessional! Thanks Hope the State looks into this situation.
4/24	I ask that you share this email with _____ and members of the WVBOE. I am extremely disappointed and saddened by the extreme lack of professionalism exhibited by the Nicholas County Board of Education with the utilization of their Facebook page being used to create further divide and negativity in Nicholas County. This OFFICIAL communication tool should be used to share information in a relevant manner, not allow partisan politics and personal attacks to take place. There are SEVERAL comments on this post that have inappropriate language or are personal attacks, comments like this should be been deleted but are still present many hours later. This lack of judgment is troublesome and a violation of the social media policy. I hope this issue will be addressed in a timely fashion. Attached are the original post and screenshots.
4/24	Respectfully, I don't believe this is a mediation issue. It is a lack of professionalism and a violation of the social media policy.

My dream for Nicholas County Schools is....

To get board members who will stand up for ALL students in Nicholas County
One state of the art school serving the entire county
For all students to be successful and treated equal. For all of us to be as one county with pride... together! Equal!!
To have mutual respect for each end of the county. What should have brought us together has torn us apart!
To secure the success of all students by keeping them in community schools. Data proves students have more success in community schools.
Actually "put kids first." Stop the bailout, which only benefits wealthy developers. Equal facilities on all sides.
To allow ALL students equal access to quality academics, extracurricular, and career/technical education regardless of where they reside
To have one high school and one middle school located at the center of the county with a vo-tech and sports and arts facilities
A return to normalcy, pre-flood configured because it worked!
One county... one school. Great together - united!

To secure the future of my kids' education, we should...

Give the kids in the county the best of the beset with a consolidated high school to middle school.
Stop the Glade Creek bailout! Use the taxpayers money for teachers, schools. Transparency: what did you do with the levy money? Lawyer fees? We voted for the kids.
Have teachers to have the money funded by county to upgrade education for our students... they need to be able to attend classes too. Paid for!
Make sure that they feel safe in a community school. The majority of the nation is moving AWAY from consolidated schools. Must we be last again?
Follow the mediation plan as proposed
Make sure that my child goes to a school where he/she is safe, happy and has faculty/staff that knows him/her.
Keep smaller schools in communities that care for students.
Have the best for all under one roof. Everyone has the same -- ends over 100 years of quibbling!
Put their interests over \$pecial interest\$
Finally get rid of bias at either end of the county. Equal means equal!

What I would like people with a different perspective to know that they might not know is...

Community is important to students. It is important to be part of a team and have community support them.
Richwood beats with the same heart and soul as Summersville does. Richwood is not eager to waste money to bail out bad land deals and end up with crumbs.
Richwood has a long history and a great deal of pride! We just want to keep that spirit.
Life is not fair or equal. The sooner people realize this, the sooner we could all move on.
Timber is not dying! We have two sawmills in Richwood. 2 wood manufacturing plants in Craigsville. Gauley River is a feeder school to RMS. 17% of RHS students at current Votech, 14% of NCHS. RHS students need the career center at their location.
All students in Nicholas County should receive equity!!!
Equality is not the issue. The issue is sustainability.
As a current high school student, I personally think that the consolidation plan would be best, but that the mediation plan is a great compromise to solve the issues at hand.
All Richwood wants for our kids is to get along for once!
Compromise means no side gets everything it wants
We are all working towards the same end goals. A quality education for all students of Nicholas county.
We aren't mean. We want everyone to succeed in life. We don't want to be rivals all the time. In my opinion, we need to all get along and help each other out. That's what "the children" need right now. Responsible adults.
Richwood is a great community and has some of the best teachers this county has ever had. For all of Nicholas county to be treated equal. Richwood has always been left out. Not fair.
Students should have equal opportunities no matter where they live.
Be fair- be equal. Some on both sides of the county.
Richwood wants Summersville to have a school too. We want a fair compromise.

What I love about my community is...

The cohesiveness and support for a common good. Generous and caring spirits.

Our Richwood families always stick together, united and the progress is showing as always
The care and compassion and support for our kids
I love the way people help each other. At the elementary school Christmas program, they ran out of parking and had standing room only.
The way we actually want the entire county to be together, starting with our middle and high school students. Quality education for all... together!
The way everyone comes together to help others. We have hundreds that come out to watch games and performances
That we stick together regardless of special interests or economic status
Our community is always willing to help out when there is a need
Small community. Friendly. We had a great school building and still have amazing teachers.
Because our community is like a big family helping one another. How great it would be to bring out family together in one building!
We all come together in a time of crisis. We all like to be fair. Support for all schools to be equal for kids.
You are the sum of the people around you, and I have an amazing and supportive community/family. We as one community (Nicholas County) are invincible!
I love that everyone in this community is so helpful towards one another.
Communities that feed into NCHS are close-knit and caring as any other community. Anyone you ask cares about children.
Embrace everyone! Support each other and students! *Feed 167 kids in 3 different schools in Richwood. Every weekend backpack food program.
The support for all schools
Richwood has a strong sense of pride. Summersville also has pride. Keep that pride in small towns so all kids can succeed.
Friends and neighbors helping each other in hard times and caring and supporting each other.
I love our community because I see how it has grown over many years. I remember how it was when I was a young girl. But I love the progression that shows promise for the future.
Our Richwood community is a big family
We don't discriminate based on financial situations. Poor people don't mean poor opportunities.
I love how Richwood is like a family. Everyone cares for one another and looks out for the best interest of the community.
Richwood is close and good friends and neighbors. Good schools until the flood of 2016. We have lots of problems, but we are working it out together.
We love our schools, churches, and each other.

Compromise components for Career and Technical Education (CTE)

In the discussion at table 17 on April 12, 2018 the Richwood faction complained about not having a CTE at Richwood. This complaint persisted even when it was offered that for each current CTE class there are only two students from Richwood. There are a number of ways to have components of CTE without having a full CTE or even a full time CTE instructor. A few examples follow below:

- 1.) Hydroponics could be part of a biology class and give students valuable experience. With \$40,000 of equipment could easily supply all of the salad greens for the K-12 being considered for Richwood. The room for hydroponics will be about the size of one half of a classroom. It takes very little time. In commercial operations, one worker is needed to produce a million heads of lettuce.
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- Sunroot (also called sunchoke and Jerusalem artichoke) is in some ways the best food for preventing and treating diabetes. (Its carbohydrates are in the form of inulin instead of starch.) It prefers moist soil and can tolerate flooding. Some varieties of sunroot are very knobby making them hard to clean. A few varieties of sunroot produce tubers that more closely resemble the shape of sweet potatoes. Alternating sliced sweet potatoes with sliced sunroot and then roasting can be a quick way to provide a tasty and nutritious meal.
- Arrowhead potato is a delicacy when roasted. Can be prepared like a hot cereal. It may have many of the health benefits of sunroot. It can thrive with proper design of water and sediment control structures as well as rain gardens.

Schools Configurations for Nicholas County

Overview:

This document is a practical assessment of the mediation team's proposed configuration of Nicholas County Schools. It is followed by four suggestions for more reasonable and equitable plans.

- The proposed configurations put forth by NCBOE and the mediation team put at risk a pre-flood county wide design that has a proven record of achievements and community support.

For many years the pre-flood percentage of student population loss was greater for the NCHS/SMS feeder area. RHS/RMS student population had begun to stabilize before the flood.

After the flood, the school district borders that determined feeder areas were dissolved and allowed open enrollment throughout the county. This caused an increase in transportation costs, further burdening the county economically.

Regardless of open enrollment or firm enrollment borders equal opportunities and facilities should be made available to children in both of these schools. Otherwise, the configuration would create unequal academic and extracurricular opportunities and deny all students in Nicholas County a thorough and efficient education.

- The proposed configurations put forth by NCBOE and the mediation team go against sound educational research.

A preponderance of research over the last 25 years has proven that smaller community-based schools are more effective and efficient. These studies have been provided to NCBOE and to the State Board, but practically no research was presented at any of the closure hearings nor at the state and local board meetings by the NCBOE to indicate that larger or consolidated schools save money, improve student performance or benefit their local communities.

The comprehensive research over two decades shows a cumulative negative effect on students and taxpayers in educational and economic aspects. The negative impact is greatest in low socioeconomic designated areas, which are numerous throughout Nicholas County.

- The proposed configurations put forth by NCBOE and the mediation team close a highly utilized and effective career center.

For the 2018/2019 school year, 34% of the RHS student body will utilize the Career Technical Education (CTE) center in Craigsville compared to 29% of the NCHS student body. Most programs are at or over enrollment capacity.

Nicholas County Career & Technical Center (NCCTC) is centrally located between Richwood, Summersville and Webster County High School, and is positioned to engage all of these communities not only in student CTE opportunities but adult CTE opportunities as well. Further, the career center was not affected by the flood and was not mentioned in the pre-flood, 10-year Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan (CEFP). The NCCTC is a critical asset for the growth and engagement of several communities.

Conclusion:

The most recent educational research does not support positive outcomes from either the original consolidation plan or the proposed mediation compromise plan. These proposals do not address the pre-flood CEFP critical needs, are not fiscally responsible with taxpayer money, and will lead to decreased support for the general and excess levies. This will have devastating financial consequences on the school system.

Reasonable and Equitable Plans:

Compared to the consolidation and mediation proposals, the following fair and equitable plans adequately provide a thorough and efficient education for all students in the county. They were formulated by engaging the local educators and are based on research and data, community input, FEMA funding options available, and pre-flood and post-flood needs.

Plans 1,3, and 4 have no negative educational or economic impact on any community in the county. All four of these plans would begin the healing process between communities and bolster the chance to maintain future levies.

Plan 1**Utilizing FEMA Standard Procedures Grants**

The lion's share of the loss of schools in Nicholas County happened in Richwood. The most fair and equitable plan is to rebuild the three flooded schools by utilizing the FEMA Standard Procedures grants. This comes with no financial risk to the county or the state and makes the schools in Nicholas County whole.

Pros:

- 1) Retain the current configuration that has been proven highly successful.
- 2) It immediately eliminates all inner-county controversy because it puts us back to what has been proven to be an award-winning system and serves every community.
- 3) Better serves the lower socioeconomic students throughout Nicholas County.
- 4) Eliminates the financial risk of the local and state tax payers of any cost overruns on the construction of the new schools including cost estimate and land purchase/development deficiencies.
- 5) Current general operating maintenance funds could be reallocated to take care of deferred maintenance at other community schools.
- 6) Current excess levy funds could be reallocated from capital projects on these schools to improve other community schools.

Cons:

- 1) Does not address the facility needs from our current CEFPP of which Summersville Elementary is the most critical.
- 2) Does not allow for the needed expansion of the CTE program and facilities.

Plan 2**State Board of Education's Original Plan**

This consisted of a 6-12 on each end of the county with CTE at both facilities and was mentioned by Dr. Paine as a possible solution at a State Board meeting in 2017. It could be effective if the schools were of equal size and scope due to the previously mentioned school district student population numbers.

Pros:

- 1) Creates equal and fair opportunities for all middle and high school students in the county.
- 2) Would be readily acceptable by the general public as a fair and equitable solution.

- 3) Would enhance the opportunity to heal our educational community by maintaining individual school identities and cultures.
- 4) Would keep intact a healthy competitive rivalry while allowing the community to heal.

Cons:

- 1) This would utilize the FEMA 428 Grants and put a significant risk on the local and state taxpayers.
- 2) To create equal opportunities in CTE programs would require duplication of services which would increase operating costs.
- 3) It would eliminate the possibility of continuing a CTE relationship with neighboring Webster County.
- 4) Does not address the facility needs from our current CEFP of which Summersville Elementary is the most critical.
- 5) Puts at risk and already proven successful model CTE school in WV by changing its configuration and location.
- 6) Does not protect all communities and economically damages Craigsville, the fastest growing communities in the county.
- 7) Would require demolition of one of the most structurally sound facilities in our county built on a parcel that was purchased in order to be large enough for future expansion.

Plan 3

Modified State Board of Education Plan

This consists of a 6-12 on each end of the county while leaving and bolstering the CTE program in Craigsville and was also mentioned by Dr. Paine as a possible solution at a State Board meeting in 2017. It would be effective if the schools were of equal size and scope and promotes additional educational opportunities.

Pros:

- 1) Creates equal and fair opportunities for all middle and high school students in the county.
- 2) Would be readily acceptable by the general public as a fair and equitable solution.
- 3) Would enhance the opportunity to heal our educational community by maintaining individual school identities and cultures.
- 4) Would keep intact a healthy competitive rivalry while allowing the communities to heal.
- 5) Protects all communities in the county from the negative effects of losing an educational and economic resource.
- 6) Maintains an already proven successful model CTE school in WV by retaining its configuration and location.
- 7) Allows for the expansion of student and adult CTE programs in a centralized location for two counties.

Cons:

- 1) This would utilize the FEMA 428 Grants and put a significant risk on the local and state taxpayers.

- 2) Does not address the facility needs from our current CEFPP of which Summersville Elementary is the most critical.
- 3) Would require demolition of one of the most structurally sound facilities in our county built on a parcel large enough for future expansion.

Plan 4

Common Sense Plan

The replacement of the flooded schools as well as the replacement of Summersville Elementary as a stated need in the current CEFPP are addressed using a combination of FEMA Standard Procedures and 428 Alternative Procedures funding. A 6-12 shared campus or facility can be built in Richwood utilizing the FEMA Standard Procedures and Direct Relocation for RHS. This minimizes the financial risk and provides for land purchase and infrastructure for this site. A 6-8 shared campus or facility can be built in Summersville utilizing the FEMA Standard Procedures and Direct Relocation for RMS again minimizing the financial risk and providing funding for land purchase and infrastructure. A 428 Alternative Procedure grant would be utilized on the Summersville Middle School to build a new Summersville Elementary and to expand and enhance the current CTE in Craigsville. Many other land opportunities are available in the immediate vicinity of NCHS that would keep NCHS, SMS, and possibly Summersville Elementary in close enough proximity to share service and professional personnel and reduce operational costs.

Pros:

- 1) Creates equal and fair opportunities for all middle and high school students in the county.
- 2) Would be readily acceptable by the general public as a fair and equitable solution.
- 3) Would enhance the opportunity to heal our educational communities by maintaining individual school identities and cultures.
- 4) Would keep intact a healthy competitive rivalry while allowing the communities to heal.
- 5) Protects all communities in the county from the negative effects of losing an education and economic resource.
- 6) Maintains an already proven successful model CTE school in WV by retaining its configuration and location while also providing capital to bolster the facility and develop additional programs.
- 7) Allows for the expansion of student and adult CTE programs in a centralized location for two counties.
- 8) Addresses the most crucial need from the most current CEFPP by building a new Summersville Elementary.
- 9) Minimizes the use of the FEMA 428 Grant which reduces the financial risk associated with the 428 program.
- 10) Preserves the usage of one of the most structurally sound facilities in our county which includes a parcel that was purchased to accommodate future expansion.

Cons:

- 1) Still partially utilizes the FEMA 428 Grant and puts some financial risk on the local and state taxpayers.



April 12, 2018

TO: Rebuilding Nicholas County Schools
Mediation Team

Subject: Nicholas County Board of Education Consolidation Plan

This letter is in support of the Initial Nicholas County Board of Education Plan for consolidating schools in Nicholas County.

As an introduction: I am currently a science teacher at Webster County High School, where I have taught various science classes for about 25 years. I have been a resident of Craigsville, Nicholas County, WV for about 17 years. As a teacher at Cowen High School when the decision to consolidate Cowen and Webster Springs High Schools was made and subsequently accomplished, I have seen firsthand the benefits of consolidation.

In the presentations during the closure meeting at the Nicholas County Career and Technical Center, many of the speakers referenced that they were “speaking from the heart” or “what is the matter with speaking from the heart?.” There is nothing wrong with speaking of your heart felt convictions. However, in science, as directed by “State Standards”, we teach the Scientific Method. To refresh memories, because everyone, no matter where they studied science, has learned that the steps of the scientific method are designed to prevent bias (speaking from the heart) but rather to think and make decisions (from the head) based on evidence, data and other facts.

Financial Facts:

- 1). In Webster County, the voters had to pass a bond to finance the new consolidated high school, which resulted in increased property taxes for the citizens of Webster County. In Nicholas County, the bulk of the financing will be provided by FEMA and the School Building Authority, if timely decisions are made, thus no tax increases for the citizens of Nicholas County.
- 2). The legal expenses of the Nicholas County Board and any “delay” costs are not eligible for refunds from FEMA (if I understand their policy correctly) thus the taxpayers of Nicholas County will be required to pay for legal costs to defend the Board against the (in my opinion) frivolous lawsuit(s) of some residents.
- 3). If we (the taxpayers of Nicholas County) are deprived of this opportunity, we will be paying for future building projects. As everyone knows, the loss of coal severance taxes and property taxes has resulted in very tight budgets for the County Commission and the Board of Education.

Remember, we are not looking at next year, or the next 5 – 10 years but for the next 30 – 40 years. Webster County High School opened in 1974, about 44 years ago. There has been some remodeling of various areas but the basic building is the same as it was in 1974. Please do not let this opportunity pass us by.

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Educational facts:

1). At the time of consolidation in Webster County (both schools with approximately 400 students grades 9 – 12), the science departments of the schools (Webster Springs and Cowen) were limited in the upper level elective classes that could be offered. Usually, physics, advanced biology, chemistry 2, etc. were taught on a rotating (every other year) basis with 8 – 10 students in a class (not the most efficient use of staff). After consolidation, these classes were offered annually with a full complement of students.

2). Prior to consolidation, Webster County did not have a Career Technical Center (Vocational). Following consolidation, the Career Technical Center was available on the same campus as the “academic” wing and therefore students moved from one setting to the other with no “lost” time. Currently in Nicholas County, a bus ride of 20 – 30 minutes is required for the Career Center students which can result in the loss of class time for other elective subjects.

3). Currently, at Webster County High School, approximately 8 – 10 dual credit (high school and college) courses are offered. These classes are through New River Community and Technical College, Glenville State College, Fairmont State University and Marshall University. Classes include various science, math, English and social studies classes. In addition to the dual credit classes, AP classes are offered in science, English, social studies and math. Many students and parents do not realize the financial savings of students successfully completing dual credit classes. A student at WCHS can graduate with 15 – 25 College credit hours (essentially a college semester) for which the parents did not have to pay for books, living expenses (other than at home), etc. I do not know how many dual credit and AP courses are currently offered at Nicholas County and Richwood High Schools but have been told not near as many as at WCHS, a consolidated High School.

In Conclusion: I believe that I am speaking for “a silent majority” of Nicholas County residents who do not defame people on social media, do not call those with different opinions names and do not threaten people or their families. I believe students (all students) of Nicholas County deserve the best facility that can be provided. If you are thinking with your head, I believe you will agree that a consolidated facility will provide the best opportunities for all our students for many years to come.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Teacher at Webster County High School
Resident of Craigsville, Nicholas County, WV

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Questions:

1. Has the WV State Board of Education visited Nicholas County, including Richwood and other areas?
2. Has the Mediation Team visited Nicholas County, including Richwood and other areas?
3. What is the estimated cost of the proposed “Richwood Complex” and does that reduce the funds available for the “Nicholas Complex”?
4. Is the Mediation Team aware that the two schools in Richwood were closed Monday and Tuesday due to sewer problems? These problems have been ongoing, even before the flood.
5. According to [REDACTED] on WV Talk Line, any “decision” of the mediation team goes to the Governor’s office for approval. Is this true?
6. Does the “plan” to build a school in Richwood meet the FEMA criteria of “most cost effective” response?

Compromise components for Career and Technical Education (CTE)

In the discussion at table 28 on April 12, 2018 the Richwood faction complaint about not having a CTE at Richwood. This complaint persisted even when it was offered that that for each current CTE class there are only two students from Richwood. There are a number of ways to have components of CTE without having a full CTE or even a full time CTE instructor. A few examples follow below:

- 1.) Hydroponics could be part of a biology class and give students valuable experience. With \$40,000 of equipment could easily supply all of the salad greens for the K-12 being considered for Richwood. The room for hydroponics will be about the size of one half of a classroom. It takes very little time. In commercial operations, one worker is needed to produce a million heads of lettuce.
- 2.) Make composting part of the education experience. Use compostable lunch trays. See page 10 of April 15, 2018 Parade magazine and urbanschoolfoodalliance.org Ban plastic straws. See earthday.org and lonelywhale.org If students are involved in these projects, they are also likely to be less wasteful in their use of food and other resources.
- 3.) Edible landscaping would help students learn what is edible and why. If students pick edible flowers as part of making their salad for a meal or snack, they will gain a very different approach and attitude to eating healthy. An easy example is Calendula, because it has a long bloom period and often blooms nearly until the first frost.
- 4.) Utilize green space to educate students and feed students. Green space refers to land that FEMA determines is not suitable for building. A number of proposed sites in Richwood for a new school will be rich in green space, because of wetland or flood plain issues.

Round bale silage would allow students to learn about the fermentation process. Can a farmer be found that will volunteer to plant pearl millet and harvest it as round bale silage on land not suitable for building? It is also a crop to provide insects, seeds and cover for bobwhite quail. A school with bobwhite calling would make for a very memorable experience.

Sunroot (also called sunchoke and Jerusalem artichoke) is in some ways the best food for preventing and treating diabetes. It prefers moist soil and can tolerate flooding. Some varieties of sunroot are very knobby making them hard to clean. A few varieties of sunroot produce tubers that more closely resemble the shape of sweet potatoes. Alternating sliced sweet potatoes with sliced sunroot and then roasting can be a quick way to provide a tasty and nutritious meal. Arrowhead potato is a delicacy when roasted. It may have many of the health benefits of sunroot. It can thrive with proper design of water and sediment control structures as well as rain gardens.

In My Opinion: FEMA, Fairness and Safety for Students with Two High Schools, How Big or Small and Where?

What Is FAIR and SAFE for Students?

To answer that question we should, in my opinion, consider the following:

1.) What is an agency's mission and how does that affect how they do things?

In working with any government agency it is important to ask good questions. Understanding an agency's policies and meanings behind certain terms, is also important; if one wishes to avoid a severe case of whiplash. Sometimes messages are indirect, for example: If a county moves a school after flood damage, FEMA might pay for a new school. If the county moves the new school far enough from flood danger that new ball fields are needed, FEMA will often pay for a new school and new ball fields. Why does FEMA do that? Part of the mission of FEMA is to get people and their things out of harm's way. Using incentives is a polite way of overcoming people's resistance to change.

How strong is FEMA's commitment to safety? After a 1993 flood, FEMA agreed to pay for moving an entire town (Valmeyer, Illinois) to much higher land. After the 1985 flood, Marlinton moved its hospital and schools several miles, so each could be high on a hill and away from Greenbrier River. In a similar way, Nicholas County would receive millions more in funds for moving a high school and its ball fields to much higher land. Meanwhile even the Nicholas County Sheltered Workshop is eligible to receive \$1,000,000 from another federal agency, because a large part of Nicholas County flooded in 2016. So FEMA isn't the only federal agency that has incentives for moving things out of harm's way. (Federal dollars are often prioritized for counties with recent flood damage to help them recover, but given to entities that are not in the flood area.)

2.) What do you see as important risk and time issues? What would you dismiss as unimportant?

Richwood had major flooding in 1932, 1937, 1954, 1969, 2003 and 2016. So many people in Craigs ville, Calvin, Cottle, Leivasy, Nettie and Tioga don't want their children anywhere near the Cherry River during bad weather. Why should these people take a risk, when it's safer and closer for their children to get to either Nicholas County High School (NCHS) or the 50 to 175 acres in Glade Creek Industrial Park?

This has been a source of considerable misunderstanding, so some discussion is needed. Some people will say: "In my car I can get to... faster than..." What they need to think about is how the buses have to travel. Often there are too few high school students to run a separate bus. For Leivasy and Nettie, buses go to Panther Creek Elementary School (PCE). From PCE it is closer to NCHS. But old district lines cause 54 students to make a long trip to Richwood High School (RHS), currently located at the old Beaver Grade School. Why not change these students to NCHS, so they can be in real classrooms rather than classroom pods? Putting them on a shorter bus ride would allow the buses for PCE elementary students to start later.

For Craigs ville, Calvin, Cottle and Tioga, going to RHS at Beaver is the shortest bus ride. After the years of pod classrooms are over; then what? All are closer to Glade Creek site than to proposed sites in Richwood. One may well argue that students on Crupperneck Road and Schindel Road are closer to Richwood. However, the elementary school buses that pick up

these students go to Gauley River Elementary School. This provides enough students for a high school bus, but this location is closer to Glade Creek than Richwood.

If all these students get what's fair to them and thus go to Glade Creek, there might be 100 students left for RHS. If plans for Glade Creek are approved, the Vo-Tec at Craigsville will be available. It has four small classrooms and five larger classrooms, plus 2 shop rooms (2,000 sq. ft. and 4,000 sq. ft.).

This building could serve as a temporary home for RHS, and thus give Richwood more time to repair its water lines, sewer lines and sewage treatment plant. FEMA turned down Richwood's request for millions needed for repairs. Is part of this denial due to the location of the sewer lines, sewer plant and water lines? If so, will FEMA pay far less for a school that is close to the Cherry River? Why take that risk?

3.) Which numbers are most important to you?

1,050 students live closer to Glade Creek. About 100 live closer to Richwood. Of that total of 1,150, about 300 live closer to Craigsville. By this measure Craigsville has a better argument for a high school than Richwood, but Governor Justice, reportedly, wants a high school in Richwood. Using Vo-Tec as a temporary home for RHS may be the only way Governor Justice can get what he wants, until other issues are resolved.

4.) How important are roads in this discussion?

From one point of view, Richwood is essentially landlocked. Until Greenbrier Road and other roads are widened to permit safer passage of buses and trucks, economic development opportunities will be lost. Will Governor Justice's road program include fixing these roads? If not, why not?

5.) Are some people in denial of the potential for flooding and rock slides? Are they being heard over those who are concerned about the potential of flooding and rock slides for cutting off access to students?

Asking good questions can sometimes facilitate discussion and ease deadlock on important issues. Did I reach those goals in this letter? I very much look forward to your responses.

[REDACTED]

For those that are interested, I paid over \$200 to have this in my opinion letter published in the Nicholas Chronicle.