

## Executive Summary

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### West Virginia Department of Education Office of School Operations & Finance – School Facilities

**Introduction:** The Preston County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and its merger into South Preston School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Action:** The Preston County Board of Education requests approval of the following:

- The closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and its merger into South Preston School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. In consideration of this closure, applicable West Virginia State Board of Education policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. Hearings were held for Fellowsville Elementary School and South Preston School on October 29, 2024. The Preston County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their November 18, 2024 board meeting.

## **PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

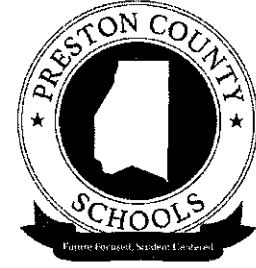
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[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



11/22/24

Superintendent Michelle Blatt and Members of the WV State Board of Education,

During the Monday, November 18, 2024 meeting of the Preston County Board of Education, the Board on a 3-2 vote approved the closure of the Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School for the 2025-2026 academic year. This meeting and vote followed public hearings on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at Fellowsville Elementary School and South Preston School. Legal advertisements announcing these meetings were run in the Preston County Journal and News on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> as required in WVBE Policy 6204. In advance of the legal advertisements being run, an impact statement and supporting data for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School was supplied to all district schools, county office, and bus garage locations for a 30-day public review and additional copies were provided to the school principals of Fellowsville and South Preston and Local School Improvement Council (LSIC) Presidents at each school. This was completed on September 24, 2024.

Prior to these actions, the Preston County Board of Education during their May 28, 2024 meeting, approved me to investigate the options involved in the possible closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and report back to the Board with a proposal. The Board then approved me to begin the closure process during their September 23, 2024 meeting. Documentation to the referenced actions above along with all other required documentation have been supplied to representatives of the WV Department of Education for inclusion on December 11, 2024 agenda of the WV State Board of Education.

I have attached my rationale statement related to the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School that was read during the November 18, 2024 meeting of the Preston County Board of Education, Based on the Preston County Board of Education's approval of the closure of Fellowsville Elementary and merger with South Preston School and documentation that you have been supplied related to the requested action, I am respectfully asking for the WV State Board of Education's approval of the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School for the 2025-26 academic year during the December 11, 2024 meeting of the state board. Please advise with any questions or concerns by email at [brrmarti@k12.wv.us](mailto:brrmarti@k12.wv.us) or phone at (304) 329-0580 ext. 225. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley R. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent of Preston County Schools

Over the past few weeks the Board and I have received public input at two public hearings held on October 29th on the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Pre-K through fourth grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and merger process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and tonight's meeting has been convened for the Board to publicly deliberate and decide on whether to proceed or reject the proposed action. This decision is not an easy one as we have heard comments and received written responses that strongly advocate for keeping Fellowsville Elementary open and speak to the many positive aspects of Fellowsville Elementary School.

Despite these compelling arguments, I am here to briefly summarize the reasoning for the recommendation to close Fellowsville Elementary School. First, Fellowsville has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over a 10-year span (assessed between the 2015-16 and 2024-25 academic years) totaling a loss of 63 students. It should be noted that during the 2021-22 school year, the Board approved the shift of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2022-23 academic year and beyond. This action actually resulted in Fellowsville seeing an increase in enrollment during 2022-23 academic year. However, since that year, the school has lost 30 students over the past two years. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 16% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has had a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment. In assessing this year compared to last year, Fellowsville has lost 16 students dropping to 59 students from 75 students last year. As a whole, the district has lost 177 students dropping from 3935 students last year to 3758 this year.

When assessing this substantial drop in students, this also results in the reduction of funding for both professional and service personnel positions. Based on this year's enrollment, the district will be required to eliminate at least 15 professional positions and 19 service positions. However, at this time, the district is currently in excess for service personnel by 8 positions. This would push the needed service cuts to 27 positions. Preston County currently does not have an excess levy in place and Federal ESSER funds are no longer available for use to hire personnel above and beyond the state aid formula. Therefore, the district must either make the cuts to get within the WV State Aid formula or pay for any positions above and beyond from county funding.

Without the closures of the two proposed schools, it will be extremely difficult if not impossible to maintain positions within the state aid budget. The action of not closing the schools will result in higher percentages of staff at other schools throughout the county being placed on reduction in force or transfer status, which often leads to impacted staff leaving the district to seek employment in neighboring counties. It also will result in substantially higher student teacher ratios in schools throughout the district, make it harder and in some instances impossible to maintain staffing at a level to maintain block scheduling for reading and math instruction at many district schools, and result in the inability for most schools to offer much in the way of courses beyond those required by code and law. It should also be noted that Preston County's inability to consistently maintain staffing levels within the WV State Aid formula and associated financial deficits that this situation created resulted in State takeover of Preston County Schools in March of 2009 and the state maintaining control through 2014.

Next, in assessing facilities, Fellowsville Elementary School is considered in fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain and update the facility were estimated at \$1,995,000.00. In assessing, South Preston School, the school is considered in excellent condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. South Preston School has an assessed program capacity of 629 students as assessed in 2024, so South has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Fellowsville which now stands at 59. South's current enrollment stands at 308. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 367, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for South Preston School.

Next, the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School is estimated to save a total of \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$623,932.02 with the anticipated elimination of 6 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Fellowsville School over the same span of time is \$15,940.90. That is a difference of \$4,400.18 per student. This gap is widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Fellowsville's is \$18,741.44. This is a difference of \$5,289.62 per student. Again, I must state that operating Fellowsville will contribute to the slow drain of local district finances on the personnel side and needed repairs to the building and continued up-keep of an aging facility is not wise when a school that is less than 10 years old with sufficient capacity is less than 6 miles away.

Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over a number years and their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are annually assessed via the WV General Summative Assessment. South Preston is also assessed via the WVGSA and students in grade 3-8 are tested at South In assessing Fellowsville's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to South Preston, Fellowsville on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Fellowsville had a 43% proficiency compared to South's at 40% (a difference of 3%). In Math, Fellowsville had a 43.59% proficiency compared to South's at 23.93% (a difference of 19.66%).

Fellowsville currently is a feeder school to South Preston with students coming from the same communities. Fellowsville Elementary School is approximately 5.5 miles from the South Preston School and the trip is currently made daily for students in grade 5-8 from the Fellowsville attendance area. Many students (18 this year in grades PK-4) from the Fellowsville attendance area annually submit intra-county transfer requests to attend South Preston with most noting the desire to have all of their children in one school setting as a desire.

Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Fellowsville and the district at-large and due to the substantial cost-saving associated with the closure. While I am aware of the virtues and positives associated with small schools such as Fellowsville, the district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment and loss of the levy in the Spring of 2024 and rejection again in November of 2024, make continued operation of Fellowsville not economically feasible or responsible. Unfortunately, Preston County is not alone in pursuing school closures with 20+ schools in other WV counties being considered for closure for the 2025-26 academic year. I know this is a terribly difficult decision, but I implore the Board to approve the recommended closure for the reasons I have detailed.

**IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA**  
**FOR THE**  
**CLOSURE AND ~~CONSOLIDATION~~ MERGER OF**  
**FELLOWSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**INTO**  
**SOUTH PRESTON SCHOOL**  
**PRESTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Prepared Pursuant to**

**W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a and  
WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204.**

**Preston County Schools  
Under the direction and authority of  
The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE)**

**Public Hearing Date(s)—October 29, 2024**

**County Board Approval Date(s)—November 18, 2024**

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This template (revised 12/06/23) is provided by the WVDE as a technical assistance tool for county boards to use in the preparation of their supporting documents for a proposed school closure or consolidation. This template does not reduce or eliminate the requirements found in WV State Code or WVBE Policy 6204 as they relate to school closures or consolidations. This document does not replace or supplant legal assistance provided by counsel engaged to represent the county.

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### 3.1. County Procedures

*WVDE Application for school closure and/or consolidation of Fellowsville Elementary School into South Preston School.*

Preston County Schools

#### **Recommended Hearing Dates:**

October 29, 2024- South Preston School & Fellowsville Elementary School

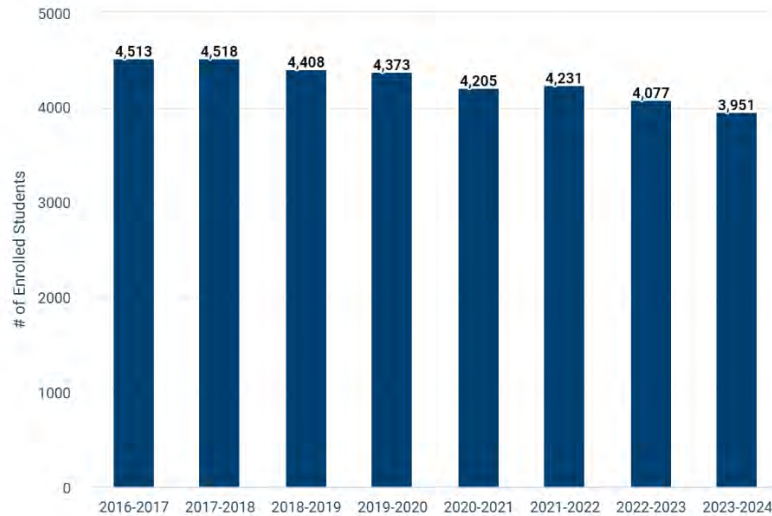
#### **Recommended Vote Date:**

November 18, 2024

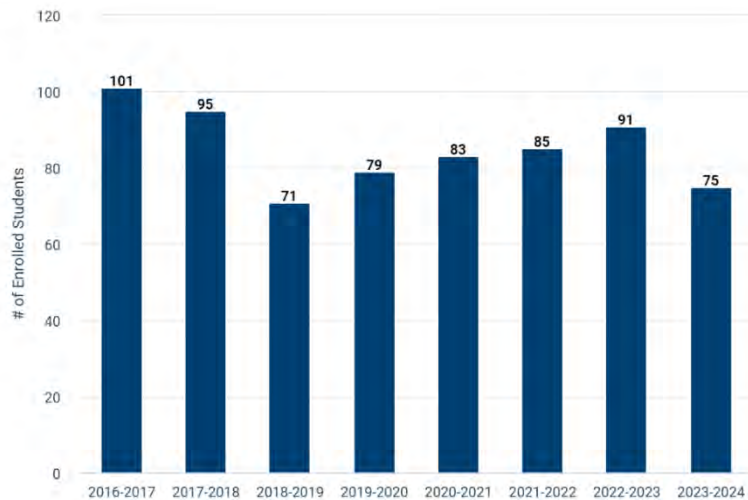
#### **CLOSURE & CONSOLIDATION OF FELLOWSVILLE ELEMENTARY:**

Fellowsville Elementary School (Grades Pre-K- 4) is be proposed for permanent closure effective at the completion of the 2024 – 2025 school year. The students currently attending Fellowsville Elementary will be absorbed entirely into South Preston School. In the current school year, Fellowsville Elementary has an enrollment of 61 students spanning Pre-K through grade four. Fellowsville Elementary serves as a feeder school for South Preston School where students in grades Pre-K to grade eight are enrolled. South Preston opened in the Fall of 2014 and is located approximately 5.5 miles from Fellowsville Elementary.

- ❖ The proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary will allow the Preston County Board of Education to more adequately and efficiently meet high quality educational standards through the redistribution of resources that will benefit all students within Preston County Schools.
- ❖ The proposed closure will provide for better utilization of personnel in Preston County Schools.
- ❖ Students will attend South Preston School, which has the appropriate capacity to accept the Fellowsville Elementary students.
- ❖ There has been a steady decline in student enrollment at Fellowsville and overall district enrollment. Enrollment projections indicate a continued decline. Between the 2016-17 and 2023-24 academic years, Fellowsville has lost 26 students and as of 9/3/24 the school has lost 14 students from last year's total. As a county, between the same range of dates, Preston County has lost 562 students and as of 9/3/24, the district has lost 143 students compared to last year. Enrollment projections show a continued decline at the school and county levels.



### Preston County Schools 8-Year Enrollment Trend Data



### Fellowsville Elementary 8-Year Enrollment Trend Data

- ❖ First month enrollment indicates 61 students are enrolled in grades Pre-K–4 at Fellowsville Elementary School.
- ❖ The school does not have an air conditioning and currently is in need of work on both the school-wide heating system and the roof is in need of replacement.
- ❖ The closure of Fellowsville Elementary School will result in savings of \$683,747.29.
- ❖ The closure of Fellowsville Elementary School will result in enhanced economy of scale, enabling Preston County Schools to make more efficient use of available resources to meet the educational needs of its students. The educational programming opportunities for the affected students will be maintained following their enrollment at South Preston School.
- ❖ The proposed closure would provide a more appropriate transition from elementary to middle school within a single school setting.

### County Procedures

*This template shall be used to accumulate and present the data that is requested in Policy 6204 and W.Va. Code 18-5-13a to support the closure or consolidation of a WV public school.*

*The county shall prepare and submit an impact statement and supporting data concerning proposed school closings or consolidations to the WVBE for approval in accordance with this policy and W. Va. Code §18-5-13a. The impact statement and supporting data shall:*

*√ be available for public inspection in the office of the county superintendent during the 30 days preceding the date of the public hearing; and*

*Be delivered in duplicate to the:*

*√ principal of a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and of any school which the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation; and*

*√ chair of the local school improvement council (LSIC) representing a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and any school that the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation.*

*√ A copy of the notice shall be posted at all schools, bus garages, and maintenance areas in the county in conspicuous working areas, for all professional and service personnel to observe.*

*Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent*

*Bradley R. Martin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

*11/13/24*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

## 3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

### County Procedures

*An impact statement shall be prepared on the following items that will summarize the county's supporting data with page references, as defined in section 3.1. The impact statement and supporting data shall be provided to the West Virginia Department of Education – Office of School Facilities at least 10 business days prior to the period for public posting for the purpose of review and coordination.*

#### **Enrollment 3.2.a. (Starting on Page #9)**

Since the turn of the Century, the population of Preston County has increased approximately 19% over a twenty-year span rising from 29,315 in the year 2000, to 33,940 in the year 2015, and to 34,216 in the year 2020. In contrast, student population has continued to decline.

In the 2016-17 school year, Preston County Schools had an enrollment of 4,513 students. In 2023-24, the enrollment stood at 3,951 students. This is a 12.5% decrease in student enrollment over an eight-year period. Over the same span of time, Fellowsville Elementary School hit a high of 101 students and a low of 75 students resulting in a 25.7% decrease in enrollment at Fellowsville.

South Preston School is a consolidated school formed from Tunnelton-Denver Elementary School and South Preston Middle School as result of a successful bond proposal. The doors to the new school opened for the 2014-15 school year with an enrollment of 337 students and currently has 321 enrolled students during the first month of the 2024-25 school year.

#### **Facilities 3.2.b. (Starting on Page #13)**

A physical appraisal of each involved school facility, photo, and a floor plan is provided.

Fellowsville Elementary School was constructed in 1953 and has seen additions added in 1983, 1990, and 2014. The building is in fair condition. Most windows are steel-framed and not energy efficient. The roof is built-up roofing, which is in below average condition and needs replaced if the building continues to be used long-term. There is no HVAC system at the school with some classrooms using window AC units. For heating, there are interior units, hot water heat, and a propane boiler. However, at this time, the school uses primarily electric based heaters in the classrooms and hallways due to an unresolved issue with the hot water heat and boiler.

South Preston School opened in 2014 and meets required ADA accessibility requirements. The building is in excellent condition. South Preston School can accommodate all proposed grade levels as it is configured to receive students at the PK- 8 levels. Based on 10-year enrollment projections, South Preston will be able to accommodate the number of students projected to be received.

#### **Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page #19)**

The goal of the Preston County Board of Education is to operate a thorough and efficient educational system which maximizes and equalizes to the extent possible the learning opportunities for students. Preston County Schools is one of the few counties in the state operating without an excess levy following the failure of the district's levy election in May of 2024. The Board of Education is attempting to run another levy initiative on the November 2024 General Election ballot.

Potential building savings related to the proposed school closures and consolidations including utilities, maintenance, transportation, and other related expenses total of \$59,815.27 for Fellowsville Elementary School.

Potential personnel savings related to the proposed school closure and consolidation, including both service and professional personnel, total \$623,932.02 for Fellowsville Elementary.

**Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page #21)**

An analysis of the personnel needs associated with the closure of Fellowsville Elementary indicate changes in professional and service positions. Enrollment projections indicate that the county will save six (6) professional positions and four and one half (4.5) service positions. The closure of Fellowsville Elementary would allow Preston County Schools to better be able to ensure that services and staffing be more accessible to students throughout the district.

**Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page #23)**

Transportation schedules for transporting students from the Fellowsville Elementary School attendance zone will partially meet the time requirements set forth in state code and policy. Most bus times will fall between 30 and 45 minutes.

**Student Educational Program 3.2.f. (Starting on Page #25)**

Preston County Schools is dedicated to improving outcomes for each student in an ever-changing world through the learning for all staff and students. Our district vision is to be student-centered, future focused, and to encourage learning for all stakeholders within our district schools.

The following West Virginia State Board of Education Policies were reviewed and followed in the development of this plan:

1. WVBE Policy 2419- Regulations for the Education of Exceptional Students
2. WVBE Policy 2510- Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Educational Programs
3. WVBE Policy 2520.1A- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for English Language Arts
4. WVBE Policy 2520.2B- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Mathematics
5. WVBE Policy 2520.3C- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Science
6. WVBE Policy 2520.4- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Social Studies
7. WVBE Policy 2520.5- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Wellness Education
8. WVBE Policy 2520.7- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for World Languages
9. WVBE Policy 2520.8- WV Driver Education Standards
10. WVBE Policy 2520.9- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for the Arts
11. WVBE Policy 2520.13- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Career and Technical Education
12. WVBE Policy 2520.14- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Technology and Computer Science
13. WVBE Policy 2520.15- WV Pre-K Standards (Ages 3-5)
14. WVBE Policy 2520.16- WV Alternative Academic Achievement Standards
15. WVBE Policy 2520.19- WV College and Career Readiness Standards for Student Success for Grades K-12

**Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page #26)**

Fellowsville Elementary School and South Preston School are in close proximity to each other (5.5 miles) and both schools interact with the same communities. Fellowsville Elementary is currently a feeder school to South Preston with students progressing from Fellowsville following fourth grade with services provided in grades 5-8 at South Preston. The proposed consolidated / receiving school (South Preston) essentially has the same community relational support as the proposed closing school (Fellowsville). It is not anticipated that the communities or their relationships with the schools will be significantly impacted by the proposed closure.

### 3.2.a Student Enrollment

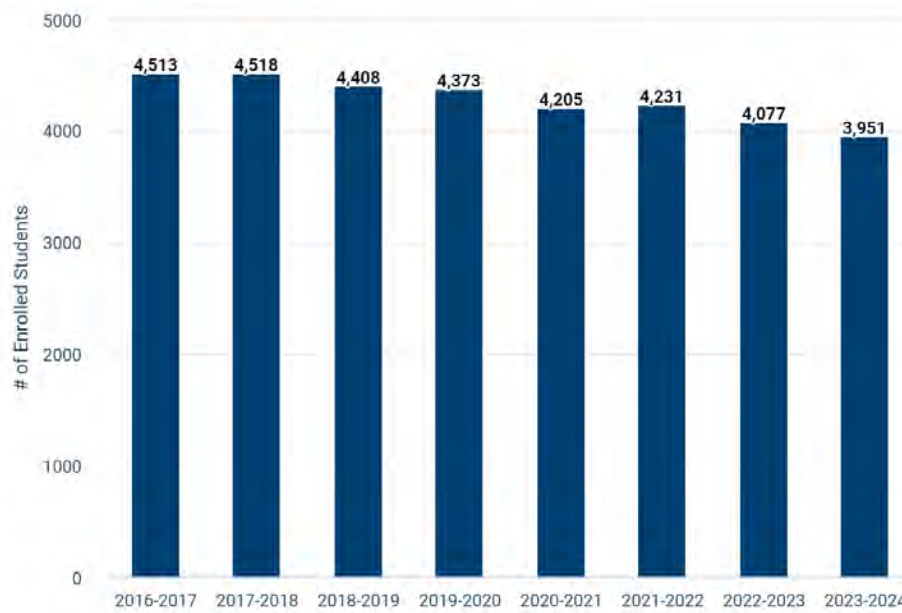
County Procedures

#### Enrollment and Population Table

*Trends in student population growth or decline in the county for the previous 10 years.*

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total	4,544	4,513	4,518	4,408	4,373	4,205	4,231	4,077	3,951	3,808

Enrollment Table 1

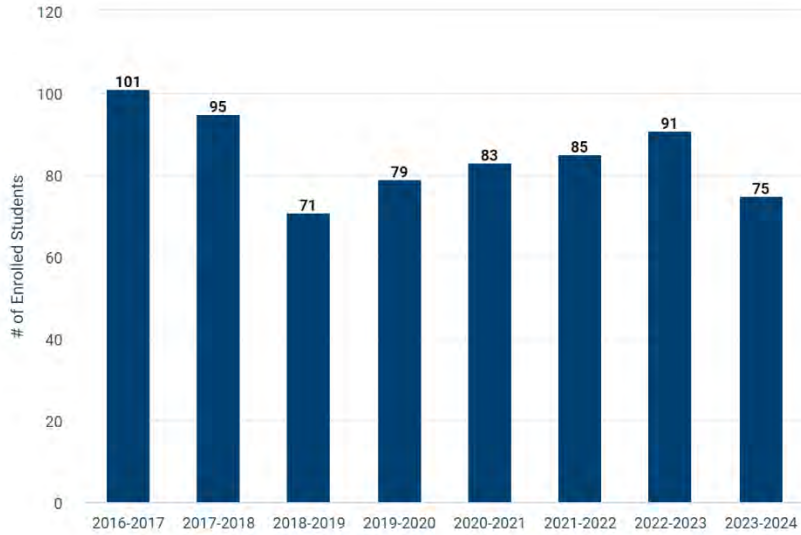


Source: WVDE Zoom WV Data Dashboard

*Trends in student population growth or decline in the attendance area of the **Fellowsville Elementary School** targeted for closure or consolidation for the previous 10 years.*

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total	124	101	95	71	79	83	85	91	75	61

Enrollment Table 2

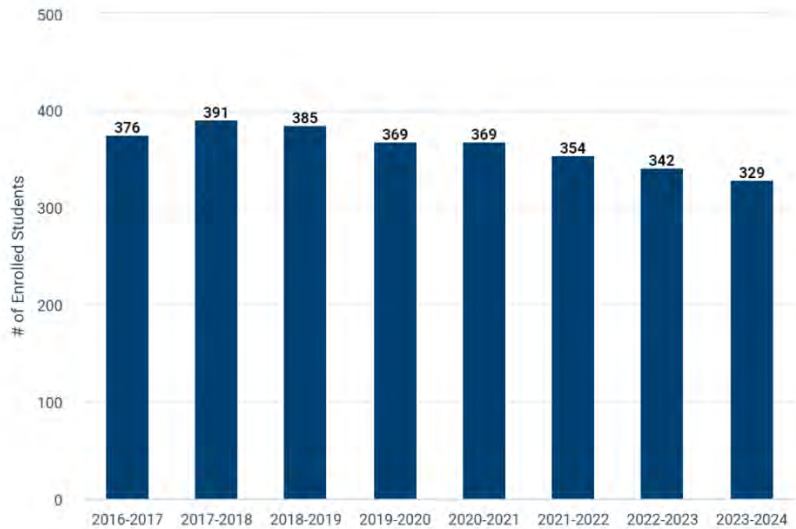


Source: WVDE Zoom WV Data Dashboard

**Trends in student population growth or decline in attendance area of the South Preston School which the county designates to receive the students affected for the previous 10 years.**

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total	365	376	391	385	369	369	354	342	329	321

Enrollment Table 3



*Population data and characteristics for the county. At a minimum, the data shall include the total population, number of births, number of deaths, and age composition of the county for the previous ten years. The requisite information shall be cited and may be obtained from local, state, and national agencies for health and statistics.*

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Population	33,927	33,855	33,802	33,846	33,543	33,479	34,188	34,304	34,222	34,099
Births	321	363	337	321	333	353	275	--	--	--
Deaths	339	340	367	395	387	358	439	--	--	--

Enrollment Table 4

- Population numbers obtained from: [Preston County, WV Population by Year - 2024 Update | Neilsberg](#)
- Birth & Death Rate numbers obtained from: PCS 2020 CEFP document (2014-2015) and <https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/VR/CR/Documents/2020Vital.pdf> (2016-2020)
- Birth & Death Data for Preston County, WV in the years 2021, 2022, 2023 is currently not available via WV Vital Statistics

**Age Composition**

Year	<1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	>85
2026	--	1,577	3,597	3,466	4,919	4,621	4,520	4,703	4,176	1,865	762
2025	--	1,577	3,597	3,466	4,919	4,621	4,520	4,703	4,176	1,865	762
2024	--	1,577	3,597	3,466	4,919	4,621	4,520	4,703	4,176	1,865	762
2023	--	1,577	3,597	3,466	4,919	4,621	4,520	4,703	4,176	1,865	762
2022	--	1,577	3,597	3,466	4,919	4,621	4,520	4,703	4,176	1,865	762
2021	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2020	275	1,362	3,621	3,198	4,396	4,262	4,398	4,712	4,315	2,155	686
2019	353	1,316	3,626	3,332	4,367	4,280	4,454	4,723	4,223	2,086	672
2018	333	1,379	3,715	3,395	4,553	4,322	4,582	4,782	4,097	2,008	673
2017	321	1,371	3,683	3,394	4,515	4,343	4,633	4,827	3,974	1,940	679

Enrollment Table 5

- 2022-2026 data obtained from: <https://data.census.gov/vizwidget?g=050XX00US54077&infoSection=Age and Sex>
- Age composition data for 2021 for all years and under age 1 population for 2021-2026 could not be ascertained.

*Projections of enrollment, by grade and school, in the affected attendance area, for the next ten years.*

**Fellowsville Elementary School (based on an average 5.3% decline)**

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
PK	9	14	7	6	7	7	7	9	5	5
K	8	9	13	7	6	7	7	7	8	5
1	8	8	9	12	7	6	6	7	7	7
2	10	8	8	8	11	7	6	6	7	6
3	7	9	8	8	7	10	7	5	6	7
4	16	7	8	8	8	7	9	7	5	6
Total	58	55	52	49	46	44	42	40	38	36

Enrollment Table 6

South Preston School (based on an average 1.9% decline)

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
PK	18	18	19	17	17	17	17	17	16	16
K	14	20	20	23	22	23	23	19	19	19
1	33	16	23	23	22	24	23	21	20	20
2	21	31	17	25	22	22	20	21	19	19
3	31	21	31	19	22	21	21	23	25	22
4	22	31	25	32	22	20	20	21	20	24
5	32	23	33	27	35	33	31	31	30	30
6	44	35	26	34	34	35	34	33	33	31
7	46	44	40	31	39	38	37	36	35	33
8	31	47	47	45	36	33	35	34	34	32
Total	292	286	281	276	271	266	261	256	251	246

Enrollment Table 7

**Projection Method**

*Explanation of the projection method utilized addressing the relationship between the most recent Certified October Enrollment, the Certified October Enrollment for the previous three years, and the most recent census data for the county.*

Preston County Schools reviewed 8-year enrollment data trends taken from the second month enrollment report that is submitted annually to the WVDE. This data was pulled from both WVEIS 2.0 and WV Zoom for Educators. In reviewing the data, the average % enrollment increase or decrease of impacted schools was determined and utilized to plot projected enrollments at impacted schools over a ten-year period. Resident live birth and death metrics were also considered in the development of enrollment projections.

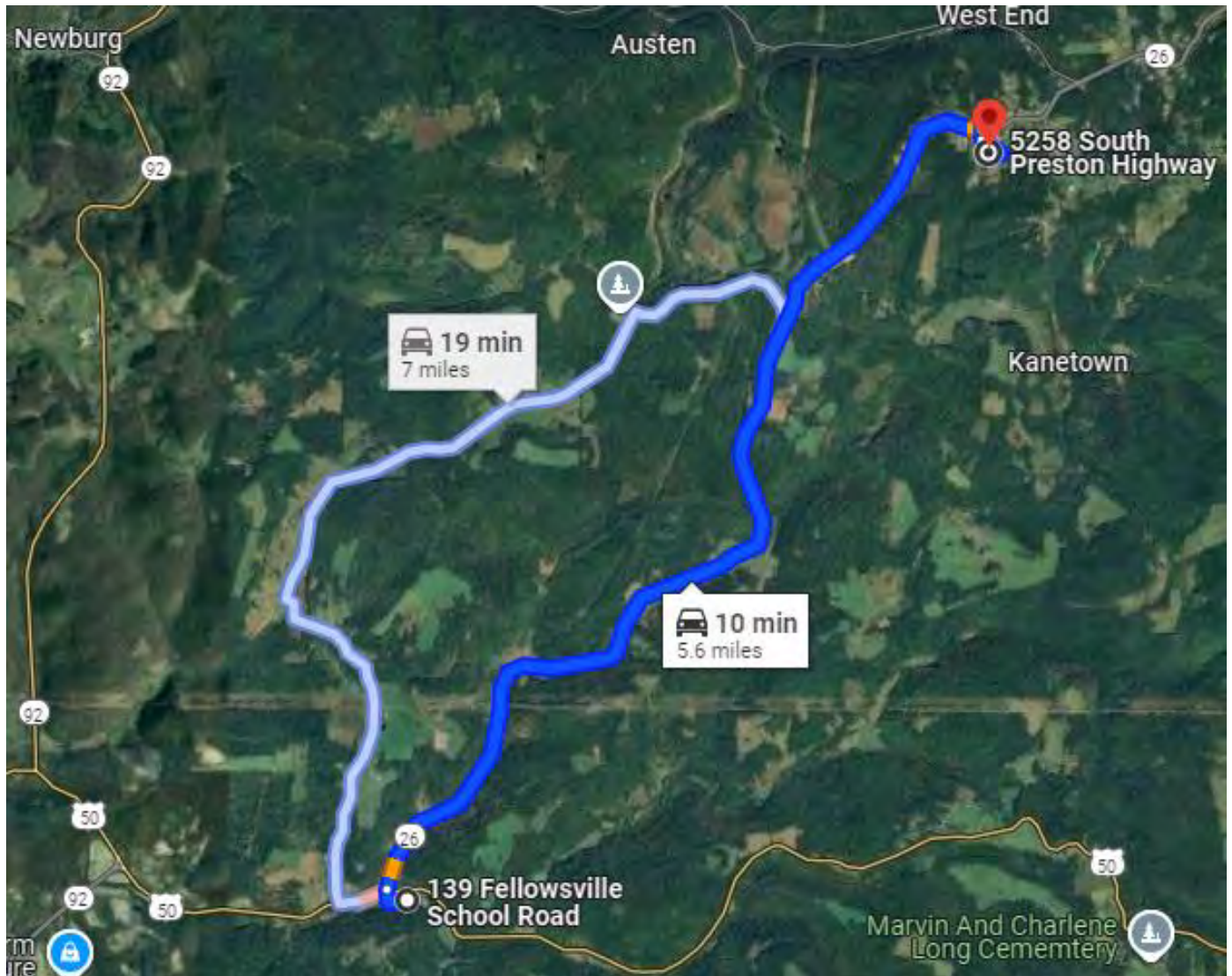
### 3.2.b. Facilities

County Procedures

#### Descriptive Maps

General Reference Maps showing prominent natural and manmade features where the location of school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) that the county designates to receive the students are highlighted.

Charts shall be provided indicating the grade configuration, student enrollment, utilization percentage, and mileage between each school on the map.



Map 1

School	Grade Config.	Enrollment Before/After Action	Utilization Before/After Action	Average Distance / Minutes to Existing School	Average Distance / to New or Receiving School
<a href="#">Closing School- Fellowsville Elementary School (A)</a>	PK- 4	61 (Before) 0 (After)	37.2% (B) 0% (A)	25 minutes	30 minutes
<a href="#">New or Receiving School- South Preston School</a>	PK- 8	321 (Before) 365 (After)	44.5% (B) 50.6% (A)	N/A	N/A

Facilities Table 1

### Written Facility Condition Description

*Written description of the physical condition of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students. This description shall include age, number of buildings, general condition, and adequacy of structural, electrical, and mechanical systems to provide a safe and healthy environment.*

#### Fellowsville Elementary School

Fellowsville Elementary serves grade K-4 students. It has an enrollment of 61 students and is located on Route 50 in Fellowsville, WV, approximately 15 miles south of Kingwood, and 6 miles south of South Preston School. This one-story building was constructed in 1953 with additions added in 1983, 1990, and 2012.

**Building Site:** The Fellowsville Elementary site consists of 6.5 acres and is in compliance with the recommended acreage. The site lies beside Route 50 and is near level. Bus loading and unloading occurs in front of the school. The staff parking is on the right side and at the back of the school. The driveway and school parking lot are partially paved and partially gravel and in fair to poor condition.

**Building Exterior:** Fellowsville Elementary was constructed in 1953, with additions to the building occurring in later years. The building structure is load bearing masonry of block and brick construction and is in fair condition. Most windows are steel framed and not energy efficient, while a few windows are wood-framed and are energy efficient. The roof is built-up roofing, which is in below-average condition, in some areas of the exterior, and shingles on different parts of the building.

**Building Interior:** Fellowsville Elementary School's interior is in fair condition, and is a combination of drywall and masonry, with drywall and acoustical tile ceilings. The floors are a combination of vinyl tile, exposed wood and concrete, asbestos tile, and carpet.

**HVAC System/Boiler:** There is no HVAC system at Fellowsville Elementary. For heating, there are interior units, hot water heat, and a propane boiler. However, at this time the classrooms and hallways are primarily heated with mounted electric heaters.

**Plumbing System:** Fellowsville Elementary utilizes public water through Newburg Water Works and a septic system. The plumbing system is in average condition. The bathrooms are in below average condition.

**Fire Protection:** There is not a fire sprinkler system in the building.

**Electrical Systems:** Lighting fixtures are primarily fluorescent fixtures in average condition.

**Fire Alarm System:** 14 smoke detectors and 16 heat detectors are connected to the main Enhart fire alarm system at Fellowsville School.

**Receptacles:** The number of available receptacles is below-average, and the level of sufficient electrical capacity is below-average, as well.

**Intercom and Clock System:** The school intercom system is operable; there is no clock system.

**Safety:** All exterior doors area kept locked. At the main entrance door, visitors must use an entry system to gain entrance into the building. The main entrance is located by the office. A camera system is in place for the school to view visitors entering the building.

**Additions:** 2012 – computer lab and classroom.

### **South Preston School**

South Preston School serves grades PK-8 with an enrollment of 321 students and is located just off Route 26 in Tunnelton, WV, approximately 10 miles south of Kingwood. This two-story building was constructed in 2014. As a receiving school, South meets ADA accessibility requirements. It can accommodate all grade levels as it is configured to receive students at their particular grade level. Educational programming will not be affected at the receiving school, as enough physical space to accommodate programming in place. Based on a 10-year projection for enrollment, the receiving school will be able to accommodate the number of students projected.

**Building Site:** South Preston School sits on approximately 14 acres of land and is near level. Bus loading and unloading occurs in the front of the school. The staff parking lot is on the left-hand side of the school and is adequate. The driveway and school parking lot are paved and in good condition.

**Building Exterior:** South Preston was constructed in 2014. The building structure is load-bearing masonry of brick construction. The roof is metal, and all windows are aluminum framed and energy efficient. All exterior finishes are in excellent condition.

**Building Interior:** The walls are drywall and masonry and ceilings are a combination of drywall, acoustical tile, and exposed metal. The floors are tile, exposed concrete, wood, and carpet. All interior finishes are in excellent condition.

**HVAC System/Boiler:** South Preston School has central air conditioning and utilizes electric boilers with outside chiller units.

**Plumbing Systems:** South Preston School has a public water source, as well as a public sewage system. Both are in excellent condition.

**Fire Protection:** There is a sprinkler system at South Preston School.

**Electrical Systems:** The electrical system at South Preston School is a 3-phase, 227/480 volt, 4000 amp, with an underground main service feed to the school building. There is sufficient electrical capacity and power receptacle availability.

**Emergency Lighting:** Emergency lighting is available at emergency exits.

**Fire Alarm System:** South Preston has 76 smoke detectors and 23 pull stations on an Edwards EST fire alarm system.

**Receptacles:** There is sufficient electrical capacity and power receptacle availability at South Preston School.

**Intercom and Clock System:** The school intercom is operable and incorporates a bell system.

**Safety:** All exterior entry doors are kept locked. At the main entrance door, visitors must use an entry system to gain entrance into the building. The main entrance is located by the office. A camera system is in place for the school to view visitors entering the building.

**Additions:** New School in 2014.

### **Educational Programs and Related Student Services**

*Evaluation of the school targeted for closure or consolidation and the school or schools that the county designates to receive the students in regard to the school(s) adaptability to the present and proposed educational programs, and the provisions of related student services.*

Policy 6200 guidelines were used in the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary and relocation of students to South Preston School. The district Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) will be used in planning and developing any needed future facility improvements at South Preston School, the consolidated / receiving schools.

### **School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations**

<i>School</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Building Capacity</i>	<i>Utilization %</i>
Fellowsville Elementary School	61	164	37.2%
South Preton (Projected #)	365	629	58.0%

Facilities Table 2

### **Utilization Calculation Sheet**

*The supporting School Building Authority of West Virginia's (SBA) Worksheet on Building Program Utilization.*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

### **Required Services and Barrier-free Environments**

*Comparison of the school(s) targeted for closure or consolidation and the school(s) which the county has designated to receive the students in regard to providing the required services and barrier-free environments to students with disabilities.*

### **Fellowsville Elementary School:**

Fellowsville Elementary School was constructed in 1953 and with additions in 1983, 1990, and 2012. Fellowsville Elementary has a secure entrance but the school is not fully ADA accessible.

### **South Preston School:**

South Preston School was constructed in 2014. The school has a secure entrance and is fully ADA accessible. The school also has an elevator on the main level for accessibility to the upper and lower levels.

### **Grade Configurations and Educational Programs**

*Elaboration on the effect the proposed school closing or consolidation will have on the school system's future plans regarding grade configuration, educational programs, and facility requirements.*

The existing Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan advises of the possible closure of Fellowsville Elementary in 2025 or in subsequent years beyond. The closure will result in enhanced economy of scale enabling Preston County Schools to make more efficient use of available resources to meet the educational needs of its students. The educational programming opportunities for the affected students will be maintained following their enrollment at the school of receivership (South Preston).

### **Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action**

*Elaboration on the planned facility additions, renovations, or replacements that are required by the county to accommodate the proposed closing and consolidation.*

There are no planned facility additions, renovations, or replacements planned to accommodate the proposed closing / consolidation. South Preston is slated to be receiving students from the proposed closing school (Fellowsville) and has the necessary building capacity to accommodate the new students without any needed construction.

### **The Future of Closed Facilities**

*Elaboration on the future use or disposal of facilities designated by the county for closure.*

### **Fellowsville Elementary School:**

The intent is to sell the existing building following closure.

### **School Building Authority of WV (SBA)**

*Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation is contingent upon receiving funding from the SBA.*

This closure and ~~consolidation~~ merger is not pending any School Building Authority (SBA) funding.

### **Closures Contingent Upon SBA Funding**

*A county that submits a capital improvement funding request to the SBA, which incorporates the closure of a school, shall have said closure approved by the county and WVBE before being eligible for a grant award from the SBA. Rejection of the closure request by the county or WVBE renders the funding request disqualified from the current SBA funding cycle.*

*A WVBE-approved closure that is contingent upon the awarding of capital improvement funds from the SBA has an expiration date of two-years from the date of initial approval of the closure by the WVBE to be awarded funding. In such case that the two-year period elapses, and the county has not been awarded SBA funding for the project, the WVBE closure approval becomes null-and-void and the school(s) shall remain in operation.*

*A county has the right to void its previously approved school closure at any time before the expiration of the two-years by notifying the WVBE in writing of its intent to keep the school(s) open.*

*When the SBA cancels a funding cycle or extends the cycle dates beyond the two-year period a county had planned for SBA grant application eligibility, the county may apply to the WVBE for a closure period extension. Requested extensions are considered by the WVBE on a case-by-case basis and only provide the county with eligibility that was lost due to funding cycle changes. An extension shall only be considered when circumstances occur that are beyond a county's control and will not be used to provide a remedy to the county for improper planning. The WVBE-approved extension does not guarantee or imply an award of funding from the SBA.*

*If a county wishes to close the applicable school(s) after the expiration of the two years, the county shall be required to complete the full closure process as outlined in this policy and to make all necessary data current for consideration.*

### **SBA Facility Condition Documentation**

*Attachment of the most recent SBA facility evaluation form for each school affected and an updated form if the most recent SBA facility evaluation form is five years old or older.*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

### **Supporting Photographs and other Documentation**

*Provide relevant facility photos, and any supporting documentation the county determines would be helpful. Examples of supporting documentation may include reports from architects, engineers, Fire Marshall, and insurance companies.*

*Due to security concerns, floor plans should only be included when necessary in the impact statement book. If floor plans are deemed valuable to the closure reasoning, consider only including them in the officially printed book that is available at the required physical locations and not in publicly available formats.*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

**3.2.c. Finance**

**County Procedures**

**Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings**

*Itemization of the anticipated cost or savings the county will experience in all areas as a result of the proposed school closure or consolidation. Such itemization shall be in the form of a table indicating the following:*

**Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost**

*The current annual cost at the school(s) to be closed for:*

**Fellowsville Elementary School (Closing School)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 49,468.63
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 1,001,995.48
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$ 7,672.00
<i>Transportation</i>	\$ 164,903.73
<i>Other</i>	\$ 3,870.00
<i>Total</i>	\$ 1,227,909.84

Finance Table 1

**Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost**

*The current annual cost at the school(s) to be receiving for:*

**South Preston School (Receiving School)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 321,009.44
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 2,286,484.25
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$92,918.12
<i>Transportation</i>	\$ 384,775.37
<i>Other</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Total</i>	\$ 3,085,187.18

Finance Table 2

**Total Expenses for Fellowsville (Closing) and South Preston (Receiving)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 370,478.07
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 3,288,479.73
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$ 100,590.12
<i>Transportation</i>	\$ 549,679.10
<i>Other</i>	\$ 3,870.00
<i>Total</i>	\$ 4,313,097.02

Finance Table 3

## Estimated Expenses of Receiving School After Closure

### South Preston School

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$ 321,009.44
Personnel	\$ 2,664,547.71
Maintenance	\$ 94,113.48
Transportation	\$ 549,679.10
Other	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,629,349.73</b>

Finance Table 4

## Net Cost or Savings Differential

*the net cost or savings of the school(s) to be closed and the school(s) designated by the county to be receiving students for:*

Item	Cost or Savings	Amount
Utilities	Savings	\$ 49,468.63
Personnel	Savings	\$ 623,932.02
Maintenance	Savings	\$ 6,476.64
Transportation	--	\$ 0.00
Other	Savings	\$ 3,870.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$ 683,747.29</b>

Finance Table 5

## Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

*Cost of any renovation or addition resulting from the proposed school closure or consolidation, including all proposed funding sources.*

There are no anticipated construction costs to accommodate the proposed actions.

## County Expense Fund History

*Five-year history of the county's unrestricted general current expense fund balance and that balance as a percentage of the county's approved levy estimate.*

Year	Unrestricted General Current Expense Fund Balance	Approved Levy Estimate	Percentage of Approved Levy Estimate
2023	\$ 10,950,343.00	\$ 45,220,818.00	24.2%
2022	\$ 8,785,061.00	\$ 43,239,407.00	20.3%
2021	\$ 7,246,418.00	\$ 44,556,290.00	16.3%
2020	\$ 3,885,861.00	\$ 44,721,629.00	8.7%
2019	\$ 1,344,161.00	\$ 37,068,684.00	3.6%

Finance Table 6

**3.2.d. Personnel**

County Procedures

**Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes**

*An analysis of the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on professional and service personnel. The analysis shall include, at a minimum, the following data regarding the anticipated increases or decreases in employment as a result of this proposed closure or consolidation:*

Fellowsville Elementary School – Current School Personnel Data Chart				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	0.5	8	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	4	1.5	1

Personnel Table 1

South Preston School – Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	24	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	2	7	3	1

Personnel Table 2

Current Affected School Total – Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>	1.5	32	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>	3	11	4.5	2

Personnel Table 3

[Receiving or Consolidated] South Preston School Total – Anticipated After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>	1	26.5	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>	3	9	3	1

Personnel Table 4

Identify Affected School—South Preston School . – Anticipated Net Change After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>the anticipated net change in professional personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>	-0.5	-5.5	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>the anticipated net change in service personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation</i>	0	-2	-1.5	-1

Personnel Table 5

Total – Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary – Professional & Service				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>decrease that will occur through a reduction in force</i>	-0.5	-5.5	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>decrease that will occur through reduction in force</i>	0	-2	-1.5	-1

Personnel Table 6

### 3.2.e. Student Transportation

County Procedures

#### Analysis of Anticipated Transportation Time Changes

*Explain any variances of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336, West Virginia School Bus Transportation Regulations, Procedures, and Specifications for the Design and Equipment of School Buses (Policy 4336), section 15, Guidelines for Bus Routing, and the effects the variances may have on transportation. Provide the following bus route data and travel times:*

#### Current and Differences of Travel Times

*List the current travel time by bus route for students in the communities of the schools planned for closure or consolidation and the estimated increase or decrease in travel time as a result of the closure.*

#### Fellowsville Elementary School

Route	Community	Average Current Travel Time	Average Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease	Maximum Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
F23 (Bus 12-20)	Fellowsville	19 minutes	24 minutes	+ 5 minutes	43 minutes vs. 38 minutes	+ 5 minutes
F26 (Bus 32)	Fellowsville	24 minutes	29 minutes	+ 5 minutes	53 minutes vs. 48 minutes	+ 5 minutes
N48 (Bus 13-20)	Newburg	30 minutes	35 minutes	+ 5 minutes	65 minutes vs. 60 minutes	+ 5 minutes
F27 (Bus 6-19)	Fellowsville	28 minutes	33 minutes	+ 5 minutes	61 minutes vs. 56 minutes	+ 5 minutes
N47 (Bus 10-23)	Newburg	27.5 minutes	32.5 minutes	+ 5 minutes	60 minutes vs. 65 minutes	+ 5 minutes

Transportation Table 1

### Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

List all anticipated bus routes after the proposed closure or consolidation with the estimated total one-way travel time for each route. Clearly identify any bus routes that exceed the recommended travel times and any routes which will require a waiver of Policy 4336.

#### Identify School

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
F23 (Bus 12-20)	Fellowsville	24-43 minutes	0-8 minutes	Yes or No
F26 (Bus 32)	Fellowsville	29- 53 minutes	0-23 minutes	Yes or No
N48 (Bus 13-20)	Newburg	35-65 minutes	5-35 minutes	Yes or No
F27 (Bus 6-19)	Fellowsville	3-61 minutes	3-31 minutes	Yes or No
N47 (Bus 10-23)	Newburg	2.5- 60 minutes	2.5- 31 minutes	Yes or No

Transportation Table 3

\*A waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is only required for elementary school routes that have a one-way transportation time greater than 45 minutes.

### Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

Identify and provide the travel time to any neighboring county public schools that could serve the population of the closing school(s) where travel time to the identified out-of-county school is less than or equal to the school(s) designated by the county to receive students.

South Preston School is the closest district school to Fellowsville Elementary School.

### 3.2.f. Student Educational Program

County Procedures

#### Analysis and Assurance of Consideration

*Complete a projected educational program improvement analysis which includes a statement of assurance that the following have been considered:*

*Affected School Name(s)*

*Fellowsville Elementary School and South Preston School*

*In the preparation of the documents regarding the closure and/or consolidation of the above referenced school, the following codes and policies have been considered:*

- √ *W. Va. 126CSR16, Policy 2419, Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities,*
- √ *W. Va. 126CSR42, Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs,*
- √ *W. Va. 126CSR44 et al., Policy 2520, Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools,*
- √ *W. Va. 126CSR172 Policy 6200- Handbook on Planning School Facilities,*
- √ *Policy 6204-School Closings or Consolidations*

Bradley R. Minton  
Superintendent

11/13/24  
Date:

### 3.2.g. Community

*An impact statement regarding the effect the proposed school closure or consolidation will have on the affected communities and their students. Where schools and their respective communities are all defined by their own unique relationships, each proposed action will result in varying types and degrees of community impact. To better understand this diverse relational dynamic, the impact statement shall describe:*

*1. The known relationships that exist among the affected schools and their communities.*

Fellowsville Elementary School is currently a feeder school to South Preston School with students from Fellowsville currently moving on to South Preston following the completion of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The two schools are in close proximity to each other (approximately 5.5 miles) and draw students from many of the same communities including: Fellowsville, Newburg, Independence, Evansville, Thornton, and Marquess. The receiving school (South Preston) has the same community relational support as the closing school (Fellowsville).

*2. How could the existing known relationships be impacted by the proposed action.*

It is hoped that this action will strengthen the pre-existing relationship that exists between the school communities of Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School. Both schools are well supported by parents and members of the community and this action will help to unite the community behind South Preston in an effort to best meet the needs of the incoming PK-4 students from Fellowsville.

*3. The potential for new relationships that could be developed under the proposed action.*

While Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School have had a 10-year relationship since the construction of South Preston in 2014, it is hoped that stakeholders within the school are still able to develop new relationships and embrace school traditions from each school to provide a shared experience and culture.

### **3.3. & 3.4. Public Notices and Hearings**

#### County Procedures

#### **Notice of Public Hearing(s)**

*The county must provide notice for all public hearing(s) required by section 3.4.a.1. All public hearing notices shall be advertised through a Class III legal advertisement for three weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper in general circulation in the locality of any school to be closed or consolidated and in the locality of any school that has been designated by the county to receive students from the schools to be closed or consolidated. The notice also shall be posted in all schools as provided in section 3.3.5 at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing.*

*Section 3.3 of WVBE Policy 6204 contains the requirements for the public hearing notice.*

*A copy of the notice shall be posted at all schools, bus garages, and maintenance areas in the county in conspicuous working areas, for all professional and service personnel to observe.*

*If the county will be applying for SBA funding, the procedures must be completed before the SBA will consider a project for funding, as further outlined in section 6. If the county will be utilizing local funding for a construction project related to the closure or consolidation, the procedures must be completed prior to the initiation of construction. For all other closures and consolidations, counties must complete the procedures on or before December 31st of the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the closures or consolidations are to be effective.*

## **PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Preston County Schools

W.Va. 18-5-13a

W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024, at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office.

**Place:** Fellowsville Elementary, 139 Fellowsville School Road Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

#### **Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024, through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of the Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School.

**Identify Schools:** Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

**First Run:** October 4, 2024

**Second Run:** October 11, 2024

**Third Run:** October 18, 2024

**Meeting Dates and Times:** October 29, 2024, at South Preston School at 4:00 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM

**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

## **PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Preston County Schools

W.Va. 18-5-13a

W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024, at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office.

**Place:** South Preston School, 5258 South Preston Highway Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

#### **Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024, through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of the Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School.

**Identify Schools:** Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

**First Run:** October 4, 2024

**Second Run:** October 11, 2024

**Third Run:** October 18, 2024

**Meeting Dates and Times:** October 29, 2024, at South Preston School at 4:00 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM

**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

### **Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice**

*contain proof that the hearings were properly advertised with a class III legal advertisement. Such proof can be satisfied with:*

- *a notarized letter from the county's qualified newspaper(s) for legal notices, as defined by the West Virginia Secretary of State, that specifically states the three dates in which the newspaper ran the county's public hearing notification; or*
- *a digital reproduction for each of the 3 required legal advertisements from the county's qualified newspaper(s) for legal notices, as defined by the West Virginia Secretary of State, where the full legal notification and date of publication is provided and legible.*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

### **Public Hearing(s) Documentation and Formal Vote on the Closure(s) or Consolidation(s)**

*Provide documentation of all hearings, motions, written public comments, a synopsis or transcript of verbal public comments, and other actions concerning the proposed school closings and consolidations.*

*Section 3.4.a of WVBE Policy 6204 contains the requirements for the public hearing(s).  
Section 3.5. of WVBE Policy 6204 contains the requirements for the formal vote(s).*

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

### 3.6. County Board Actions

#### County Procedures

#### County Board Vote(s)

*After the vote and following compliance with sections 3.4 and 3.5, and prior to the implementation of any school closure or consolidation and following compliance with all statutory and regulatory provisions, the county must file a request for school closure and/or consolidation with the WVBE for approval and this request must contain:*

- *A letter from the county superintendent providing the date the action was taken by the county board.*
- *The signed assurance pages contained in this template.*
- *Justification as provided by the impact statement and supporting data in section 3.2.*
- *Documentation of all hearings, motions, written public comments, a synopsis or transcript of verbal public comments, and any other related actions.*
- *Proof of proper Class III legal advertisement*
- *Below CEFP statement*
- *Below SBA statement*

#### Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)

*Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation was included in the county's approved CEFP. If the county's approved CEFP did not contain the proposed closure or consolidation, the county must also submit a request to amend their CEFP. The required CEFP amendment forms shall be submitted to the WVDE Office of School Facilities staff simultaneously with the impact statement and supporting data that will be prepared for consideration by the WVBE. The CEFP amendment may be considered by the WVBE concurrently with the closure or consolidation request.*

The proposed closure was included in the county's approved Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP).

#### School Building Authority of WV

*Identify if the proposed school closing or consolidation is contingent upon receiving funding from the SBA.*

The proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary is not contingent upon School Building Authority (SBA) funding.

#### Closures Contingent Upon SBA Funding

*A county that submits a capital improvement funding request to the SBA, which incorporates the closure of a school, shall have said closure approved by the county and WVBE before being eligible for a grant award from the SBA. Rejection of the closure request by the county or WVBE renders the funding request disqualified from the current SBA funding cycle.*

*A WVBE-approved closure that is contingent upon the awarding of capital improvement funds from the SBA has an expiration date of two-years from the date of initial approval of the closure by the WVBE to be awarded funding. In such case that the two-year period elapses, and the county has not been awarded SBA funding for the project, the WVBE closure approval becomes null-and-void and the school(s) shall remain in operation.*

*A county has the right to void its previously approved school closure at any time before the expiration of the two-years by notifying the WVBE in writing of its intent to keep the school(s) open.*

*If a county wishes to close the applicable school(s) after the expiration of the two years, the county shall be required to complete the full closure process as outlined in this policy and to make all necessary data current for consideration.*

### 3.6. Superintendent Verification of Board Actions

County Procedures

***Date(s) of public hearings:***

October 29, 2024 – South Preston School at 4 00 PM

October 29, 2024 – Fellowsville Elementary School at 6 30 PM

***Date(s) of county board approval:***

November 18, 2024

***Requested Action:***

Preston County requests the West Virginia Board of Education approve the following:

Closure and consolidation of Fellowsville Elementary School into South Preston School for the 2025-2026 academic year.

***Checkmark each section and sign below:***

- ✓ *The county assures that the applicable sections of the W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a, and WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204 have been addressed.*
- ✓ *This action is justified by the provided supplemental data and information pertinent to the following subjects: enrollment, facilities, finance, personnel, transportation, and educational programs.*
- ✓ *Documentation of all hearings, motions, written public comments, a synopsis or transcript of verbal comments, and other actions concerning the proposed school closings and consolidations were provided in this document.*
- ✓ *All hearings were properly advertised with a class III legal advertisement.*

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent of Preston County Schools

Signature of county superintendent attesting to the completion of all requirements as stated in W. Va. Codes §18-5-13 and §18-5-13a and WVBE Policies 6200 and 6204.

Bradley R. Martin  
Superintendent

11/13/24  
Date:

## **Appendix of Supporting Data**

*The list should include, at a minimum, the following data:*

- 1. SBA Worksheet on Building Program Utilization for all affected schools (Required)*
- 2. Supporting Photographs, Floorplans, and other Documentation (As needed)*
- 3. SBA Facility Condition Documentation for all affected schools (Required)*
- 4. Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice for all affected schools (Required)*
- 5. Public Hearing(s) Documentation for all affected schools (Required)*
- 6. Board minutes indicating the action of the board to approve the closure(s) (Required)*
- 7. Cover letter addressed to the State Superintendent of Schools (Required)*
- 8. Completed superintendent signature pages (Required)*
- 9. Most current October 1<sup>st</sup> certified enrollment for county (Required)*

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
**BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET**  
 Worksheet #3  
**SBA FORM 301-C**

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Preston School: Fellowsville Elementary Current Enrollment: 61

<i>Classroom Types</i>	<i>Number Of Classroom Types</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Program Capacity</i>
Elementary General Education Classrooms (1 <sup>st</sup> - 5th grade)	5		25		125
Elementary PK and Kindergarten Classrooms	2		20		40
Gymnasium	1		--		--
TOTALS:					165

Program Utilization  $\frac{61}{61}$  divided by  $\frac{165}{165}$  times 100 =  $\frac{37.0}{37.0}$  %  
Current Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 37.0 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

**Instructions for Calculating Building Program Utilization**

**Elementary School** – Calculate the number and type of classrooms using the maximum program capacity for each self-contained regular classroom. Assume for example – that all students are seated in a first period block without pullout programs. Do not include library/media, cafeteria, itinerant spaces, resource rooms, or optional academic classrooms such as art, music and computer labs that act as pullout programs to support the core curriculum.

**Secondary School** – Middle/Junior High School programs where various schedules exist, calculate the number and type of classrooms using the maximum program capacity for each regular or special classroom. Assume for example, that all students are seated in a first period block and exclude library/media, commons or any space that cannot be used for other course offerings in the daily capacity of each facility. The maximum capacity for instructional spaces for specialty classrooms is counted once. A specialty classroom may be available throughout the school day but due to its specialized design or equipment it is rendered impractical to use for other instructional purposes.

SBA 301-C

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
**BUILDING PROGRAM UTILIZATION WORKSHEET**  
 Worksheet #3  
**SBA FORM 301-C**

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A SIMILAR SBA-APPROVED DIGITAL INSTRUMENT

County: Preston

School: South Preston

Current Enrollment: 321

<i>Classroom Types</i>	<i>Number Of Classroom Types</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Program Capacity</i>
Elementary General Education Classrooms (1 <sup>st</sup> - 5th grade)	11		25		275
Elementary PK and Kindergarten Classrooms	4		20		80
Gymnasium	1		--		--
Elementary Self-Contained Special Education Classroom	2		12		24
Middle School General Education Classrooms	10		25		250
Special Education Resource Room	3		--		--
TOTALS:					629

Program Utilization  $\frac{321}{\text{Current Enrollment}}$  divided by  $\frac{629}{\text{Total Program Capacity}}$  times 100 = 51.0 %  
Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 51.0%      Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

### Instructions for Calculating Building Program Utilization

**Elementary School** – Calculate the number and type of classrooms using the maximum program capacity for each self-contained regular classroom. Assume for example – that all students are seated in a first period block without pullout programs. Do not include library/media, cafeteria, itinerant spaces, resource rooms, or optional academic classrooms such as art, music and computer labs that act as pullout programs to support the core curriculum.

**Secondary School** – Middle/Junior High School programs where various schedules exist, calculate the number and type of classrooms using the maximum program capacity for each regular or special classroom. Assume for example, that all students are seated in a first period block and exclude library/media, commons or any space that cannot be used for other course offerings in the daily capacity of each facility. The maximum capacity for instructional spaces for specialty classrooms is counted once. A specialty classroom may be available throughout the school day but due to its specialized design or equipment it is rendered impractical to use for other instructional purposes.

SBA 301-C

### School Closing and Consolidation Timeline

Per Pupil Cost by School FY18-FY24  
FY18 - FY24

School	FY18 Total PP Expenditures	FY19 Total PP Expenditures	FY20 Total PP Expenditures	FY21 Total PP Expenditures	FY22 Total PP Expenditures	FY23 Total PP Expenditures	FY24 Total PP Expenditures
Aurora	10,942.58	11,380.23	12,034.83	14,091.75	13,803.90	14,026.82	14,528.63
Rowlesburg	13,406.57	15,322.16	18,282.09	17,212.66	15,996.31	22,288.10	22,918.28
Bruceston	8,494.84	9,486.75	9,866.43	10,404.92	11,280.64	11,816.54	12,044.78
TA/East	9,590.85	10,355.05	10,842.26	11,427.84	12,673.83	12,904.68	12,646.40
South	10,144.10	11,354.17	11,783.42	11,809.69	12,754.02	12,918.40	13,649.86
West	8,561.14	9,130.52	9,970.61	10,207.88	11,441.80	11,760.26	12,681.47
Fellowsville	12,691.86	16,144.11	16,126.82	15,756.37	16,553.32	15,572.35	18,741.44
Kingwood	10,189.25	11,217.73	11,437.03	12,074.94	13,484.45	13,341.78	13,126.50
Central	8,691.48	10,090.03	10,609.87	11,638.82	12,655.66	13,194.09	12,364.59
Preston High	9,592.21	9,980.58	10,772.15	11,170.12	12,429.23	12,647.64	14,303.45
<b>District Level</b>	<b>9,504.25</b>	<b>10,302.24</b>	<b>10,929.41</b>	<b>11,399.13</b>	<b>12,454.94</b>	<b>12,743.22</b>	<b>13,451.82</b>

Per Pupil Percent Change  
FY18 - FY23

School	FY18 Total PP Expenditures	FY19 Total PP Expenditures	Δ	FY20 Total PP Expenditures	Δ	FY21 Total PP Expenditures	Δ	FY22 Total PP Expenditures	Δ	FY23 Total PP Expenditures	Δ	Total Change (6 years)	% Δ (6 yrs)
Aurora	10,942.58	11,380.23	437.65	12,034.83	654.60	14,091.75	2,056.92	13,803.90	(287.85)	14,026.82	222.92	3,084.24	28%
Rowlesburg	13,406.57	15,322.16	1,915.59	18,282.09	2,959.93	17,212.66	(1,069.43)	15,996.31	(1,216.35)	22,288.10	6,291.79	8,881.53	66%
Bruceton	8,494.84	9,486.75	991.91	9,866.43	379.68	10,404.92	538.49	11,280.64	875.72	11,816.54	535.90	3,321.70	39%
TA/East	9,590.85	10,355.05	764.20	10,842.26	487.21	11,427.84	585.58	12,673.83	1,245.99	12,904.68	230.85	3,313.83	35%
South	10,144.10	11,354.17	1,210.07	11,783.42	429.25	11,809.69	26.27	12,754.02	944.33	12,918.40	164.38	2,774.30	27%
West	8,561.14	9,130.52	569.38	9,970.61	840.09	10,207.88	237.27	11,441.80	1,233.92	11,760.26	318.46	3,199.12	37%
Fellowsville	12,691.86	16,144.11	3,452.25	16,126.82	(17.29)	15,756.37	(370.45)	16,553.32	796.95	15,572.35	(980.97)	2,880.49	23%
Kingwood	10,189.25	11,217.73	1,028.48	11,437.03	219.30	12,074.94	637.91	13,484.45	1,409.51	13,341.78	(142.67)	3,152.53	31%
Central	8,691.48	10,090.03	1,398.55	10,609.87	519.84	11,638.82	1,028.95	12,655.66	1,016.84	13,194.09	538.43	4,502.61	52%
Preston High	9,592.21	9,980.58	388.37	10,772.15	791.57	11,170.12	397.97	12,429.23	1,259.11	12,647.64	218.41	3,055.43	32%
<b>District Level</b>	<b>9,504.25</b>	<b>10,302.24</b>	<b>797.99</b>	<b>10,929.41</b>	<b>627.17</b>	<b>11,399.13</b>	<b>469.72</b>	<b>12,454.94</b>	<b>1,055.81</b>	<b>12,743.22</b>	<b>288.28</b>	<b>3,238.97</b>	<b>34%</b>

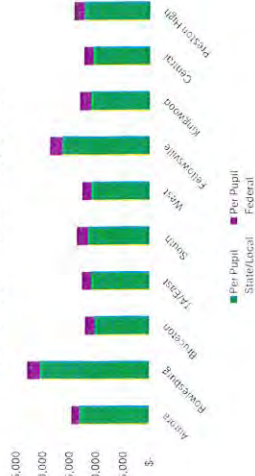
FY24 Per Pupil Expenses by School

School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	167	9,934.38	357.71	10,292.09	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	14,528.63
Rowlesburg	45	17,956.40	1,325.34	18,681.74	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	22,918.28
Bruceston	588	7,032.76	775.47	7,808.23	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,044.78
TA/East	303	7,771.29	638.57	8,409.85	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,646.40
South	329	8,387.45	1,025.87	9,413.32	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	13,649.86
West	653	7,780.83	664.09	8,444.93	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,681.47
Fellowsville	75	13,357.47	1,147.44	14,504.90	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	18,741.44
Kingwood	363	7,881.94	1,008.02	8,889.96	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	13,126.50
Central	310	7,479.95	648.09	8,128.05	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,364.59
Preston High	1119	9,124.60	942.31	10,066.91	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	14,303.45
<b>District Level</b>	<b>3,952</b>	<b>8,391.85</b>	<b>823.43</b>	<b>9,215.28</b>	<b>3,070.95</b>	<b>1,165.59</b>	<b>4,236.54</b>	<b>13,451.82</b>

Excluded Expenditures Include:

Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

FY24 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



\*\* These numbers may include data types not included in previous years, so across fiscal year comparison may not be accurate dollar to dollar.

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed., and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 13,005	\$ 1,523	\$ 14,529
Rowlesburg	\$ 20,427	\$ 2,491	\$ 22,918
Bruceston	\$ 10,104	\$ 1,941	\$ 12,045
TA/East	\$ 10,842	\$ 1,804	\$ 12,646
South	\$ 11,458	\$ 2,191	\$ 13,650
West	\$ 10,852	\$ 1,830	\$ 12,681
Fellowsville	\$ 16,428	\$ 2,313	\$ 18,741
Kingwood	\$ 10,953	\$ 2,174	\$ 13,127
Central	\$ 10,551	\$ 1,814	\$ 12,365
Preston High	\$ 12,196	\$ 2,108	\$ 14,303
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 12,682</b>	<b>\$ 2,019</b>	<b>\$ 14,701</b>

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 13,005	\$ 1,523	\$ 14,529
Rowlesburg	\$ 20,427	\$ 2,491	\$ 22,918
Bruceston	\$ 10,104	\$ 1,941	\$ 12,045
TA/East	\$ 10,842	\$ 1,804	\$ 12,646
South	\$ 11,458	\$ 2,191	\$ 13,650
West	\$ 10,852	\$ 1,830	\$ 12,681
<b>Average PK/K-8</b>	<b>\$ 12,781</b>	<b>\$ 1,963</b>	<b>\$ 14,745</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 16,428	\$ 2,313	\$ 18,741
Kingwood	\$ 10,953	\$ 2,174	\$ 13,127
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 13,691</b>	<b>\$ 2,243</b>	<b>\$ 15,934</b>
Central	\$ 10,551	\$ 1,814	\$ 12,365
Preston High	\$ 12,196	\$ 2,108	\$ 14,303
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 12,682</b>	<b>\$ 2,019</b>	<b>\$ 14,701</b>

FY23 Per Pupil Expenses by School

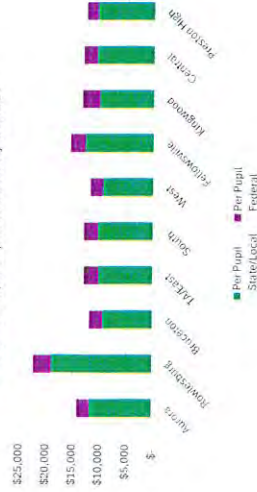
School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	168	8,209.50	1,267.63	9,477.13	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	14,026.82
Rowlesburg	40	15,421.34	2,317.07	17,738.41	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	22,288.10
Bruceston	616	5,817.89	1,448.96	7,266.85	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	11,816.54
TA/East	310	6,891.67	1,663.32	8,554.99	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,904.68
South	342	6,861.49	1,507.22	8,368.71	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,918.40
West	652	5,951.73	1,258.84	7,210.57	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	11,760.26
Fellowsville	91	9,308.36	1,714.30	11,022.66	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	15,572.35
Kingwood	358	6,640.67	2,151.42	8,792.09	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	13,341.78
Central	322	7,179.30	1,465.10	8,644.40	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	13,194.09
Preston High	1178	7,076.84	1,021.11	8,097.95	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,647.64
<b>District Level</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>6,807.49</b>	<b>1,386.04</b>	<b>8,193.53</b>	<b>3,455.80</b>	<b>1,093.89</b>	<b>4,549.69</b>	<b>12,743.22</b>

Total District Expenditures \$ 58,933,175.79  
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 51,954,175.36  
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 6,979,000.43

**Excluded Expenditures Include:** Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY23 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: [https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/choose\\_district\\_sum.html?selected\\_district=070&year=2023](https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/choose_district_sum.html?selected_district=070&year=2023)

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 11,665	\$ 2,362	\$ 14,027
Rowlesburg	\$ 18,877	\$ 3,411	\$ 22,288
Bruceston	\$ 9,274	\$ 2,543	\$ 11,817
TA/East	\$ 10,147	\$ 2,757	\$ 12,905
South	\$ 10,317	\$ 2,601	\$ 12,918
West	\$ 9,408	\$ 2,353	\$ 11,760
Fellowsville	\$ 12,764	\$ 2,808	\$ 15,572
Kingwood	\$ 10,096	\$ 3,245	\$ 13,342
Central	\$ 10,635	\$ 2,559	\$ 13,194
Preston High	\$ 10,533	\$ 2,115	\$ 12,648
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 11,372</b>	<b>\$ 2,675</b>	<b>\$ 14,047</b>

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed., and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 11,665	\$ 2,362	\$ 14,027
Rowlesburg	\$ 18,877	\$ 3,411	\$ 22,288
Bruceston	\$ 9,274	\$ 2,543	\$ 11,817
TA/East	\$ 10,147	\$ 2,757	\$ 12,905
South	\$ 10,317	\$ 2,601	\$ 12,918
West	\$ 9,408	\$ 2,353	\$ 11,760
<b>Average PK/K - 8</b>	<b>\$ 11,615</b>	<b>\$ 2,671</b>	<b>\$ 14,286</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 12,764	\$ 2,808	\$ 15,572
Kingwood	\$ 10,096	\$ 3,245	\$ 13,342
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 11,430</b>	<b>\$ 3,027</b>	<b>\$ 14,457</b>
Central	\$ 10,635	\$ 2,559	\$ 13,194
Preston High	\$ 10,533	\$ 2,115	\$ 12,648
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 11,372</b>	<b>\$ 2,675</b>	<b>\$ 14,047</b>

FY22 Per Pupil Expenses by School

School	Enroll. #	State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	Total PP Expenditures
Aurora	177	7,460.26	1,658.89	9,119.15	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	13,803.90
Rowlesburg	74	9,314.00	1,997.56	11,311.56	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	15,996.31
Bruceston	649	4,865.76	1,730.13	6,595.89	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	11,280.64
TA/East	337	6,456.78	1,532.30	7,989.08	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	12,673.83
South	354	6,375.45	1,693.82	8,069.27	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	12,754.02
West	665	5,208.31	1,548.74	6,757.05	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	11,441.80
Fellowsville	85	9,541.91	2,326.66	11,868.57	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	16,553.32
Kingwood	362	6,397.65	2,402.05	8,799.70	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	13,484.45
Central	325	6,607.60	1,363.31	7,970.91	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	12,655.66
Preston High	1203	6,660.15	1,084.33	7,744.48	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	12,429.23
<b>District Level</b>	<b>4,231</b>	<b>6,227.99</b>	<b>1,542.20</b>	<b>7,770.19</b>	<b>3,424.02</b>	<b>1,260.73</b>	<b>4,684.75</b>	<b>12,454.94</b>

Total District Expenditures \$ 58,574,390.03  
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 52,696,900.32  
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 5,877,489.71

**Excluded Expenditures Include:** Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY22 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: [https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/choose\\_district\\_sum.html?selected\\_district=070&year=2022](https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/choose_district_sum.html?selected_district=070&year=2022)

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,884	\$ 2,920	\$ 13,804
Rowlesburg	\$ 12,738	\$ 3,258	\$ 15,996
Bruceston	\$ 8,290	\$ 2,991	\$ 11,281
TA/East	\$ 9,881	\$ 2,793	\$ 12,674
South	\$ 9,799	\$ 2,955	\$ 12,754
West	\$ 8,632	\$ 2,809	\$ 11,442
Fellowsville	\$ 12,966	\$ 3,587	\$ 16,553
Kingwood	\$ 9,822	\$ 3,663	\$ 13,484
Central	\$ 10,032	\$ 2,624	\$ 12,656
Preston High	\$ 10,084	\$ 2,345	\$ 12,429
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 10,313</b>	<b>\$ 2,995</b>	<b>\$ 13,307</b>

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed., and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,884	\$ 2,920	\$ 13,804
Rowlesburg	\$ 12,738	\$ 3,258	\$ 15,996
Bruceston	\$ 8,290	\$ 2,991	\$ 11,281
TA/East	\$ 9,881	\$ 2,793	\$ 12,674
South	\$ 9,799	\$ 2,955	\$ 12,754
West	\$ 8,632	\$ 2,809	\$ 11,442
<b>Average PW/K-8</b>	<b>\$ 10,037</b>	<b>\$ 2,954</b>	<b>\$ 12,992</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 12,966	\$ 3,587	\$ 16,553
Kingwood	\$ 9,822	\$ 3,663	\$ 13,484
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 11,394</b>	<b>\$ 3,625</b>	<b>\$ 15,019</b>
Central	\$ 10,032	\$ 2,624	\$ 12,656
Preston High	\$ 10,084	\$ 2,345	\$ 12,429
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 10,313</b>	<b>\$ 2,995</b>	<b>\$ 13,307</b>

FY21 Per Pupil Expenses by School

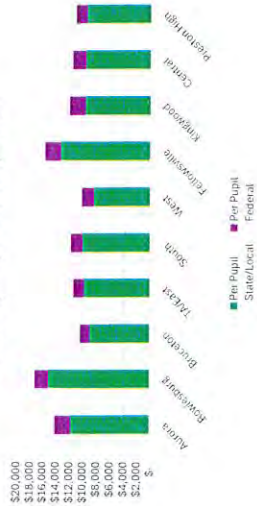
School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	154	8,264.82	1,403.51	9,668.33	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	14,091.75
Rowlesburg	73	11,575.02	1,214.22	12,789.24	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	17,212.66
Bruceston	603	5,491.86	489.64	5,981.50	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	10,404.92
TA/East	343	6,349.97	654.45	7,004.42	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,427.84
South	369	6,579.33	806.94	7,386.27	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,809.69
West	680	4,905.95	878.51	5,784.46	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	10,207.88
Fellowsville	83	9,855.21	1,479.74	11,332.95	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	15,756.37
Kingwood	364	6,235.24	1,416.28	7,651.52	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	12,075
Central	327	6,165.20	1,050.20	7,215.40	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,639
Preston High	1209	6,073.49	673.21	6,746.70	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,170.12
<b>District Level</b>	<b>4,205</b>	<b>6,139.72</b>	<b>835.99</b>	<b>6,975.71</b>	<b>3,474.71</b>	<b>948.71</b>	<b>4,423.42</b>	<b>11,399.13</b>

Total District Expenditures \$ 53,968,670.19  
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 47,933,427.92  
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 6,035,242.24

**Excluded Expenditures Include:** Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY21 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: [https://wweis.k12.wv.us/ess/dist\\_finance.html?selected\\_district=070&year=2021](https://wweis.k12.wv.us/ess/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2021)

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 11,740	\$ 2,352	\$ 14,092
Rowlesburg	\$ 15,050	\$ 2,163	\$ 17,213
Bruceston	\$ 8,967	\$ 1,438	\$ 10,405
TA/East	\$ 9,825	\$ 1,603	\$ 11,428
South	\$ 10,054	\$ 1,756	\$ 11,810
West	\$ 8,381	\$ 1,827	\$ 10,208
Fellowsville	\$ 13,328	\$ 2,428	\$ 15,756
Kingwood	\$ 9,710	\$ 2,365	\$ 12,075
Central	\$ 9,548	\$ 1,999	\$ 11,547
Preston High	\$ 9,548	\$ 1,622	\$ 11,170
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 10,624</b>	<b>\$ 1,955</b>	<b>\$ 12,579</b>

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed, and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 11,740	\$ 2,352	\$ 14,092
Rowlesburg	\$ 15,050	\$ 2,163	\$ 17,213
Bruceston	\$ 8,967	\$ 1,438	\$ 10,405
TA/East	\$ 9,825	\$ 1,603	\$ 11,428
South	\$ 10,054	\$ 1,756	\$ 11,810
West	\$ 8,381	\$ 1,827	\$ 10,208
<b>Average PK/K - 8</b>	<b>\$ 10,669</b>	<b>\$ 1,857</b>	<b>\$ 12,526</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 13,328	\$ 2,428	\$ 15,756
Kingwood	\$ 9,710	\$ 2,365	\$ 12,075
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 11,519</b>	<b>\$ 2,397</b>	<b>\$ 13,916</b>
Central	\$ 9,548	\$ 1,999	\$ 11,547
Preston High	\$ 9,548	\$ 1,622	\$ 11,170
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 10,624</b>	<b>\$ 1,955</b>	<b>\$ 12,579</b>

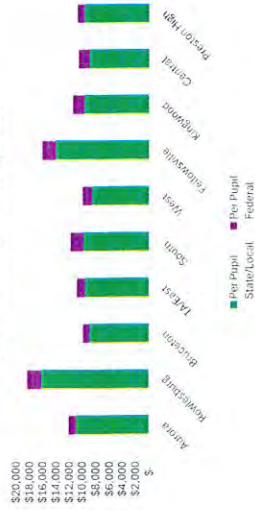
FY20 Per Pupil Expenses by School

School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	167	7,506.60	565.71	8,072.31	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	12,034.83
Rowlesburg	77	12,753.24	1,566.33	14,319.57	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	18,282.09
Bruceston	627	5,460.47	443.44	5,903.91	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	9,866.43
TA/East	373	6,137.21	742.53	6,879.74	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	10,842.26
South	369	6,440.10	1,380.80	7,820.90	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	11,783.42
West	726	5,059.75	948.34	6,008.09	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	9,970.61
Fellowsville	79	10,594.87	1,569.43	12,164.30	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	16,126.82
Kingwood	421	6,252.17	1,222.34	7,474.51	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	11,437.03
Central	332	5,501.92	1,145.43	6,647.35	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	10,609.87
Preston High	1202	6,269.84	539.79	6,809.63	3,401.21	561.31	3,962.52	10,772.15
<b>District Level</b>	<b>4,373</b>	<b>6,135.47</b>	<b>831.42</b>	<b>6,966.89</b>	<b>3,401.21</b>	<b>561.31</b>	<b>3,962.52</b>	<b>10,929.41</b>

Total District Expenditures \$ 74,919,925.38  
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 47,794,404.73  
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 27,125,520.65

**Excluded Expenditures Include:**  
 Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

FY20 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: [https://wweis.k12.wv.us/fessa/dist\\_finance.html?selected\\_district=070&year=2020](https://wweis.k12.wv.us/fessa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2020)

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,908	\$ 1,127	\$ 12,035
Rowlesburg	\$ 16,154	\$ 2,128	\$ 18,282
Bruceston	\$ 8,962	\$ 1,005	\$ 9,966
TA/East	\$ 9,538	\$ 1,304	\$ 10,842
South	\$ 9,841	\$ 1,942	\$ 11,783
West	\$ 8,461	\$ 1,510	\$ 9,971
Fellowsville	\$ 13,996	\$ 2,131	\$ 16,127
Kingwood	\$ 9,653	\$ 1,784	\$ 11,437
Central	\$ 8,903	\$ 1,707	\$ 10,610
Preston High	\$ 9,671	\$ 1,101	\$ 10,772
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 10,599</b>	<b>\$ 1,574</b>	<b>\$ 12,173</b>

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed., and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,908	\$ 1,127	\$ 12,035
Rowlesburg	\$ 16,154	\$ 2,128	\$ 18,282
Bruceston	\$ 8,962	\$ 1,005	\$ 9,966
TA/East	\$ 9,538	\$ 1,304	\$ 10,842
South	\$ 9,841	\$ 1,942	\$ 11,783
West	\$ 8,461	\$ 1,510	\$ 9,971
<b>Average PK/K-8</b>	<b>\$ 10,627</b>	<b>\$ 1,503</b>	<b>\$ 12,130</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 13,996	\$ 2,131	\$ 16,127
Kingwood	\$ 9,653	\$ 1,784	\$ 11,437
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 11,825</b>	<b>\$ 1,957</b>	<b>\$ 13,782</b>
Central	\$ 8,903	\$ 1,707	\$ 10,610
Preston High	\$ 9,671	\$ 1,101	\$ 10,772
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 10,599</b>	<b>\$ 1,574</b>	<b>\$ 12,173</b>

FY19 Per Pupil Expenses by School

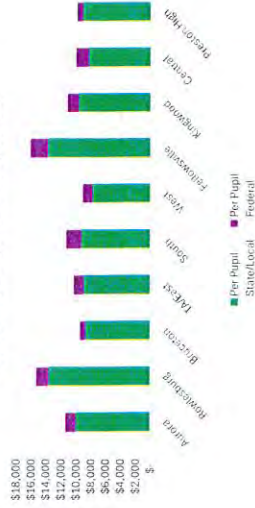
School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	173	6,848.97	990.43	7,839.40	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	11,380.23
Rowlesburg	87	10,429.91	1,352.02	11,781.93	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	15,322.16
Bruceston	609	5,547.71	396.21	5,945.92	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	9,486.75
TA/East	354	5,803.37	1,010.85	6,814.22	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	10,355.05
South	385	6,139.89	1,673.45	7,813.34	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	11,354.17
West	761	4,604.72	984.97	5,589.69	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	9,130.52
Fellowsville	71	10,557.60	2,045.68	12,603.28	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	16,144.11
Kingwood	423	6,503.74	1,173.16	7,676.90	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	11,217.73
Central	332	5,182.30	1,366.90	6,549.20	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	10,090.03
Preston High	1213	5,957.92	481.83	6,439.75	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	9,980.58
<b>District Level</b>	<b>4,408</b>	<b>5,862.38</b>	<b>895.03</b>	<b>6,757.41</b>	<b>3,164.22</b>	<b>376.61</b>	<b>3,540.83</b>	<b>10,302.24</b>

Total District Expenditures \$ 51,977,890.50  
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 45,412,352.46  
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 6,565,538.04

Excluded Expenditures include:  
 Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY19 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: [https://weiss.k12.wv.us/essa/dist\\_finance.html?selected\\_district=070&year=2019](https://weiss.k12.wv.us/essa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2019)

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,013	\$ 1,367	\$ 11,380
Rowlesburg	\$ 13,594	\$ 1,729	\$ 15,322
Bruceston	\$ 8,712	\$ 775	\$ 9,487
TA/East	\$ 8,968	\$ 1,387	\$ 10,355
South	\$ 9,304	\$ 2,050	\$ 11,354
West	\$ 7,769	\$ 1,362	\$ 9,131
Fellowsville	\$ 13,722	\$ 2,422	\$ 16,144
Kingwood	\$ 9,688	\$ 1,550	\$ 11,218
Central	\$ 8,347	\$ 1,744	\$ 10,090
Preston High	\$ 9,122	\$ 858	\$ 9,981
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 9,922</b>	<b>\$ 1,524</b>	<b>\$ 11,446</b>

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed., and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,013	\$ 1,367	\$ 11,380
Rowlesburg	\$ 13,594	\$ 1,729	\$ 15,322
Bruceston	\$ 8,712	\$ 775	\$ 9,487
TA/East	\$ 8,968	\$ 1,387	\$ 10,355
South	\$ 9,304	\$ 2,050	\$ 11,354
West	\$ 7,769	\$ 1,362	\$ 9,131
<b>Average PK/K - 3</b>	<b>\$ 9,727</b>	<b>\$ 1,445</b>	<b>\$ 11,171</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 13,722	\$ 2,422	\$ 16,144
Kingwood	\$ 9,688	\$ 1,550	\$ 11,218
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 11,695</b>	<b>\$ 1,986</b>	<b>\$ 13,681</b>
Central	\$ 8,347	\$ 1,744	\$ 10,090
Preston High	\$ 9,122	\$ 858	\$ 9,981
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 9,922</b>	<b>\$ 1,524</b>	<b>\$ 11,446</b>

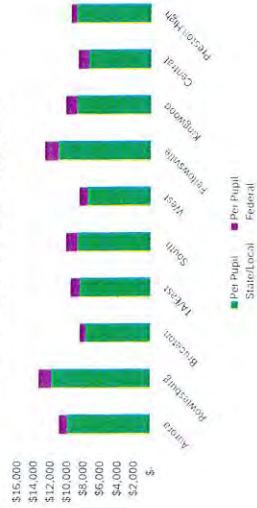
FY18 Per Pupil Expenses by School

School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	172	6,978.05	679.11	7,657.16	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	10,942.58
Rowlesburg	95	8,835.24	1,285.91	10,121.15	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	13,406.57
Bruceston	625	4,732.05	477.37	5,209.42	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	8,494.84
Ta/East	387	5,421.50	883.93	6,305.43	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	9,590.85
South	391	5,731.51	1,127.17	6,858.68	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	10,144.10
West	763	4,527.23	748.49	5,275.72	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	8,561.14
Fellowsville	95	8,048.45	1,357.99	9,406.44	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	12,691.86
Kingwood	458	5,832.54	1,071.29	6,903.83	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	10,189.25
Central	336	4,376.84	1,029.22	5,406.06	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	8,691.48
Preston High	1186	5,842.12	464.67	6,306.79	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	9,592.21
<b>District Level</b>	<b>4,518</b>	<b>5,463.53</b>	<b>755.30</b>	<b>6,218.83</b>	<b>3,000.52</b>	<b>284.90</b>	<b>3,285.42</b>	<b>9,504.25</b>

Total District Expenditures \$ 48,244,376.13  
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 42,940,295.93  
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 5,304,080.20

**Excluded Expenditures include:** Debt, capital, non-public school programs, adult education programs, and community services.

FY18 Per Pupil Expenses by School



Data Collected from: [https://weis.k12.wv.us/essa/dist\\_finance.html?selected\\_district=070&year=2018](https://weis.k12.wv.us/essa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2018)

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 9,979	\$ 964	\$ 10,943
Rowlesburg	\$ 11,836	\$ 1,571	\$ 13,407
Bruceston	\$ 7,733	\$ 762	\$ 8,495
Ta/East	\$ 8,422	\$ 1,169	\$ 9,591
South	\$ 8,732	\$ 1,412	\$ 10,144
West	\$ 7,528	\$ 1,033	\$ 8,561
Fellowsville	\$ 11,049	\$ 1,643	\$ 12,692
Kingwood	\$ 8,833	\$ 1,356	\$ 10,189
Central	\$ 7,377	\$ 1,314	\$ 8,691
Preston High	\$ 8,843	\$ 750	\$ 9,592
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 9,033</b>	<b>\$ 1,089</b>	<b>\$ 10,230</b>

Chart excludes Debt, Capital, Non-Public School Programs, Adult Ed, and Community Services.

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 9,979	\$ 964	\$ 10,943
Rowlesburg	\$ 11,836	\$ 1,571	\$ 13,407
Bruceston	\$ 7,733	\$ 762	\$ 8,495
Ta/East	\$ 8,422	\$ 1,169	\$ 9,591
South	\$ 8,732	\$ 1,412	\$ 10,144
West	\$ 7,528	\$ 1,033	\$ 8,561
<b>Average PK/K - 8</b>	<b>\$ 9,038</b>	<b>\$ 1,152</b>	<b>\$ 10,190</b>
Fellowsville	\$ 11,049	\$ 1,643	\$ 12,692
Kingwood	\$ 8,833	\$ 1,356	\$ 10,189
<b>Average Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 9,941</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 11,441</b>
Central	\$ 7,377	\$ 1,314	\$ 8,691
Preston High	\$ 8,843	\$ 750	\$ 9,592
<b>County Average</b>	<b>\$ 9,033</b>	<b>\$ 1,197</b>	<b>\$ 10,230</b>

# Total Student FTE Increase / Decrease Comparative: 2024-25 vs. 2023-24

## 2024-25 Enrollment FTE

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Totals
Aurora School	16	13	14	20	14	10	15	13					142
Rowlesburg School		1	7	2	3	8	3	7					33
Bruceton School	50	63	76	64	54	66	58	60					603
Terra Alta/East Preston School	27	33	30	32	22	24	34	34					283
South Preston School	21	30	21	31	43	45	31	44					312
West Preston School	60	61	57	63	59	47	60	77					604
Fellowsville Elementary	11	7	16	9									59
Kingwood Elementary	70	57	67	63									383
Central Preston Middle School					65	74	70	81					290
Preston High School									319	244	233	260	1056
Totals	255	265	288	284	260	274	271	316	319	244	233	260	3765

**Aurora:** 141.2    **Rowlesburg:** 33    **Bruceton:** 600.3    **TAEP:** 283    **South:** 312    **West:** 603    **FES:** 59    **KES:** 382.5    **CPMS:** 290    **PHS:** 1054.417    **Overall:** 3758.417

# 2023-24 Enrollment FTE

	Pre-K	Kindergarten	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Totals
Services Preston CO															
Preston County Schools															
Aurora School	14	20	13	19	23	16	18	17	14	13					167
Rowlesburg School		1	3	7	1	2	8	4	9	10					45
Bruceton School	51	51	64	77	65	55	65	52	62	46					588
Terra Alta/east Preston School	20	29	36	31	32	24	27	39	35	30					303
South Preston School	22	25	32	23	27	40	49	35	46	30					329
West Preston School	61	64	61	61	61	60	49	61	78	77					633
Fellowsville Elementary	12	11	8	15	16	13									75
Kingwood Elementary	71	70	58	69	59	56									383
Central Preston Middle School							68	69	83	90					310
Preston High School										1	299	312	264	243	1119
Totals	251	271	275	302	284	266	284	277	327	297	299	312	264	243	3952

**Aurora:** 165.325    **Rowlesburg:** 45    **Bruceton:** 582.125    **TAEP:** 302    **South:** 328    **West:** 632.2    **FES:** 75    **KES:** 380.5    **CPMS:** 310    **PHS:** 1115    **Overall:** 3935.15

**Aurora:**    - 24.125    **Bruceton:**    + 18.175    **South Preston:**    - 16    **Fellowsville:**    - 16    **CPMS:**    - 20    **OVERALL:**    - 176.733

**Rowlesburg:**    - 12    **TAEP:**    - 19    **West Preston:**    - 29.2    **Kingwood:**    + 2    **PHS:**    - 60.583

## Fellowsville Elementary School



School Building Authority of West Virginia  
 SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
 Building Component Evaluation Sheet

LEA ID:	070203	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	38,000
Facility Name:	Fellowsville Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1953

**3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet**

**Building Structures:**

Type: 

Load Bearing Masonry		28,536
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Building Structures Remarks: 

Wood Framing - 840 SF
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Overall Building Structure Condition: 

3-Average
-----------

**Floor Structures:**

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF): 

0
---

Wood Joists (floor area SF): 

840
-----

Slab on Grade (floor area SF): 

17,373
--------

Other (specify) / Floor area SF: 

--	--

Floor Structure Remarks: 

--

Overall Floor Structure Condition: 

3-Average
-----------

**Roof:**

Roof Structure: 

Steel Joists		Steel Joist & Wood Joist
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Roof Structures Remarks: 

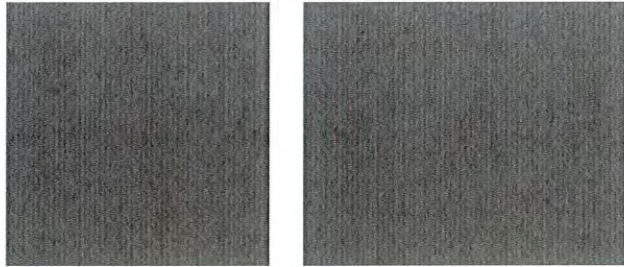
Steel - 11,570 SF    Wood - 9,112 SF Needs new roof even over the new section over gym (Shingled). Rest of building is standing seam.
--

Overall Roof Condition: 2-Below Average

**Building Systems:**

The systems below are addressed in the FCA data collection tool.

- Roof Coverings
- Wall Finishes
- Ceiling Finishes
- Floor Finishes
- Doors
- Windows
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Fire Alarm



**Technology Infrastructure:**

Sufficient Electrical Capacity:	Yes	2-Below Average
Power Receptacles Availability:	Yes	2-Below Average
ID Network Type (if available):	No	
Inventory Records Hardware	Yes	3-Average
Other (specify):	Technology Electrical Wiring	3-Average

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

**Technology Assessment:**

Teacher Training:	4-Above Average
Software Use:	4-Above Average

Purchasing Practices:  
Network Administration:  
Inventory Records  
Other (specify):

4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average

--

Deficiencies:


Technology Remarks:  
Overall Technology Condition:

4-Above Average
-----------------

**School Access Safety Audit:**

Planning:  
Deterrence:  
Detection:  
Delay:  
Communication:  
Evacuation:

4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average
4-Above Average

Safety Remarks:  
Overall Access Safety Condition:

Bullying - 4 Above Average
4-Above Average

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Building Information Sheet

Building	Fellowsville Elementary School	Year Built	1953	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	38,000	Basement (Y/N)	N	(incl. Bsmt)	1

System	Material	Count	Year installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes	29 of 29 systems have been evaluated	Messages
Conveying Systems				Not Present	NA		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average			
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent		2010	2 - Below Average	Lighting replaced in 2010.		
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				3 - Average			
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average			
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			3 - Average			
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal		2012	2 - Below Average	Some door may need hardware replaced where other just need completely replaced.		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry		2019	2 - Below Average	Repaired and painted exterior masonry.		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Single Pane, Fixed, All frame types		1990	2 - Below Average	2012 addition double pane - average.		
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				3 - Average			
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Distribution System				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				3 - Average			
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems			2010	2 - Below Average	Window units in most of the school. Addition has central ac.		
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				3 - Average			
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			2 - Below Average			
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average			
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile		2014	3 - Average			
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Vinyl Composition Tile			2 - Below Average	9x9 tile in some of the classrooms (suspected asbestos content), starting to chip and degrade.		
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				2 - Below Average	Original wood flooring needs to be refinished or replaced.		
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU		2018	3 - Average			
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				2 - Below Average			
Plumbing - Fixtures	Manual			2 - Below Average			
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				2 - Below Average	Downspouts damaged on older section of building, staining and efflorescence form water.		
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				2 - Below Average			
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Membrane		1991	2 - Below Average	2012 addition metal, average rest of school needs replaced. Another section of the schools roof was replaced in 1997.		
Security System			2010	3 - Average			
Technology Infrastructure			2010	3 - Average	Upgraded as newer technology becomes available.		

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Campus Information Sheet

Full AE Firm Name: The Thrasher Group, Inc.  
County Name: Preston  
Campus Name: Fellowsville Elementary  
Campus Type: Elementary School  
School Code: 070203

Original Construction Yr.: 1953  
Assessment Date: 07/03/19  
Current Enrollment: 71

School Photo



Pavements						
System	Material	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	SF	Notes	Message
Pedestrian Pavements	Asphalt		2 - Below Average	500	no sidewalks around the building, stairs, ramps and landings at entries concrete	
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt		2 - Below Average	6445	Unpaved - 2750 SF - Average SF from Google Earth	

Permanent Buildings									
Record	Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Include building in Assessment	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement (Y/N)	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	Message
1	Fellowsville Elementary School	Classroom	Y	1953	No	38,000	N	1	
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
<b>Total GSF:</b>						38,000			

Portable Buildings				
Record	Building Name	Year Installed	GSF	Message
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

8			
9			
10			
<b>Total GSF:</b>			-

Overview of Findings
Addition in 2012 for Library support space.
Need roofing replaced in some areas.
HVAC upgrades to eliminate window units.
Asbestos tile flooring encapsulated in most areas.
Additional plumbing upgrades.
Flow problems with septic system. ( Lift station)
New windows needed. Existing windows have asbestos caulking.
Paving needs done in front and around side of school.
Hot water heat in Gym and 100 area, rest is steam up to addition.
Plumbing upgrades needed in old section. Flow problems with septic. New section has separate with lift station - contracted out maintenance.
Expected to close in the next 10 years due to declining population.

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Facility General Information Sheet

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	070203	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	38,000
Facility Name:	Fellowsville Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1953

**Energy Indexes**

(List the total amount of each fuel source used for one year)

<u>Source (Units)</u>	<u>Consumption per Year</u>	<u>Conversion (BTU/Unit)</u>	<u>Total BTU</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	185,440	3,412	632,747,242
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--		1,037,000	-
Natural Gas (Decootherms)		1,000,000	-
Coal (Tons)		24,000,000	-
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)		138,874	-
Propane (Pounds)	66,327	21,600	1,432,663,200
Used Oil (Gallons)		125,000	-
Wood Chips (Tons)		16,500,000	-
Other (specify)			
Amount:			
Units:			
		Total BTU:	2,065,410,442
		Energy Utilization Index (EUI):	54,353

**Worksheet Links:**

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
School Improvement Cost Summary Sheet

LEA ID:	070203	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	38000
Facility Name:	Fellowsville Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1953
Design Capacity Enrollment:	263		

*Please note, the current-year costs shown below are intended to provide a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM); estimate of costs. While they are appropriate for high-level capital forecasting, they should not be relied upon for determining specific project funding values. Actual project costs will likely deviate from the presented values due to a variety of factors including, but not limited to, hard and soft cost fluctuations and the actual date of construction for the intended project. Therefore, detailed cost estimates are recommended to validate funding requirements prior to obligating funds for facility replacement or renovation.*

Improvement Item

**1. Site Work**

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT		\$ 20.00	\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT		\$ 60.00	\$ -	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT	2,500	\$ 10.00	\$ 25,000.00	Need to have pedestrian walkways added around building.
Parking	SQ FT	15,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 90,000.00	
Bus Loading	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	LIN FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

**Sub-Total**

\$ 115,000.00

**2. Renovations, Exterior**

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Wall Structure	SQ FT	15,000	\$ 25.00	\$ 375,000.00	
Floor Structure	SQ FT		\$ 40.00	\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT	10,000	\$ 12.00	\$ 120,000.00	
Wall Facing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Windows	EACH	50	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	

Doors/Frames	EACH	20	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 110,000.00	
Roofing	SQ FT	35,000	\$ 20.00	\$ 700,000.00	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT		\$ 15.00	\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT		\$ 8.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

**Sub-Total** \$ 1,505,000.00

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
<b>3. Renovations, Interior</b>					
Floor Covering	SQ FT	38,000	\$ 10.00	\$ 380,000.00	Replacing all 9x9 asbestos tile.
Patch & Painting	SQ FT	15,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 90,000.00	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT	5,000	\$ 12.00	\$ 60,000.00	
Plumbing	SQ FT	38,000	\$ 24.00	\$ 912,000.00	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT		\$ 30.00	\$ -	
Air Conditioning	SQ FT	38,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 228,000.00	
Lighting	SQ FT	38,000	\$ 5.00	\$ 190,000.00	
Wiring	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT		\$ 2.50	\$ -	
Communication System	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Technology			\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Interior Doors	EACH	30	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 135,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

**Sub-Total** \$ 1,995,000.00

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
<b>4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings &amp; Equipment</b>					
Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 130.00	\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 140.00	\$ -	

Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 130.00	\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 220.00	\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 115.00	\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 220.00	\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	500	\$ 175.00	\$ 87,500.00	Upgrade fixtures to auto.
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 80.00	\$ -	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 200.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Subtotal of Building Additions (SQ FT)		500			
Circulation	30%	150		\$ -	
<b>Sub-Total</b>				<u>\$ 87,500.00</u>	

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH		\$150,000.00	\$ -	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	38,000	\$ 4.00	\$ 152,000.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL		\$300,000.00	\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH	1	\$600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	Pump station needs replaced.
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 752,000.00

**6. Other Special Costs**

	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ -  
 Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6 \$ 4,454,500.00

**7. Architectural/Engineering Fees**

	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	6.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	8.0%	\$4,454,500.00	\$ 356,360.00	

Sub-Total \$ 356,360.00

**8. Miscellaneous**

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Survey	EACH			\$ -	
Soil Inv.	EACH			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ -

**9. Contingencies**

	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	2.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	4.0%	\$4,454,500.00	\$ 178,180.00	

Sub-Total \$ 178,180.00

<b>Grand Total Project Cost</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,989,040.00</u></b>
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**Worksheet Links:**

[Campus Information](#)

[Building 1](#)

[Building 2](#)

[Building 3](#)

[Building 4](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	54,353
Current Enrollment:	71
Program Capacity:	263
Utilization Calculation:	27%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
 SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
 Site Evaluation Sheet

LEA ID:	070203	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	38,000
Facility Name:	Fellowsville Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1953

**2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet**

**Site**

City or Rural:	<input type="text" value="Rural"/>	
Actual Acres:	<input type="text" value="6.5"/>	
Useable Acres:	<input type="text" value="6.5"/>	
Site adequate for expansion:	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	<input type="text" value="No"/>	
% site out of flood plain:	<input type="text" value="100%"/>	
% site in flood plain:	<input type="text" value="0%"/>	
Site Remarks:	<input type="text"/>	
Overall Site Condition:	<input type="text" value="3-Average"/>	

**Drainage**

Drainage Remarks:	<input type="text"/>	
Overall Drainage Condition:	<input type="text" value="2-Below Average"/>	

**Parking**

Parking Adequately Lit:	<input type="text"/>
-------------------------	----------------------

Adequacy of Parking:

3-Average

Parking Remarks:

Parking may or may not be adequately lit. Not staed in previous evaluation.

Overall Parking Condition:

3-Average

**Bus Loading**

Bus Loading Adequate:

Yes

Bus Loading Remarks:

Overall Bus loading Condition:

3-Average

**Access Roads**

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

3-Average

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

3-Average

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

3-Average

**Playfields/Playcourts**

Adequacy of Playfields:

3-Average

Adequacy of Playcourts:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

3-Average

**Site Utilities**

**Electrical Services:**

Phase:	Single
Voltage:	120/240
Amps:	1200
Electric Utility Company:	Monongahela Power Company
Main Service Feed into Building:	Overhead
Electrical Service Remarks:	
Overall Electrical Service Condition:	3-Average

**Fuel Sources:**

Natural Gas:	Yes
Coal:	No
Fuel Oils:	No
Propane:	No
Other (Specify):	
Fuel Line Size (inches):	3
Fuel Utility Company:	Mountaineer Gas
Fuel Sources Remarks:	
Overall Fuel Sources Condition:	3-Average

**Water Sources:**

Public:	No
Well:	Yes
Water Line Size (inches):	1
Water Utility Company:	Not stated on previous evaluation sheet.

Water Sources Remarks:

--

Overall Water Sources Condition:

3-Average
-----------

**Sewage Systems:**

Public:

Yes
-----

Septic:

No
----

Other (Specify):

--

Public Service District (PSD):

Not stated on previous evaluation sheet.
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Sewage System Remarks:

Overall Sewage System Condition:

3-Average
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School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis Sheet

LEA ID:	070203	Assessment Date:	43649
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	38000
Facility Name:	Fellowsville Elementary	Original Year of Construction:	1953

Individual School Utilization Analysis

	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)
Lowest Grade Level:	K	K - 5		38,000	0	Fellowsville, WV
Highest Grade Level:	5					

Complete ONLY the column below associated with the highest grade level for this school.

Classroom Type	Number of Class Types (ES)	Number of Class Types (MS)	Number of Class Types (HS)	X	Max Students Per Room	=	Total Program Capacity	Utilization Calculation
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0	Current Enrollment
Kindergarten (Full Day)	1				20		20	71
General Purpose Classroom	4				25		100	Total Program Capacity 263
Computer Lab	n/a	1			25		25	
Art Lab	n/a	1			25		25	
Music Classroom	n/a	1			25		25	
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a	n/a		0		0	
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)	1				6		6	
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)	n/a				12		0	
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)					12		0	
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)					8		0	
Special Education Classroom	2				6		12	Utilization Calculation

Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a			20	0	27%
Physical Education	n/a	1		50	50	
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a			25	0	Desirable Utilization
Business Education	n/a			25	0	85%
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a			25	0	
Totals	8	4	0		263	Difference -58%

# South Preston School



**School Building Authority of West Virginia**  
**SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form**  
**Building Component Evaluation Sheet**

LEA ID:	070106	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	58,000
Facility Name:	South Preston School	Original Year of Construction:	2014

**3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet**

**Building Structures:**

Type: Load Bearing Masonry

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition: 4-Above Average

**Floor Structures:**

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

**Roof:**

Roof Structure: Steel Joists

Roof Structures Remarks:

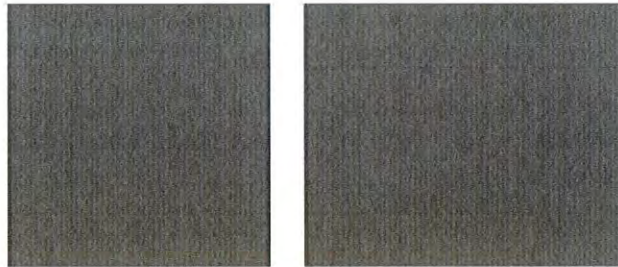
Overall Roof Condition:

4-Above Average

**Building Systems:**

The systems below are addressed in the FCA data collection tool.

- Roof Coverings
- Wall Finishes
- Ceiling Finishes
- Floor Finishes
- Doors
- Windows
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Fire Alarm



**Technology Infrastructure:**

- Sufficient Electrical Capacity:
- Power Receptacles Availability:
- ID Network Type (if available):
- Inventory Records Hardware
- Other (specify):

Yes	3-Average
Yes	3-Average

Deficiencies:

[Redacted area]

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Condition:

[Redacted area]

**Technology Assessment:**

- Teacher Training:
- Software Use:

3-Average

3-Average

Purchasing Practices:  
Network Administration:  
Inventory Records  
Other (specify):

3-Average  
3-Average  
3-Average

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Deficiencies:

[Redacted]

Technology Remarks:  
Overall Technology Condition:

3-Average

**School Access Safety Audit:**

Planning:  
Deterrence:  
Detection:  
Delay:  
Communication:  
Evacuation:

3-Average  
3-Average  
3-Average  
3-Average  
3-Average  
3-Average

[Redacted]

Safety Remarks:  
Overall Access Safety Condition:

3-Average

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Building Information Sheet

Building	South Preston PreK-8	Year Built	2014	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	58,000	Basement [Y/N]	N	(incl. Bsmt)	2

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes
Conveying Systems	Elevator (2) Stops	1		3 - Average	29 of 29 systems have been evaluated
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average	
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent			3 - Average	
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				3 - Average	
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average	
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Aluminum			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Double Pane, Fixed, All frame			3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				3 - Average	
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				3 - Average	
HVAC - Distribution System				3 - Average	
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				Not Present	
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				Not Present	
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile			3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Vinyl Composition Tile			3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU			3 - Average	

Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				3 - Average	
Plumbing - Fixtures	Manual			3 - Average	
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				3 - Average	
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				3 - Average	
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Standing Seam			3 - Average	
Security System				3 - Average	
Technology Infrastructure				3 - Average	

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
 SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
 Campus Information Sheet

Full AE Firm Name: The Thrasher Group, Inc.  
 County Name: Preston  
 Campus Name: South Preston School  
 Campus Type: Middle School  
 School Code: 070106

Original Construction Yr.: 2014  
 Assessment Date: 07/03/19  
 Current Enrollment: 385



Pavements						
System	Material	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	SF	Notes	Message
Pedestrian Pavements	Concrete		4 - Above Average	8,500		
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt		4 - Above Average	30,000		

Permanent Buildings									
Record	Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Include building in Assessment	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement (Y/N)	# Floors (Ind. Bsmt)	Message
1	South Preston PreK-8	Classroom	Y	2014	No	58,000	N	2	
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
<b>Total GSF:</b>						58,000			

Portable Buildings				
Record	Building Name	Year Installed	GSF	Message
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

10				
Total GSF:				

Overview of Findings	
Relatively new school, well maintained since 2014 construction.	
Currently has electric boilers. Very high electric bill. 31k monthly	
HVAC needs upgraded (functions but not sustainable)	
Possibly upgrade to natural gas in the future.	
No increase in population.	
Building large enough to house Fellowsville School (6 miles away).	

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Facility General Information Sheet

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	070106	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	58,000
Facility Name:	South Preston School	Original Year of Construction:	2014

**Energy Indexes**

(List the total amount of each fuel source used for one year)

<u>Source (Units)</u>	<u>Consumption per Year</u>	<u>Conversion (BTU/Unit)</u>	<u>Total BTU</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	1,566,905	3,412	5,346,499,227
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--		1,037,000	-
Natural Gas (Decootherms)		1,000,000	-
Coal (Tons)		24,000,000	-
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)		138,874	-
Propane (Pounds)		21,600	-
Used Oil (Gallons)		125,000	-
Wood Chips (Tons)		16,500,000	-
Other (specify)			
Amount:			
Units:			

Total BTU: 5,346,499,227

Energy Utilization Index (EUI): 92,181

**Worksheet Links:**

**School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
School Improvement Cost Summary Sheet**

LEA ID:	070106	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	58000
Facility Name:	South Preston School	Original Year of Construction:	2014
Design Capacity Enrollment:	703		

*Please note, the current-year costs shown below are intended to provide a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimate of costs. While they are appropriate for high-level capital forecasting, they should not be relied upon for determining specific project funding values. Actual project costs will likely deviate from the presented values due to a variety of factors including, but not limited to, hard and soft cost fluctuations and the actual date of construction for the intended project. Therefore, detailed cost estimates are recommended to validate funding requirements prior to obligating funds for facility replacement or renovation.*

**Improvement Item**

**1. Site Work**

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT		\$ 20.00	\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT		\$ 60.00	\$ -	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT		\$ 10.00	\$ -	
Parking	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Bus Loading	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

**Sub-Total**

\$ -

**2. Renovations, Exterior**

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Wall Structure	SQ FT		\$ 25.00	\$ -	
Floor Structure	SQ FT		\$ 40.00	\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Windows	EACH		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	

Doors/Frames	EACH		\$ 5,500.00	\$ -	
Roofing	SQ FT		\$ 20.00	\$ -	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT		\$ 15.00	\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT		\$ 8.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

**Sub-Total** \$ -

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Floor Covering	SQ FT		\$ 10.00	\$ -	
Patch & Painting	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Plumbing	SQ FT		\$ 24.00	\$ -	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT	58,000	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,740,000.00	Natural Gas upgrade
Air Conditioning	SQ FT	58,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 348,000.00	
Lighting	SQ FT		\$ 5.00	\$ -	
Wiring	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT		\$ 2.50	\$ -	
Communication System	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Technology			\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Interior Doors	EACH		\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

**Sub-Total** \$ 2,088,000.00

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
<b>4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings &amp; Equipment</b>					
Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 130.00	\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 140.00	\$ -	

Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 130.00	\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 220.00	\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 115.00	\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 220.00	\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	500	\$ 175.00	\$ 87,500.00	Upgrade to auto fixtures
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 80.00	\$ -	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 200.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Subtotal of Building Additions (SQ FT)		500			
Circulation	30%	150		\$ -	
<b>Sub-Total</b>				<b>\$ 87,500.00</b>	

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH		\$150,000.00	\$ -	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT		\$ 4.00	\$ -	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL		\$300,000.00	\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH		\$600,000.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ -

6. Other Special Costs

	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ -

Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6

\$ 2,175,500.00

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees

	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	6.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	8.0%	\$2,088,000.00	\$ 167,040.00	

Sub-Total

\$ 167,040.00

8. Miscellaneous

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Survey	EACH			\$ -	
Soil Inv.	EACH			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ -

9. Contingencies

	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	2.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	4.0%	\$2,088,000.00	\$ 83,520.00	

Sub-Total

\$ 83,520.00

Grand Total Project Cost

\$ 2,426,060.00

**Worksheet Links:**

[Campus Information](#)

[Building 1](#)

[Building 2](#)

[Building 3](#)

[Building 4](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	92,181
Current Enrollment:	385
Program Capacity:	703
Utilization Calculation:	55%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Site Evaluation Sheet

LEA ID:	070106	Assessment Date:	07/03/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	58,000
Facility Name:	South Preston School	Original Year of Construction:	2014

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	Rural
Actual Acres:	
Useable Acres:	
Site adequate for expansion:	Yes
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	0%

Site Remarks: Need acre

Overall Site Condition:

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:

Overall Drainage Condition: 3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit: Yes

Adequacy of Parking:

3-Average

Parking Remarks:

Overall Parking Condition:

3-Average

**Bus Loading**

Bus Loading Adequate:

Yes

Bus Loading Remarks:

Overall Bus loading Condition:

3-Average

**Access Roads**

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

**Playfields/Playcourts**

Adequacy of Playfields:

Adequacy of Playcourts:

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

3-Average

3-Average

3-Average

**Site Utilities**

**Electrical Services:**

Phase:	
Voltage:	
Amps:	
Electric Utility Company:	
Main Service Feed into Building:	
Electrical Service Remarks:	
Overall Electrical Service Condition:	

**Fuel Sources:**

Natural Gas:	No
Coal:	No
Fuel Oils:	No
Propane:	No
Other (Specify):	electric boilers
Fuel Line Size (inches):	
Fuel Utility Company:	
Fuel Sources Remarks:	N/A Electric boilers currently in use. May switch to LP gas. Natural Gas is 1/2 mile away to the North. Questionable capacity.
Overall Fuel Sources Condition:	3-Average

**Water Sources:**

Public:	Yes
Well:	
Water Line Size (inches):	6
Water Utility Company:	Kingwood Water

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall Water Sources Condition:

3-Average

**Sewage Systems:**

Public:

Septic:

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

Yes
No

Sewage System Remarks:

Overall Sewage System Condition:

3-Average
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School Building Authority of West Virginia  
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form  
Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis Sheet

LEA ID:	070106	Assessment Date:	43649
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	58000
Facility Name:	South Preston School	Original Year of Construction:	2014

Individual School Utilization Analysis								
	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)		
Lowest Grade Level:	PK	PK - 8	6	58,000	0			
Highest Grade Level:	8							
Complete ONLY the column below associated with the highest grade level for this school.								
Classroom Type	Number of Class Types (ES)	Number of Class Types (MS)	Number of Class Types (HS)	X	Max Students Per Room	=	Total Program Capacity	Utilization Calculation
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)	2				20		40	Current Enrollment 385
Kindergarten (Full Day)	2				20		40	
General Purpose Classroom	8	6			25		350	Total Program Capacity 703
Computer Lab	n/a	3			25		75	
Art Lab	n/a	1			25		25	
Music Classroom	n/a	2			25		50	
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a	n/a		0		0	
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)	4				6		24	
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)	n/a				12		0	
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)		2			12		24	
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)					8		0	
Special Education Classroom					6		0	Utilization Calculation

Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a			20	0	55%
Physical Education	n/a	1		50	50	
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a	1		25	25	Desirable Utilization
Business Education	n/a			25	0	85%
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a			25	0	
Totals	16	16	0		703	Difference
						-30%

**Budget**

14 million surpluses

5% reserve would be \$744,898.90

Each professional equals \$100,000.00 salary and benefits (For next year will need to cut 15 professional positions.) If the county would need to cover 5 teachers, it would cost \$500,000.00. This is an approximation.

Each service equals \$60,000.00 salary and benefits (For next year will need to cut 27 service positions. 19 plus the 8 we are already over) I do not know where I will be able to find this many service cuts. We will need additional funds to cover the cost-of-service personnel for next school year. This year we are having to cover 8, next year it will be even higher. If the county had to cover the cost of 15 service positions it would be a total cost of \$900,000.00.

If we close schools, then the number of positions saved would offset these totals. Closure would provide 11.5 professional positions and 9 service positions. This would only make us have to find 3.5 other professional cuts and 18 service positions cuts. This would be very beneficial overall. If you only close RES you would save 5 professional and 4.5 service positions. FES would be 5.5 professional and 4.5 service positions. I did not include the principal position if we do not close both schools, because we would still need one for the one school kept open. I would need to determine how I would best service the school that is kept open. It could potentially end in saving a position, but until I know which school is saved, I cannot make that call. If we do not close these two schools, we will definitely be using county funds to help cover the cost of additional staffing. This is also what lead us into the state coming in before and taking over the county. This could become an issue on our personnel section on our county score card from the state.

As long as the WV Academy Charter School remains, we have to pay funds to them for our students who go to their school. We paid them \$12,656.82. In addition to this amount, we could have an additional amount of \$180,000.00 that would be transferred out of county funds as students continue to transfer out to charter schools throughout the school year.

Chart as of November 16, 2024 for this school year

	Enrollment	Charter	HOPE	Homeschool	In County transfers
Fellowsville	59	0	6	2	18
Rowelsburg	34	0	3	2	1

As you can see from the chart above, each school's enrollment and then the number of students that was lost to each category.

Here is the projected enrollment for the next three years for each school.

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28
FES	89	59	58*	55*	52*
RES	48	34	30	27	24

\*These predictions are off because it is to be on a 5.35% decline per year however since 24-25 numbers have continued to decrease, (originally it was at 62) 25-26 numbers and so on are no longer accurate. They will need to be adjusted downward.

### **Maintenance (Large Item)**

Maintenance that would have to be done to FES school if kept open would be a new roof, furnace replaced and sewer lines fixed.

Right now the furnace is able to be fired up a very short time in the mornings with one of our maintenance men there to watch it. Otherwise, individual electric heaters are placed in each classroom, lunchroom and restroom. These must be turned off each night and when turned on in restrooms doors left open to ventilate. This is a safety hazard to students and if one gets left on again, it could burn down the school. To replace the furnace, it would not just be the broiler, you would be having to replace the entire system due to the age of the system and the damage of the current system.

The roof has many layers on it and would need to be removed before a new roof can be installed. The oldest layer has asbestos in it, and this would make the cost to fix the roof twice if not three times as much. It would cost the minimum of \$300,000.00 or more just to abate the asbestos.

The amount to just band aid the fixes of FES school would cost 2.2 million dollars on the low end for these two items.

### **Summer school**

Summer school cost will have to be covered out of county funds this year and years ahead. This includes teacher and service employee cost. This cost will be about \$455,187.75

for personnel. Supplies will be an additional cost that I am not able to determine without discussion with Ms. Rush. This total does not include credit recovery for PHS personnel or programming. This would need to be determined by Ms. Layton. There maybe some money left in the levy to offset some of these costs, but the county will have to cover the majority of this cost and we are required to provide summer school to at least K-3 for the state required Science Of Reading.

Position	# needed	Hours worked	Total per hour	Total overall
Site Coordinator	4	230	\$30.00 + fixed charges	\$133,768.80*
Reading Coordinator	2	40	\$30.00 + fixed charges	\$55,939.68*
Activity Coordinator	1	40	\$30.00 + fixed charges	\$4,864.32*
Instructors	11	200	\$30.00 + fixed charges	\$2,432.16*
Camp Instructors	5	70	\$30.00 + fixed charges	\$21,281.40*
Nurses (RN/LPN)	2	RN-20 on call LPN 200	\$30.00 + fixed charges	\$1,2160.80* \$12,160.80*
Cooks	6	200	Daily rate + fixed charges	\$43,572.00*
Bus Drivers	8	200	Daily rate + fixed charges	\$70,467.79*
Custodians	13	200 (some more)	Daily rate + fixed charges	\$98,540.00*
Subs (as needed all positions listed above)	13	depended		
Total paid for Summer school salaries				\$455,187.75

\*These numbers are based off of my calculations. I looked up each posting to see the hours given and amount paid. The calculations are based off of base pay, workers compensation, social security, retirement and taxes that are required to be taken out of each employee's check. The first check in June would have a higher tax rate which I did not accommodate for since I am not an expert in this area and do not know the specific bracket amounts for that. I used the general equations that I use each year when doing basic budgeting for personnel. Again, this is an estimate amount but fairly close. The service personnel is derived from the most senior and least senior employee that was hired in that classifications daily rate. I then averaged out the overall daily rate and fixed charges and

then calculated the overall for that classification. If anything, the amount could be a bit higher in the driver and custodian areas. There was some overtime provided for trips and the cleaning that did not get done within the time allotted. I also did not figure out the substitute amount however did not take out any of the overall totals from any categories. The county is going to have to cover the cost of summer school this year and years to follow. We do have the ASE grant, however, we only received one grant this year and it only covers a few of our schools and the amount was for much less and for very specific uses. The county will have to cover the cost of summer school or a large portion of it because there will not be much left out of the levy line item to cover the \$455,187.75 amount that it cost to run it last year. Or we will have to reduce what we offer as summer school options. Again, this does not include any of the PHS credit recovery cost or personnel cost of PHS summer school.

### **Miscellaneous**

The county will also have to cover the cost of mowing and snow removal now out of the general budget. These two amounts came to an approximation of \$181,549.00

Also, with the cases we are dealing with through BRIM (our insurance agency), if we do end up paying out on any of these cases, these funds will increase our rates, and we will have to pay this out of county money. Just something to also keep in the back of your mind.

The increase in PEIA hikes will also create an increase that the county will have to cover on our end too. The employees part increases, but so does the employers. We will have to cover this hike with county funds for all those employees that we have to cover outside of state aid.

We will have to pick up all custodial supplies that have been paid out of ESSERF funds for the past 5 years. These costs have been an average of \$120,000.00 per year.

HVAC repairs through contracts range from \$20,000.00 - 50,000.00 monthly that now must come out of county money. Some months like the last month it was for \$ \$93,000.00. This depends on the months when we use the HVAC units the most or start ups.

Programming (Iready, Schoology, See Saw, ESGI ) that was paid out of ESSERF will need to come out of county funds \$183,606.00 per year (estimate)

Maintenance operations that were paid out of ESSERF funds now will need to come out of county funds \$700,000.00.

Child nutrition equipment is old and outdated. To find parts is becoming harder. We will have to start replacing these pieces and this cost will come from county funds.

## **LEVY**

6,783,441 million levy carry over

This is what I can find from going through reports on board docs and principals meeting reports.

**Maintenance:** Approximately \$4.4 million

\$315,657.00 of levy was originally allocated to the 900,000.00 KES safe school entry way when it was approved. However, with the supply cost significantly increasing, we should set aside at least \$1.1 to 1.2 million to cover the cost of this project. (This was what I was provided from Matt Brakey from Thrasher on Friday. This was a rough levy number \$500,000.00 or higher, he thought but was close) There are also projects within the CEFP that we must complete that must come out of this money. Also, if a broiler or heat system goes out at any of our schools, it is an easy \$75,000 to \$125,000 to just get the part without the cost of labor. Sometimes with these new systems, our guys are not able to complete all aspects of the job. With the technology components you must bring someone else in to connect with the company.

**Operations:** \$ 81,562.98

**Safety:** Approximately \$ 316,168.00

\$70,000.00 will be spent to pay for Officer Lewis's wages for this school year. Additional cameras were purchased and AED's

**Personnel:** Approximately \$ 1.1 million

Each professional equal \$100,000.00 salary and benefits

For the 24-25 school year, already have 1 teacher being paid from this account. On the Dec 2, agenda there will be two additional teachers being asked to be approved (special education KES and TA) to fulfill needed requirements/minutes/behaviors. These two positions will be for this year only. Approximately \$182,066.00 will be spent by the end of this year. This will leave \$817, 934.00. I could hire approximately 8 more teachers with these funds.

**Technology:** Approximately \$ 227,783.33

\$70,000.00 will be spent paying for one of the TIS positions for this school year. It would also allow Paul to have an additional person for next year too.

**Curriculum trips:** \$ 123,888.97 I know this has decreased significantly and many trips are planned

**Instructional supplies:** \$116,115.93 I can let you know that SPS has spent most of their money because if they need any orders done on a P Card they use mine and I have been ordering a lot over the last month and half. The schools are spending this money as directed because many orders have been coming through the board office and sent out to schools.

**After School/Virtual Programs:** \$ 831,519.51

\$60,000.00 for Ms. Kelly's position for this year. We also use this fund to purchase the program that we use for the virtual school platform and without speaking with Ms. Kelly, I am not sure what the cost of Edmentum will be to renew for next year. However, I strongly recommend that we use this money to do this to keep this program at our usage for another year as it is very beneficial to keep many students enrolled on our count and not lose them too! We also pay little learners, alternative education, and night AEP are paid out of this fund.

**Community Usage:** \$0

**Test Scores    GSA results**

	<b>ELA</b>		<b>Math</b>
FES 3 <sup>rd</sup>	40	FES 3 <sup>rd</sup>	33
SPS 3 <sup>rd</sup>	28	SPS 3 <sup>rd</sup>	45
FES 4 <sup>th</sup>	54	FES 4 <sup>th</sup>	54
SPS 4 <sup>th</sup>	42	SPS 4 <sup>th</sup>	29

You need to look at each grade independently, not overall by school. You are then comparing apples to oranges or middle schoolers to elementary schoolers...lol

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Mandy White, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School. I am also providing a copy to our Local School Improvement Council Chairperson and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Mandy White

School Principal Signature (Aurora School)

9-24-24

Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

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(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Craig Schmidt, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School. I am also providing a copy to our Local School Improvement Council Chairperson and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Craig Schmidt

School Principal Signature (Rowlesburg School)

9/24/24

Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)


Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, James R. Hoyt, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School. I am also providing a copy to our Local School Improvement Council Chairperson and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
School Principal Signature (South Preston School)

9/24/24  
Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Craig Schmidt, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School. I am also providing a copy to our Local School Improvement Council Chairperson and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Craig Schmidt  
School Principal Signature (Fellowsville Elementary)

9/24/24  
Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

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Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Kim Lansberry, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Kim Lansberry  
School Representative

9-24-24  
Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

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Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Victoria Koch, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Victoria Koch  
School Representative

9-24-24  
Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

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Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Rebecca Hershman, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Rebecca Hershman  
School Representative

9.24.24  
Date

PHS

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Stephen Plum, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

School Representative

Date

9/24/24

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Amanda Rhodes, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Amanda Rhodes

School Representative

9-24-24

Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

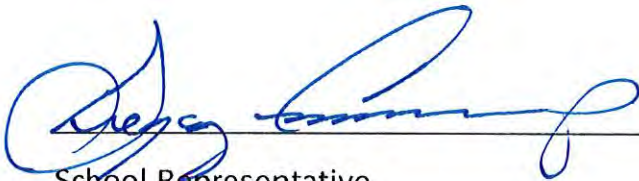
Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Gregory Cummings, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

School Representative

9-24-24

Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Jessie Hart, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

Jessie Hart  
School Representative

9/24/24  
Date

**PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

[www.prestoncountyschools.com](http://www.prestoncountyschools.com) or [www.prestonboe.com](http://www.prestonboe.com)

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

I, Jonas Kroth, have received a copy of the impact statement and supporting documentation related to the possible closures of both Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School and will place the documents in an accessible area of the school for public review from 9/24/24 through 10/28/24.

School Representative

9/24/24

Date

**Legal Notices**

**Identify Schools:** Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School  
**First Run:** October 4, 2024  
**Second Run:** October 11, 2024  
**Third Run:** October 18, 2024  
**Meeting Dates and Times:** October 29, 2024 at South Preston School at 4 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM  
**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Preston County Schools  
 W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
 Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** Rowlesburg School, 200 Center Street Rowlesburg, WV 26425. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

**Identify Schools:** Rowlesburg School and Aurora School  
**First Run:** October 4, 2024

**Legal Notices**

**Second Run:** October 11, 2024  
**Third Run:** October 18, 2024  
**Meeting Dates and Times:** October 28, 2024 at Aurora School at 4 PM and October 30, 2024 at Rowlesburg School at 6 PM  
**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Preston County Schools  
 W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
 Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** Aurora School, 125 Aurora School Road Aurora, WV 26705. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

**Identify Schools:** Rowlesburg School and Aurora School  
**First Run:** October 4, 2024  
**Second Run:** October 11, 2024  
**Third Run:** October 18, 2024  
**Meeting Dates and Times:** October

**Legal Notices**

28, 2024 at Aurora School at 4 PM and October 30, 2024 at Rowlesburg School at 6 PM  
**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Preston County Schools  
 W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
 Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** Fellowsville Elementary, 139 Fellowsville School Road Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

**Identify Schools:** Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School  
**First Run:** October 4, 2024  
**Second Run:** October 11, 2024  
**Third Run:** October 18, 2024  
**Meeting Dates and Times:** October

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**Legal Notices**

29, 2024 at South Preston School at 6:30 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM  
**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Preston County Schools  
 W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
 Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** South Preston School, 5258 South Preston Highway Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

4:00 PM Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

Alternative Date and Time: If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

Place: South Preston School, 5258 South Preston Highway Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

Hearing Procedures: A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection: Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

Identify Schools: Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

Meeting Dates and Times: October 29, 2024 at South Preston School at 4 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Preston County Schools W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

Date & Time: October 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

Alternative Date and Time: If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

Place: Rowlesburg School, 200 Center Street Rowlesburg, WV 26425. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

Hearing Procedures: A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection: Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

Meeting Dates and Times: October 28, 2024 at Aurora School at 4 PM and October 30, 2024 at Rowlesburg School at 6 PM

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Preston County Schools W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

Date & Time: October 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

Alternative Date and Time: If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing will be held on November

Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

Place: Aurora School, 125 Aurora School Road Aurora, WV 26705. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

Hearing Procedures: A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection: Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

Meeting Dates and Times: October 28, 2024 at Aurora School at 4 PM and October 30, 2024 at Rowlesburg School at 6 PM

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Preston County Schools W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

Date & Time: October 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

Alternative Date and Time: If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing will be held on November

1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

Place: Fellowsville Elementary, 731 Fellowsville School Road Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

Hearing Procedures: A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection: Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

Identify Schools: Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

Meeting Dates and Times: October 29, 2024 at South Preston School at 4 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Preston County Schools W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

Date & Time: October 29, 2024, at

**Legal Notices**

WV PO BOX 216  
ey TERRA ALTA WV 26764 0216

**ESTATE OF:**  
JAMES E. SMITH  
**EXECUTOR:**  
JEFFREY J. SMITH  
301 E MAIN STREET  
KINGWOOD WV 26537 1217  
**FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER:**  
LISA HYRE  
PO BOX 626  
KINGWOOD WV 26537

**ESTATE OF:**  
BETTE SYPOLT BISHOFF  
AKA BETTE LU BISHOFF  
**EXECUTRIX:**  
LINDA JEAN CALVERT  
236 N PRESTON HWY  
KINGWOOD WV 26537 1562

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 10/08/2024.  
Linda Huggins  
Clerk of the Preston County Commission

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Preston County Schools  
W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** South Preston School, 5258 South Preston Highway Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

Proposed Action of the Board of

**Legal Notices**

**Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

**Reasons for Supporting Data Available for Public Inspection:** Written reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board are available for public inspection beginning September 24, 2024 through October 28, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM in the Office of Superintendent of Preston County Schools, 731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537. The reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed actions are also available at Rowlesburg School and Aurora School.

**Identify Schools:** Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

**First Run:** October 4, 2024

**Second Run:** October 11, 2024

**Third Run:** October 18, 2024

**Meeting Dates and Times:** October 29, 2024 at South Preston School at 4 PM and at Fellowsville Elementary at 6:30 PM

**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Preston County Schools  
W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

**Legal Notices**

**Date & Time:** October 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** Rowlesburg School, 200 Center Street Rowlesburg, WV 26425. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00

**Legal Notices**

PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

**Hearing Procedures:** A representative from Preston County Schools will

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**ESTATE AUCTION  
OF  
REAL ESTATE, AUTOMOBILE  
& HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

**OCTOBER 26, 2024  
REAL ESTATE 10:00**

**PERSONAL PROPERTY 10:15**

**Located at 811 Heritage Drive, Oakland, Md. 21550**

**Real Estate:** Lot 3 of Kings Hill Estate w/ 4 bedroom 2 ½ bath ranch dwelling. 2 car attached garage. Very well maintained w/ public utilities. Convenient to all local amenities.

**Household:** Dining table w/ 6 chairs, hutch, sofa, coffee & end table ensemble. Lift chair swivel chair, Desk, file cabinets Humidifier, book shelves, table lamps, bleached oak bedrooms suite, Dark wood bedroom suite, freezer, misc. dishes , pots & pans, Aluminum step ladder, assorted hand & garden tools, various wall hangings, quilt rack, Kenmore washer & dryer, Freezer, wheel barrow much more.

**Jewelry:** 3 pendants w/ 3 stones (diamonds, sapphires & emeralds ) inlaid in white gold

**2012 Chrysler 200 27,571, miles. Very clean**

**Note:** Open house October 20, 2024 12:30 – 2:00 PM

ing/running...  
6. Professionalism and completeness of proposal (10%)  
A committee of the three District Board members shall evaluate the statements of qualification, performance data and other material submit-

determined to be most advantageous to the District. However, the District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals.  
**PRESTON COUNTY PSD #4**

**Sudoku Answer for Preston Journal 10/15**

3	7	6	1	5	4	9	8	2
9	8	4	7	2	3	5	6	1
2	5	1	6	9	8	4	3	7
8	1	2	9	7	6	3	5	4

te, Inc.

Legal Notices

provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School, as well as those who wish to speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

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**Identify Schools:** Rowlesburg School and Aurora School  
**First Run:** October 4, 2024  
**Second Run:** October 11, 2024  
**Third Run:** October 18, 2024

**Meeting Dates and Times:** October 28, 2024 at Aurora School at 4 PM and October 30, 2024 at Rowlesburg School at 6 PM

**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Preston County Schools  
W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above,

Legal Notices

the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** Aurora School, 125 Aurora School Road Aurora, WV 26705. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

The hearings may not continue beyond 11:00 PM. In the event the hearing is not concluded by 11:00 PM, the hearing may recess, to continue on dates designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded.

**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

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Preston County Schools  
W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

Legal Notices

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**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Preston County Schools  
W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

**Alternative Date and Time:** If, in the event of inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, the hearing cannot take place at the date and time set forth above, the hearing will be held on November 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the Board of Education Office

**Place:** Fellowsville Elementary, 139 Fellowsville School Road Tunnelton, WV 26444. The hearing location is subject to change if, at the time the meeting is called to order, it is determined that the meeting location is of insufficient size to accommodate those wishing to attend.

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**Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:**

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

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Legal Notices

speak as members of the general public, will be recognized in the order in which they have signed the register. Each person shall be limited to five minutes. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of oral statements or testimony and must be submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. Any written statement will be given full consideration before the Board takes any final action.

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**Qualified Newspaper Name:** Preston County News

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
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W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Preston County Schools  
W.Va. 18-5-13a W.Va.  
Board of Education Policy 6204

**Date & Time:** October 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM

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unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before February 28, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 17015.

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023-17086.

Additional taxes with interest.  
\$79.65  
\$0.00  
\$8.99  
\$0.00  
\$210.75

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.

\$314.13  
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.  
\$0.00

a party of interest or any creditor files a claim and good faith is shown to support reference fiduciary commissioner.

First Publication Date: Friday, October 11, 2024

Claim Deadline Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2024

**ESTATE OF:**  
LINDA LOU RAGER  
**ADMINISTRATRIX:**  
TINA RAGER  
PO BOX 158  
TUNNELTON WV 26444 0158

**ESTATE OF:**  
DEBBIE DIAN DUNN  
**EXECUTOR:**  
GLENN MILTON DUNN  
367 HILEMAN RD  
BRUCETON MILLS WV 26525 6383

**ESTATE OF:**  
CHARLES D. TREMBLY  
AKA CHARLES DEE TREMBLY  
**EXECUTRIX:**  
BERTIE G. TREMBLY

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD MEMBER  
SIGN-IN SHEET (PAYROLL)  
2024-2025 School Year  
DATE: 10/29/2024

Attendance – Please Initial.

**Michael Hovatter**

MH

**Cross Kisner**

Virtual

**Shelley Miller**

Shelley Miller

**Lucas Tatham**

Lucas Tatham

**Jeff Zigray**

JZ

Preston County Board of Education  
 Tuesday, October 29, 2024    Fellowsville    6:30 PM  
 Delegations Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting                       Adjourned Session                       Special Meeting

If you wish to speak or present to the Board of Education, please print and sign your name.

Community Members (Print Name)	Title (Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
✓ 1. <del>Lloyd Tichner</del>	<del>Principal FES</del>
✓ 2. Lloyd Tichner	Grandparent of a Student
✓ 3. Sam Wilson	former teacher
✓ 4. Dave ZINN	Retired Maintenan
✓ 5. <del>Do Terrell</del> Famk Osborn	grandparent
✓ 6. Donald Bub Furr	parent
7. <del>Carol</del>	<del>parent</del>
8. <del>Wanda</del>	<del>parent</del>
✓ 9. Kirk Rhodes	concerned citizen
✓ 10. Katie Jennings	parent
✓ 11. Ashley Ridenour	parent
✓ 12. Roberta Gribble	parent
✓ 13. Wyatt Younker	Student
✓ 14. Mariann Plum	teacher
✓ 15. Norma Murray	Former aide 33 years + Business owner
✓ 16. Lana Wolfe Rhodes	Alumni
✓ 17. Logan Field	Parent
✓ 18. Buck Jennings	Delegate
✓ 19. Deanna Pinnell	parent
✓ 20. Sandra Weber	grandparent
21. <del>Patricia</del>	<del>parent</del>
22. <del>Patricia Ridenour</del>	<del>grandparent</del>
✓ 23. Edward Knotts	PAST STUDENT, TEACHER, PARENT
✓ 24. Carol Castle	Parent family member
25. <del>Hana Wolfe</del>	<del>Community member/former student</del>
✓ 26. Jaz Basley	Community member/former student
✓ 27. Logan Stephen	Student
✓ 28. ARTHUR BOYLAN	COMMUNITY MEMBER
29. <del>Arthur</del>	<del>PARENT</del>
✓ 30. Beatie / Danny Ridenour	daughter / Dad
✓ 31. Klier Arnes	Student
25 ✓ 32. Stacy Poole	Community member
33.	
34.	
35.	
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37.	
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44.	

**Preston County Board of Education (Proposed School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary School) (Tuesday, October 29, 2024)**

Generated by Angellicia Varner on Tuesday, November 12, 2024

**Members present**

Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

**Meeting called to order at 6:29 PM****1. Opening Business**

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Discussion, Information, Procedural; B. Delegations

- Written response by Diane Hamilton
- Written response by Richard Rhodes
- Written response by Lucas Stevens (FES student)
- Written response by Pattie Clarkson
- Written response (Anonymous Student)
- Written response (Anonymous Student)
- Written response (Anonymous Student)
- Written response (Anonymous Former Student & Mother of 3)
- Written response by Candace Burlyson
- Written response by Tamra Bragg
- Written response by John Bragg

Procedural: A. Call to Order

- The President called the special meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mr. Zigray then lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.
- Following the pledge, Mr. Tatham advised that the meeting was a public hearing and he declared that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent were present.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that this public hearing was convened in accordance with the terms of WV Code 18-5-13a, in connection with the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School. He stated that the statute provides that members of the public: 1) Have a right to be present; 2) Have a right to submit statements and testimony; and 3) Have a right to question school officials.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. He announced that a total of twenty-five members of the public had signed in and indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials.
- Next, he detailed that if any member of the public had been present that every member of the public would have been given a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony and to question school officials. He stated that five minutes had been allotted for each member of the public to address the board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that the responses of school officials to questions would not have been included in the time allotted for each member of the public, that no member of the public could present more than once, and no member of the public may be granted time from another presenter.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that Mrs. Angie Varner has been designated as the time keeper and would have advised when one minute was remaining for each presentation and when time would have expired.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that had speakers been present that it is not necessary to consume the total amount of time they had been allotted. He also indicated that written statements and materials would also be given full consideration of the Board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that all questions were to be initially directed to the Superintendent and that the Superintendent could then elect to respond to the question or could delegate the response to another school official.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that at the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, that the administration would be afforded with an opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public. He stated that aside from questions that may be directed to school officials and their responses, there will be no debate or dialoge between members of the public and school officials.
- Next, he stated that no decision upon the proposed closure would be made during the current meeting. He stated that the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation of PK-8 students into South Preston School would be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Preston High School. He stated that the Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.
- Next, Mr. Tatham asked Superintendent Martin to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation. (Martin provided the following statement below)
- *"Thank you Mr. Tatham. Tonight we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation with South Preston School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Pre-K through fourth grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and today's hearing at South Preston along with a scheduled hearing at the Fellowsville later tonight at 6:30 PM is part of the required process leading up to a potential local Board vote on this issue on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Preston High School. In summarizing the reasoning for the recommendation to close Fellowsville Elementary School several areas were assessed. First, Fellowsville has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over an 10-year span (assessed between the 2015-16 and 2024-25 academic years) totaling a loss of 63 students. It should be noted that during the 2021-22 school year, the Board approved a shift of 5th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2022-23 academic year and beyond. This action actually resulted in Fellowsville seeing an increase in enrollment during the 2022-23 academic year. However, since that year, the school has lost 30 students over the past two years. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 16% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment. Next, in assessing facilities, Fellowsville Elementary School is considered in fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain and update the facility were estimated at \$1,995,000.00. In assessing, South Preston School, the school is considered in excellent condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. South Preston School has an assessed program capacity of 629 students as assessed in 2024, so South has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Fellowsville which now stands at 59. South's current enrollment stands at 308. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 367, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for South Preston School. Next, the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School is estimated to save a total of \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$623,932.02 with the anticipated elimination of 6 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Fellowsville School over the same span of time is \$15,940.90. That is a difference of \$4,400.18 per student. This gap is widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Fellowsville's is \$18,741.44. This is a difference of \$5,289.62 per student. Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over a number years and their 3rd and 4th grade students are annually assessed via the WV General Summative Assessment. South Preston is also assessed via the WVGSA and students in grade 3-8 are tested at South In assessing Fellowsville's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to South Preston, Fellowsville on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Fellowsville had a 43% proficiency compared to South's at 40% (a difference of 3%). In Math, Fellowsville had a 43.59% proficiency compared to South's at 23.93% (a difference of 19.66%). {I believe I made an additional statement here that is not in this document} Fellowsville currently is a feeder school to South Preston with students coming from the same communities. Fellowsville Elementary School is approximately 5.5 miles from the South Preston School and the trip is currently made daily for students in grade 5-8 from the Fellowsville attendance area. Many students from the Fellowsville attendance area annually submit intra-county transfer requests to attend South Preston with most noting the desire to have all of their children in one school setting as a desire. Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Fellowsville and the district at-large and due to the substantial cost-saving associated with the closure. While I am and will continue to be a strong proponent of small schools, the district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment and loss of the levy in the Spring of 2024, make continued operation of Fellowsville not economically feasible or responsible. Thank you."*

- Following Mr. Martin's statement, Mr. Tatham indicated that twenty-five members had signed up to address the Board this evening. He then moved to begin reading the written response provided. Following the written responses, Mr Tatham will move to those who signed up as delegations to speak.
- Discussion, Information, Procedural: B. Delegations
  - Written response by Diane Hamilton
  - Written response by Richard Rhodes
  - Written response by Lucas Stevens (FES student)
  - Written response by Pattie Clarkson
  - Written response (Anonymous Student)
  - Written response (Anonymous Student)
  - Written response (Anonymous Student)
  - Written response (Anonymous Former Student & Mother of 3)
  - Written response by Candace Burlyson
  - Written response by Tamra Bragg
  - Written response by John Bragg
- Delegation by Craig Scmidl
- Delegation by Lloyd Titchnell
- Delegation by Pam Willis
- Delegation by Dave Zinn
- Delegation by Tabettha Funk Osbourne
- Delegation by Donald Funk
- Delegation by Rick Rhodes
- Delegation by Katie Jennings
- Delegation by Ashley Ridenour
- Delegation by Roberta Gribble
- Delegation by Wyatt Younker
- Delegation by MaryAnn Plum
- Delegation by Norma Murray
- Delegation by Lana Rhodes
- Delegation by Logan Fields
- Delegation by Buck Jennings
- Delegation by Deanna Pennell
- Delegation by Sandra Webber
- Delegation by Edward Knotts
- Delegation by Carol Castle
- Delegation by Logan Stephen
- Delegation by Arthur Boylan
- Delegation by Bentley and Danny Ridenour
- Delegation by Kyler Aynes
- Delegation by Stacy Poole

## 2. Closing Business

### Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn

- Recommend the Board adjourn the meeting.
- Motion by Michael Hovatter, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0) Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM

### **Transcript of Fellowsville School Closure Meeting held on 10/29/24 at 6:30 PM at Fellowsville School**

(Lucas Tatham) Alright everyone, we are ready to start here. Ok Welcome to the October 29, 2024 meeting of the Preston County Board of Education regarding the proposed school closure hearings for Fellowsville Elementary School. The President will call this special meeting to order after a moment of silence, students of Fellowsville Elementary School will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. We will now have a moment of silence.

(Small child making noises in the background)

Fellowsville students lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem.

(Lucas Tatham) A big thank you to our students and the school. Ok, Let me emphasize that this is a public hearing, and my name is Lucas Tatham, President of the Preston County Board of Education. I declare that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent are present. It is now time to call this meeting to order. I will also point out that one board member, Mr. Cross Kisner, is joining us virtually at the far end.

This public hearing has been convened in accordance with the terms of WV Code Chapter 18-Article 5-Section 13a, in connection with the proposed closure of Fellowsville School. The statute provides that members of the public: 1) Have a right to be present; 2) Have a right to submit statements and testimony; and 3) Have a right to question school officials.

Members of the public, in order of sign sign-in, shall be afforded an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. A total of twenty five (25) members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials.

Therefore, in order to give every member of the public a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony and to question school officials, five minutes have been allotted for each member of the public.

The responses of school officials to questions shall not be included in the time allotted for each member of the public. No member of the public may present more than once, and no member of the public may grant time another presenter.

Mrs. Angie Varner has been designated as the timekeeper and will advise when one minute is remaining for each presentation and when time has expired.

It is not necessary to consume the total amount of time allotted if you do not desire. Written statements and materials will also be given full consideration.

All questions will initially be directed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent may elect to respond to the question or may delegate another school official to respond to the question.

At the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, the administration will be afforded with an opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public. Aside from questions that may be directed to school officials and their responses, there will be no debate or dialogue between members of the public and school officials.

No decision upon the proposed closure will be made tonight. The proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation of PK-4 students into South Preston School will be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Preston High School. The Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.

To begin, I will ask Superintendent Martin to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation. Mr. Martin

(Brad Martin) Thank you, President Tatham. Before I begin tonight, I want to introduce our school officials that are onsite here with us tonight. Down on this end we have Jana Miller who is director of Special Education and Preschool Services, Katrina Kerstetter who is our chief business office, oh I always get this wrong Ms. Kerstetter, chief business official treasurer of Preston County Schools, Steve Plum who is our Director of Transportation, Mr. Matthew Murray our Director of Maintenance, Board Member Shelley Miller, Board Member Jeff Zigray, Board President Lucas Tatham, our Legal Counsel Kim Croyle from Bowles Rice, Board Member Michael Hovatter, and Board Member Cross Kisner is joining us virtually via teams. Tonight, we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation with South Preston School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Pre-K through fifth/fourth grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and tonight's hearing at Fellowsville along with a hearing held earlier today at South Preston is part of the required process leading up to a potential local Board vote on this issue on Monday, November 18, at Preston High School.

In summarizing the reasoning for the recommendation to close Fellowsville Elementary School several areas were assessed. First, Fellowsville has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over a 10-year span (This data was assessed between the 2015-16 academic year and our current academic year) totaling a loss of 63 students over this span. It should be noted that during the 2021-22 school year, the Board approved the shift of 5th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston. That took place in the 2022-2023 academic year and beyond. This action actually resulted in Fellowsville seeing an increase in enrollment during 2022-23 academic year. However, since that year, the school has lost 30 students over the past two years. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 16% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment.

Next, in assessing facilities, Fellowsville Elementary School is considered in fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain and update the facility were estimated at \$1,995,000.00 from Thrasher Engineering. In assessing South Preston School, the school is considered in excellent condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. South Preston School has an assessed program capacity of 629 students as assessed in 2024, so based upon this South has sufficient capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Fellowsville which now stands at 59. South Preston's current enrollment stands at 308. The combined enrollment of the two schools would give me 367, which again could easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for South Preston School.

Next, the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School is estimated to save a total of \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$623,932.02 with the anticipated elimination of 6 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Fellowsville School over the same span of time is \$15,940.90. That is a difference of \$4,400.18 per student. This gap is however widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Fellowsville's is \$18,741.44. This is a difference of \$5,289.62 per student.

I must say that Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over the years and their 3rd and 4th grade students are annually assessed via the WV General Summative Assessment. South Preston is also assessed via the WVGSA and students the grade level span is for grades 3-8. In assessing Fellowsville's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to South Preston, Fellowsville on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Fellowsville had a 43% proficiency compared to South's at 40% (a difference of 3%). In Math more substantial, Fellowsville had a 43.59% proficiency compared to South's at 23.93% (a 19.66% difference).

Fellowsville currently is a feeder school to South Preston with students coming from the same communities, Fellowsville, Newburg, Tunnelton primarily. Fellowsville Elementary School is approximately 5.5 miles from the South Preston School and the trip is currently made daily for students in grade 5-8 from the Fellowsville attendance area. Many students from the Fellowsville attendance area annually submit intra-county transfer requests to attend South Preston with most noting the desire to have all of their children in one school has been the typical response.

Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Fellowsville and the district at-large and due to the substantial cost-saving associated with the closure. While I am and will continue to be a strong proponent of small schools, the district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment and loss of the levy in the Spring of 2024, make continued operation of Fellowsville not economically feasible or responsible at this time. Mr. Tatham that is all I have at this time.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Mr. Martin. At this time, we will now proceed to the members who have signed up to address the board and I will read the written statements that have been submitted. I will read the written statements first in the order that they were given to me.

Board of Education members this is dated October 25th, 24 as a member of the Fellowsville community, I would like you to reconsider closing our school. Would you try to work out a better solution? Our school is the best. Teachers relate to the students so well, the school is our community meeting of our neighbors and friend's place. As a 4-H leader, we need a meeting place, and you know what a good program 4-H has for the kids. As a CEO's member, I have been going to the school to work with the kids, reading, judging social studies, pumpkin carving with kindergarteners, since 2005, supporting the teachers. When we can and many fun times keep Fellowsville open. Diana Hamilton. (Applause)

This is dated October 29th, 24, to whom it may concern. Once again, the people who we hire to oversee the education of our children want to close more good schools. The kind of schools that our children and grandchildren find safe and secure. The kind of schools where the teachers and administrators look out for our children. The kind of teachers that think they are more than babysitters, they enjoy seeing the kids learn and grow up. These schools bring about students interested in learning to make their lives better. These students take that learning and pride in being better. Home with them. They are proud of their school and community because they are not just a number. The people they see and learn from every day. Think of these kids in terms of far more than a means of getting funding. These kids are mostly from working families. They do chores at home and on the farm. They come from these schools. They have a good background to go on to good, productive lives when they end up at a Central High School, some get lost. Many college grads from this area have made their mark on this world. There are kids from this area that work in different trades that are in great demand. Then there are those that don't get exposed to the knowledge of more vocational programs and apprenticeship programs that pay young people good money to learn a trade. Those are the kids that are let down. Some end up on drugs or permanent assistance, which does nothing to help them. The county or the school system, anytime you have a school that truly wants to give the kids an opportunity to learn and make their lives better, you should give great consideration to that fact. Richard Rhodes. (Applause)

Dated October 29th, 24, to whom it may concern. My name is Lucas. I go to school at Fellowsville. I love my school and the teachers that teach me. Please don't close my school. Lucas Steven. (Applause)

Dated October 29th, 2024, my name is Patty Clarkson. A 1960 graduate from Fellowsville High School, after my two children started attending Fellowsville School, I was employed as a school cook. I worked here and two other schools for 25 years. Fellowsville School is a community supported school. As the CEO's Community Educational Outreach Service helps here when asked. We now come on Tuesdays and Thursdays for one to two hours to help students with reading, math and the alphabet letters. We've done crafts and pumpkin carving since 2005, if there is a need, we will see it is taken care of. Ruritan is another organization that helps this school. We recently gave \$200 for a computer program in math, having 300 skills for 3rd grade at the book Fair, we gave a donation so all students could buy a book or two. We also buy a book called I like Me for first grade with student's name and their friends' names in it. Last year and this year, we have an attendance program at the end of the first and 2nd semester giving money to best attendances, they receive cash money. Ruritan gives a scholarship to a senior at Preston High each year. When there is a need, we will help. The Fellowsville Alumni also gives a scholarship for a senior each year and gave money for computer programs too. Fellowsville Fire Department gives safety programs at school for students to know what to do when a fire is near. The churches in the area also help students when there is a need. The school makes a wonderful yearbook each year. We have a great principal, wonderful teachers and aides, cooks and custodians are the best. I ask you, the Board of Education, to please save our Fellowsville Elementary school. Thank you sincerely, Patty Clarkson. (Applause)

SOS Save our school element Fellowsville Elementary School. This is our school with the drawing of the school and a bus. Please don't close our school. (Applause)

We love Fellowsville with a heart. Please don't close our school. We love it here and don't want to leave. With a frowny face. (Applause)

Fellowsville Elementary with the wolf the mascot drawing. I like our school, my teachers and friends don't take our school. Please. We don't want to leave. (Applause)

To whom it may concern. No amount of words can truly express how I feel about this possible school closure. I already emailed a long message about my thoughts, opinions, and some facts about the school. I got one response from Mr. Hovatter telling me that he feels closing the school is what's best for the county. I strongly and respectfully disagree. I feel that this school's closure could be very harmful, not only for our community but for our children. I sincerely hope that hearing from our community today helps you understand how important our school is to all of us. A former Fellowsville elementary student and current mother to three students. No name given. (Applause)

Good evening. My name is Candace Burleyson. I'm the proud mom of two amazing little girls who have had the pleasure of attending Fellowsville Elementary School. I also sub as an aide for Preston County schools, so I have seen first hand just how amazing this school and its staff really is. When my husband first told me the plan to move to Fellowsville from our hometown of Bruceton to say I was not

enthusiastic about it would be an understatement. I think my exact words were great, "My kids get to go to a little backwoods one room schoolhouse," quote. I didn't know much about the school or community; I just knew it was not my great hometown of Bruceton Mills. My opinion quickly changed once my girls became part of Fellowsville Elementary. My oldest started kindergarten here and my youngest started the Little Learner's program here. The staff and community were so welcoming. They made me feel more welcome than I had ever felt in my own hometown. They welcomed us with open arms and open hearts. I had the pleasure of meeting some amazing parents and community members who genuinely care for everyone there and went out of their way for these kids. Not only did my girls thrive educationally, but they also thrive socially here as well. My oldest is now in the 6th grade at South Preston and my youngest is in the 4th grade here at Fellowsville Elementary. Every day my youngest comes home excited to tell me about everything she has learned that day. She wakes up every morning an hour before she needs to because she is excited to go to school and refuses to miss a day. Now days that is very hard to find in a child. To her the staff here are like an extended family. I know that I have nothing to worry about when she is in here. That the staff will not only be giving her an amazing education, but she is safe and loved while here. Not only is this school important for the education of these amazing kids, but it is also the only safe place some of them have. It's very clear that this end of the county has a very high drug and poverty rate. It's just the sad reality of the world that we live in. The staff here genuinely cares for these kids, doing everything possible to make sure they feel loved and safe while they are here not knowing what they will go home to. Some of these students already feel like they have been forgotten and pushed to the side by the rest of the world. They do not need to lose one of the few safe places that they do have just to be thrown into an overcrowded classrooms where they are just another child and a seat, they deserve so much better. My husband's 84 year old grandfather is a Fellowsville alumni, this school and community means so much to him as it does to so many others. Seeing the Pride in his eyes while he has gotten to watch his great grandchildren perform in school programs and take part in sports in the very same place he did as a child. The very same place he met and fell in love with his late wife of 60 beautiful years, these little backwoods one room schoolhouse has changed and continues to change so many lives for the better. I'm proud to call Fellowsville my home and be part of the Wolf Pack. I could honestly go on and on with reasons why this school needs to be open, but you all already know that it does. So please consider the consequences of what will happen to these wonderful children and this community at Fellowsville is closed. Prove to these kids that they matter more than money. Thank you for your time. (Applause)

In 2017, when it came to a time to enroll my first child in school, I was dead set on him attending Fellowsville. but that wasn't how it worked out. Pre-K had been removed from Fellowsville at that time and he had to attend South Preston. He liked it and wanted to stay with his friends in kindergarten. I kept telling the teacher he just wasn't getting it. She wasn't concerned with that, just that he kept switching from right to left hand to right. First grade, he still wasn't doing great. He was going to tutoring with Mrs. Squires. It was helping and he had a great teacher. This year that was willing to help to try and get him help. But COVID happened and they were virtual and they were there for the rest of the school year. Second grade. I tried to get him help, once again. I went to his teacher, her response? Quote "I was going to say something, but I was afraid to" quote. Like really! I ended up paying out of pocket to get him tested through our pediatrician. He has a learning disability, ADD and dyslexia. The county wouldn't take his testing because it wasn't done by the county. At this point I was fed up with it. And pulled him from school and homeschooled him for his third-grade year and his brother's kindergarten year. It was a change. But a necessary one because he was so far behind when I called to remove them, the lady that answered the phone said, quote. "Do you know how much money we are losing from you pulling your kids." Really fix the problem and I wouldn't have had to. They wanted to go back to school, to be with their friends. I reenrolled them at Fellowsville and from the beginning it was a different experience. They were ready, readily helped doing anything they could. The one-on-one time he needed to help him was just what he needed. He was doing great. They started the SAT process. The classes were smaller and that gave the teachers time to help those that needed the extra help. 5th grade had also been taken away from Fellowsville, so back to South he went 25 kids in his class but total 50 kids. How can they learn this way? He is now in 6th grade still on a SAT plan, still not tested by the county and still falling behind because everything takes time. The bigger classes are not going to help those that are falling through the cracks. Yes, Fellowsville still have small class sizes, but it is a benefit to those that need the help to learn. And this is the time. And this is the best school for them to get it. The small class sizes are a result of taking things away. If the school closes, there goes Youth League basketball and in turn it will impact. Time kids. There, but there are extra curriculars you can't add kids to already maxed out classes and expect them to learn and succeed. Keep Fellowsville open. These kids are our future. Thank you, Tamara Brass. (Applause)

Good evening. I'm John Bragg, a 6th grade student at South Preston. I attended South Preston for pre-K, the second grade. I attended South from the start because Pride pre-K had been taken away from Fellowsville. I made friends and wanted to stay at South in kindergarten and 1st grade. I began not learning as quick as the other kids. My mom had a meeting with teachers and started the process of getting me help. My first-grade teacher helped with testing. It came back, I was dyslexic and had ADD. 2nd grade was a crazy year with COVID. I had a hard time getting help because they no longer took testing from the county, not from the county. Third grade I was home schooled because I was falling further behind. Still with no help. I was getting caught up slowly. I wanted to go back to school so for 4th grade I was enrolled at Fellowsville and what a change it was. Smaller classes, teachers had the time to have alone one-on-one time to work with me, and I was as I was learning. 5th grade was also taken from Fellowsville, so I went back to South. There were two classes, 25 kids each. I was still behind, and we started this app. process and we are still doing that after three years. I hope you decide to keep Fellowsville open so kids can learn in the smaller class sizes. Thank you, John. Press oh Bragg (Applause)

Those are all the written submissions we have. If you have additional written submissions, please bring them and we can read them into the record. At this time, we will now proceed to the Community Members that have signed up to speak. We will start with Craig Schmidl. Again (Applause) Again, you have 5 minutes to speak. Mrs. Varner will give you a one-minute warning. Any response from the audience, Please hold your applause to the end. Thank you.

(Craig Schmidl) Good evening. My name is Craig Schmidl the Principal at Fellowsville Elementary School. I have worked for Preston County Schools for 25 years. During those 25 years I've worked for seven schools. Five of those, and as an administrator. Fellowsville Elementary School has one of the best atmospheres of any schools in the world. Fellowsville Elementary School is a family and community as one unit. At Fellowsville Elementary everyone works together to do what's best for our students. At Fellowsville Elementary school, students receive more one-on-one instruction and adult attention than students in larger schools with larger class sizes. Fellowsville Elementary School has a history of higher levels of academic achievement and success. We respectfully ask that you let the success of Fellowsville Elementary School continue into the future. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Next is Llyod Titchnell)

(Llyod Titchnell) Well, well, here we are again. The southern end of the county. Losing another school. We have lost Independence. We've lost Newburg. We have lost one out of Fellowsville. How convenient it is to have this meeting right before an election. As if a threat to mean, if we don't pass your levy, we're going to take our school. Thinking about the left, start thinking about the children. They need that. It's not all your fault. I'm going to tell you that right now. It's the people in the House and the Senate in Charleston to allow them Charter schools to come in that took away from here. You took some of the children from here and moved them. Now we're gonna blame the rest. Wake up. Think about these children where I live. We're back to the 1950's. In 1950 some, I walked two miles to catch a bus or walk to school, one or the other. Today, my grandchildren, I drive her because there's no bus on that route anymore because someone says the bridge is unsafe. I wouldn't be afraid to take a D8 dozer across it. But no, that's the law, that's the way it is. So we abide. But no matter what happens, as far as I'm concerned, and most of the people, they're never going to forget what goes on when you close this school. When you bring your levies, they'll remember. And as Rocco Stento or Rocco Delosso would have said You make all your changes. You make them for the biggest school. And now you come back and you want us to pay the bill. I wish you good luck. The masked man there said that this was a great school and it was. Is that not right? Now we're gonna tear it apart. Get it out of here. Don't do it, fellas. cause when you do, your money's gonna come up short. That's all I got to say.

(Lucas Tatham): Okay, next we have, is it Pam Wiles?

(Pam Willis): It's Willis.

(Lucas Tatham) Willis? OK, sorry about that.

(Pam Willis): Hello. When I walked in here this reminded me of when we had community basketball games. Onr bleachers were filled. My kids were playing. It is a community and as people have said when you take these schools it does something to the community. As Mr. Tatham, said, I'm Pam Willis. I'm from the Independence/Newburg area. As Mr. Titchnell pointed out our schools have, and it's not your guys' fault, but they have been taken, and this is the last southern Preston County School.

I taught in this school system for 20 years. I also volunteer for three years as PCYC. I'm very concerned about education of our students. I did vote for the bond or for the levy because of my concern. My son would like to move back to Preston County, but he won't because of the school system. Something needs to be done about it. And I feel that if you would come into Fellowsville, I know the class size is small, that helps. But come in and learn from what they are doing here that is obviously working. When I was PCYC in after school, we would have students from different schools in the county, come in for after school care and we would have reading time there. I would do second grade reading. I, I really wanted to ask you all. There was one student there that was very disruptive. And I found out that he is disrupting his, his classroom and all the students that was in his classroom could not read. I read in the Preston County Journal a year or so ago, that there was going to be a special place, and I think it was Rowlesburg, that was suggested. Is that right, Mr. Martin?

(Brad Martin): That's correct Mrs. Willis.

(Pam Willis) What happened to that?

(Brad Martin): We have found that pursuing the current operation of Rowlesburg School that to not overrun rescheduled this with the students around the county. Also with special needs students who have to be served in the least restrictive environment. These are some of the hang ups. That is something we would like to still look as there's still respective usability of the building if given the levy gives the opportunity.

(Pam Willis): Well, if Fellowsville isn't being over-utilized, why couldn't it be here? That's a suggestion. Another suggestion is that when Newburg was closed, boundaries were redrawn. And it made our population in the school go down. Can the boundaries be redrawn to increase and keep open as Fellowsville School. Where was I?

(Ange Varner): One minute.

(Pam Willis): Ok. Ok. You all know about the Hope scholarship. There are three private schools in this area. Where do you think these parents are going to be sending their kids if they have options to not send them to South? Thank you. And I hope that you consider what I said.

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you, Mrs. Willis. Dave Zinn is next.

(Dave Zinn): Most everybody know me. I was here at Fellowsville School 2000 to 2009 as custodian. You, you just don't know the people. The people come out for sporting events, for every school activities, this community, they rock. Now about the closure. So, you take the 5th grade out. Can you not bring them back?

You got the kids going to the charter schools. Is that, is that something you cannot control? Can you, can you, can you control that? Can you put some uh emphasis on what's going to happen when people come in and say, can I take my kids here? Because down the line I'm sure a lot of people who took their kids to the charter school didn't have in mind that Fellowsville was going to close.

Now about the expenses. Talked about the repairs. So what, so I worked down in Mon County four years before I retired. Obviously, I went down there to boost my retirement, that's what I did. But I seen a lot of things that they did in their maintenance department down there. It was great. They actually built schools from the ground up with their maintenance guys. Saved the county millions of dollars. Because why? They didn't have any contractors. The maintenance guys, they got to work all the overtime they wanted. You've got maintenance people here, well, they say. Let me tell you, the maintenance people in this county, they only work 240 days, they don't even work a full year. They got 20 days here a year that's unpaid. You guys know why. We know why, but when it comes to these kind of projects like the roof leaking, the sewer lines replaced, the maintenance people should be doing the work. They should be getting overtime. Should be no questions asked about it. If people love this school. They support this school. And I ask you to look in your heart before you make any decision to close this school. Because it's not just going to affect just the kids here. It's going to affect all the people who support this community, too. I guess that's all I have to say.

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you Mr. Zinn. Next is Tabatha Funk Osborne. Tabatha, speak, hold the mic really close. Yeah.

(Tabatha Funk Osborne): Good evening Mr. Martin, Mrs. Vamer, members of the Board of Education, all you nice people here. I am Tabatha Funk Osborne and this is the wolfpack and we welcome you to the best little school in Preston County. We are here tonight to ask you to please vote no to the closing of our school. We may be small, but we are mighty as our testing will show. Those of us here tonight attended school here. We stayed here to raise our families in the same town we grew up in. We started businesses here. We are a growing community, and our numbers will increase if we are given the chance to grow. I believe the Little Learners program here has something like 20 kids this year, which shows growth. We have faced this closure before this time around it's been tougher without two of our biggest supporters, Stan Shaver and Don Post. They had way better words than I have. Facts and figures. Wit and humor. But it all comes down to the love. of our town and most importantly, the love of our children.

They fought hard for our school. When Stan was a delegate, he never hesitated to advocate and give money to Fellowsville. I worked for Head Start for 16 years, 15 of them in the Valley area. I've had classes as low as 12 and high 20, cause that's all we can have. With the smaller classes, you're able to teach them so much more. I know what it takes to run a classroom. I know just how much teachers and staff put into it, making it the best possible, possible experience for the children.

They take their own time lost. Their own money. But our love of children drives us all to do the very best we can for our school. Those elementaries are the center of our town. There's many activities during and after school for our children. It also has a wonderful athletic program. The association with kids from all over Preston County, Taylor County, Tucker County, Barbour County. My dad coached here. My brother coached and played here. My sons and my nephew played and coached here. My niece now plays here, and I look forward to years of my grandkids getting to play here.

I feel our numbers began to drop when we moved our fifth grade to South. Some families that had children already in 5th grade chose to send their other children there as well. Not to mention continuous threats of closure. Also, I am a public educator and normally support the levy. This last, this time I'm having a hard supporting a levy, as we didn't receive the much-needed repairs that we need now that you're holding against us. In closing, I want to say this is home for my family and it has been for generations. My mom, my aunt, my uncle, my brother and I and all of our children have went to school here. And I had hoped that my grandchildren would get to attend here and experience all of the wonderful things that Fellowsville has to offer. Please do not take away from us. Vote for the children. That's what this is about. What's best for the children? Again, I ask you to please vote no and save our school. Thank you.

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you. Next on the list is Donald Bud Funk.

(Donald Funk): Hello board members, Superintendent Martin. My name is Donald Funk. I stood here six years ago requesting that you not shut down our school. It is more than a school; it is the center of our community. Once a school is permanently closed, the community essentially dies. The school provides a place to hold health fairs, dinners, youth basketball, to name a few. If closed these privileges will no longer be available to the community. Every year it's rumored that Fellowsville will be closing, therefore, why would a parent want to send their kids to a school that is rumored to close? With the constant threat of the school closing before they get to the fifth grade, it's possible more parents would send their children to our school, and this would greatly increase our numbers. I've had two children attend Preston County schools currently have a second grader who attends and loves our little school. Yes, numbers are down right now and, in a few years, or so we could have those numbers back up. The children of Fellowsville have an advantage because these children are more than just a student. These teachers here treat them as their own. They know every student who attends this school. If a child, if a child is struggling, the teachers have the advantage of giving them extra attention they may need. I'm currently the President of Fellowsville Athletic Association. I've been involved with this for over 25 years because it's a chance for kids to learn how to work together and help one another. It gives them a place to come, have fun and for the parents to be involved. We usually have four or five teams per per league. We have 4 leagues. With about 8 per team, so in the school year we have about 150 to 180 kids who participate down here. This

opportunity gives them something to do besides play video games. It also teaches them sportsmanship and compassion they may need and keeping them from going down the wrong path, which could get them in trouble. So, our school is more than just a school. This is the hub of our community. Thank you.

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you, Mr. Funk. We next there's two names that were scratched out. So, we'll move on to Rick Rhodes.

(Rick Rhodes): First of all.

(Lucas Tatham): Please use the microphone.

(Rick Rhodes): First of all, I saw a badge over there and I think we can mark ourselves safe from someone like Joe Truvo, the picket-line busting state trooper that shoved, I think, Geneve Matlick, to the ground when we were protesting the closure of the high school. That's how long I've been working on this and I'm impatient. That these kids are getting an education. There are so many things for kids to do. At Central Preston, they're focused on college bound kids. A lot of these kids are going to go to college and make, do well. There's a lot of them that can do even better in the trades. Got a good friend who worked until about 11:00 at night for about a week put together and presented it to our Superintendent. Showing all the opportunities that these kids have in the trades in the trade's apprenticeship programs, where these kids can have a job while they're learning a trade. Has it ever been anything done with that?

(Brad Martin): The students who worked out here. We have multiple programs and we're still working on them. The most prominent is our nursing program which places students in healthcare....

(Rick Rhodes): And these are the kind of kids, a lot of them, that when they get over to Kingwood they need vocational programs, and I know you're working on some of them. But. Funding. This word that I hear all the time. And I've heard things like. We need to talk about the truck driving program you approached us about. Because these kids are put in school and we're losing funding. Well, that's kind of backwards. Taking care of students, providing programs and showing them what they can do, wouldn't be losing kids to welfare. You solve 3 problems at one time. Talking about funding again. The board has assets that need to be sold to help with the funding of a good school like this. Denver school would be a beautiful place to have a senior community. Not just bedridden people but people that get around and could stay there. And it'd be a great thing for some of the kids at South Preston to be able to visit them.

(Ange Varner): One Minute

(Rick Rhodes): Been sitting there. I mean, what is being maintained? That's another thing about funding. There are so many, I know a lot of these kids, some of them are raising their grandkids. And I've ran the school, and I pick them up sometimes. And they learn here. Because it's much more than just a school. And the seats they fill are much much more than funding.

Applause.

(Brad Martin): Just, just a few things to discuss based on Mr. Rhodes' discussion. Currently Preston High School does offer many CTE programs such as welding, animal processing, business.

Audience member: Take your mask off so we can hear you.

Audience member: You're muffled.

(Brad Martin): I'm sorry. OK, Preston High School currently offers a number of CTE programs, including welding, auto body, animal processing, auto mechanics, business, nursing, agriculture, floriculture, ag mechanics, Cisco, Electricity, building construction, pase, vet tech, JROTC just to name a few. Certainly, Mr. Rhodes, I feel that vocational education is a huge opportunity for our students, but we shouldn't discourage our kids to go to college, but that certainly is not the only route available. I appreciate Mr. Rhodes' comments that beyond that, a little earlier, I wanted to go back to Mr. Zinn's statements from earlier. I did want to indicate in terms of the levy allocation for Monongahela County Schools that was referenced. Monogahela County Schools has approximately \$31 million levy at this time. The levy was on the ballot in May was just shy of \$5 million. So just wanted to kind of give us a scale, the economy of scale of the two districts.

Audience: Could you, um, just to be clear, that CTE students

(Lucas Tatham): Hold a second. We're not it that way. You're signed up to speak, we can. OK. Next on the list list is Katie Jennings.

(Katie Jennings): Mr. Martin and members of the Board, my name is Katie Jennings. I'm the mother of a first grader at Fellowsville Elementary, and my son has attended the weekly Little Learners program during the past two years. Both of my children love the school and are so proud to be Fellowsville wolves. I asked my daughter, what is it that she loves about this school. And here were her answers. My school is calm. Miss Angie keeps our school really, really clean. Miss Mary and Mr. Seth make the tasty, tastiest lunches. Miss Tina helps us with our boots. And Mr. Schnidle is silly. And the playground because it's super fun. I love my teachers because they're nice and they help me do math. Adults in my school make me happy because they are kind and I know they will keep me safe. This is where my dad went to school. I don't want to go to a different school because I love my school. I love being a Fellowsville wolf. Well, that may not seem like much to you but these answers were exactly what I myself, and I'm sure many other parents wish for in their child's school. These answers tell me that my child feels safe and loved by the adults in this building. They tell me that she recognizes and respects the jobs of each individual. They tell me that she feels confident in her strengths and acknowledges her weaknesses, and that she knows her teachers will help her when she struggles. They show that she is a proud member of this small community school, which has been generations of

members of her family. Most importantly, it tells me how much my children have to lose if you choose to vote to close this school. It tells me that while there may not be anything that I can say to change your minds, I owe it to my children to try. Well, I can understand and appreciate the pressure that you must be under to do what you feel is financially responsible, this decision is certainly not as simple as a set of numbers on a physical spreadsheet. Some of the most common statements I hear from those who believe these small schools need to be closed is that they are sucking all their resources, costs too much to maintain, and that enrollment is falling. So when I dove into the numbers, I was fully expecting to see where an obscene amount of money is being bundled into these schools, and that students were leaving our school at a far higher rate than others. I just did not find that. Almost every school in our county has seen a drop in enrollment. Well, what I found interesting is that from 2019 to 2023, the enrollment at Fellowsville is actually increasing. From a financial perspective, the proposed recommendations say an estimated savings of almost \$684,000 from the closure of this school. This sounds like a lot. However, compared to the general expense fund budget for this year, over \$49 million, this breaks down to savings of roughly 1.4%. I think it's also important to note here that over the past five years of levy funding, less than \$50,000 was specified in the levy reports for Fellowsville in the areas of maintenance and operations, which had a total budget of \$13.5 million. That is well under half of 1%. I say all this not to complain about money but to illustrate that the three biggest reasons given for closing the school just don't hold up to the facts. I also say it to show that despite the lack of support being given to Fellowsville, these students are succeeding. This is due to the amazing teachers and administration, support from local citizens like the CEOs, and the area small businesses and a community of parents who truly believe in the value of education. You might argue that by consolidating these schools students will be provided with better educational opportunities. Well, let's look at the data. In regards to behavior, over the past three years, Fellowsville who has had the absolute lowest incidence of disciplinary action of any school in the county by far. Academically, according to state testing data over the past three years by grade level. 3rd and 4th graders at Fellowsville School were 46% proficient in reading, compared to county-wide proficiency of 39%. They're also 67% proficient math compared to 45% county-wide. There are also no attendance issues to speak of, an area of constant concern for many of our schools. It is clear to see that our children are thriving right where they are. Is a 1% savings really worth what it will cost to these kids? These kids are meeting all of your goals for behavior and academics. Keep the school open and give this community the opportunity to continue its legacy of success. I know that the State Board of Education is strongly encouraging consolidation. However, I also know that the power to make this decision is in your hands. You would not be sitting on this board if you did not have a heart for the children of this county. The voters of Preston County have put their trust in you to do what is best for our children and to provide them with the absolute best education and foundation possible. Please don't make this decision at arm's length or from a set of numbers on spreadsheet. Come into the school. Join us for the Veteran's Day program next week. Walk the hallways to see the wonderful examples of student writing that my son and I admire each week, when our walk to Little Learners. Speak with the staff and students who are proud to call themselves Fellowsville Wolves. I believe that you will see that this small school is something truly special, deserving of being protected. Thank you.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Miss Jennings. Next is Ashley Ridenour.

(Ashley Ridenour) I'm Ashley Ridenour and my daughter Bentley has attended school here since pre-K and she's now in Miss Philip's first grade class. My husband went to school here and many other members of his family. I grew up in Newburg, went to Newburg Elementary, went through elementary school and later our school was closed. You may not think that kids remember these type of things but some of my best childhood memories were made there. In fact, some of my friends and I often post on Facebook, pictures of the school or memories that we have and comment on what a good time we had there. We had so much fun and learned so much. I feel that Newburg helped shape and set the foundation of who I am now and I believe believe that those school is doing the same for my daughter. It was more than just the building, we were a family and the community. Bentley finds some pride and going to the same school that her daddy went to and listened to some of the stories that he tells and playing basketball in this very gym where he and I both played. If you look around during the basketball games, it shifts from parents coaching their kids now and their grandparents and great grandparents sitting in the stands that were once coaching us. It's full of history and good memories. This school makes me feel like I'm at home again. The teachers and staff believe and care for our kids here and it makes me think of my homes at Newburg Elementary School. I would like her to have the same memories as I had, and then it can be safe at school and count on her teachers for the rest of her life. I even still talk to some of my elementary school teachers and umm keep in touch with them now. I've watched her grow so much while she's been here, not only learning but into a good and caring kid. I believe the teachers and staff at this school are setting a great foundation for not only smart kids, but they're turning them into good people. She wakes up so excited about school and she is ready to go every morning, so please don't cut them short of these memories that I got to experience growing up. Please keep Fellowsville elementary school open. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Ms. Ridenour. Next on the list is Roberta Gribble.

(Roberta Gribble) I have a written statement for you from all of us. I'm sure as board members you have read the impact statement and done research on the logistics of closing the school. I'm going to ask you to consider more than just the money that you're being told that the county can save or by closing. I would like you to consider the academic success of our children here versus other elementary schools. I have the information given on the West Virginia Department of Education website printed for you and then handed out as you will see, Fellowsville is consistently at the top. As a parent. I do not like the suggestion for you to send your children to a much larger school that does not perform as well academically. Everyone should go to the statewide state website and compare our schools and when you're done comparing Preston County schools, compare each county in West Virginia to one another. Out of 55 counties, Preston was ranked 34 from the school digger and 48 according to Nieche, two of the top statistical websites. Preston High ranked 90th out of 114 high schools in this state. This is unacceptable. Consolidation is not the answer. Student enrollment continues to decrease in Preston County, we've lost over 700 students. I would like you to consider why folks are pulling their kids from Preston County public schools. I can't speak for others, but poor academics overpopulated schools and long bus rides is what will drive me to consider other options. Preston County needs to try

something different. I ask that you to I ask that you consider our kids well-being there are hundreds of studies out there showing the negative effects of school consolidation on the child's mental health. I also ask you to consider the impact on our community. This school serves as a community center for us, it is our identity. None of this is in the in the counties impact statement. I'm sure you've seen all the misappropriation of funds accusations on Facebook. I asked you to consider looking into them in other areas, that money is being misused and waste. It feels as though FES has been a target for many years now. Our preK was removed and I can't help but think that that was to get our kids started at South so they were more likely to stay there and worked for a while until we worked together to. Bring it back. So then they took her 5th grade in a time when they are eliminating bus routes, they added they added one to get our children that should be attending Fellowsville to South. When we were told before those parents switching their kids to other schools outside of their community would be responsible for their own transportation. But yet here we are paying for that. There are maintenance issues, but those are things that were mishandled and continue to be mishandled and overlooked. We were written off by the maintenance department years ago. It's apparent when they come into. It's apparent when they come into the school and they say they're just gonna close it anyway. I have heard this for years. We are the underdog, but that's OK regardless. Regardless of the lack of funds used to help our school, our community is always there to support them. I ask you to please vote no to the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School for our children and our community. I asked you to consider cutting wasteful spending and not the entire southern end of Preston County. I do not see a path to any future levies without the support of southern Preston County. Public schools need to become more competitive with these micro schools and charter schools. Small schools are obviously what the people want. This is your chance to do the right thing. Make a change. Please vote no. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, miss Gribble. Next is Wyatt Yunker.

(Wyatt Yunker) Hello fellow board members. My name is Wyatt I have attended Fellowsville elementary school, South Preston Middle school and a few months at Preston High. I'm currently home schooled but I'll let I'll to talk about my time in both schools. I attended Fellowsville school for seven years. This place, an incredible special to me and. Like anyone that has heard me talk about this school knows that. This place is very special to me. At my sister's volleyball game I talked to Cross Kisner the whole volleyball game and I didn't even know who he was. And I told him how much I loved Fellowville School and I had no clue who he was. This place has teachers that are like family. Moms, dads, always on a bunch of one-on-one time. Our community CEO's who gave you the excitement of like your grandma coming to visit. Because you've always knew that something fun is going to happen. But if it was doing crafts, anything like that Fellowsville taught me all of that. Helping you can even if it's not your job to do so. Manners and love for this country and state and world. I will always consider Fellowsville as my second home and the staff as my family. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Mr. Yunker. Next, Mary Ann Plum.

(MaryAnn Plum) Wyatt you made it hard to follow OK. I am a teacher from the kindergarten teacher here at Fellowsville elementary. And you've heard about us being a family, and we're not talking school personnel like they said, like Tabby said, this is The Wolf Pack. This is a pack. And these are our people, these are our alumni people, these are our current students. These are our kids that are still in the school system. They get off the buses from South sometimes and just need a hug because they couldn't get one anywhere else. And that's OK. I like to be on bus duty. I give him that hug. But they do that. They'll get off the buses, they'll come back into the building whether they miss their bus or not. They know we can call Mom. Mom will come in. But the kids crave, kids crave that they love that, that somebody cares. One of these board members was a science teacher when he was very, very, very, very young. When I was in high school and that man. I mean, loves science when I hated science. But I like science because I like how he taught science. You know, and it's the it's not just the teachers, though. It's there any anybody can go and get a degree. They could do the bookwork. But it's him, It's the people that have to look out for the kids. OK. I know you're businessman and this is woman. I'm not sure but. But I know. Shelly has worked in the school systems and she knows what it's like to have a full class and work your bottom off and all the hours that she spent at home doing things and Mr. Zigray himself all the planning and all the things that he did for the kids, all those years. They know what it's like to have a full class. And they know what it is in smaller you're better able to reach each one and reach out when somebody needs a little nudge. You gotta remember that you're part of this too. These are your people. You've been elected to take care of each and every person and their children and their, their that's the most they don't care about the land or their taxes. Their most precious thing are these children. And it's not just blood. Fellowsville and Rowelsburg are not about blood families, they're about community and it's still you tick them off, they'll be nice to you, but they'll never forget. You know you do them wrong and they'll they won't forget that they won't treat you. They don't. But I can look out here.

(Ange Varner) One Minute left

(MaryAnn Plum) Except maybe Jimmy, that one, Alright, not help you if you would stand along the road if they came along and they said, oh, that's Mr. Hovatter, Yeah, he didn't vote for us, I'm going to say No, they wouldn't do that. This group right over here would grab their tractors. That young man right up there, he grabbed tractor and sell you corn at the same time. These are business people too. The people that can come out of this community are doctors and lawyers and pharmacists and nurses and teachers, they are professionals and their businessmen, prosperous businessmen. From from this school, and you see that wolf right up there. That came from the building that used to stand out here. And so every time those children walk in here and they look up there. There is the past, there's the present and there's the future right there on that wall. That's the wall. That's these guys. A that is what is important, Yes. Numbers and the numbers are never going to look right, never, and we might have to have a split classroom for a few years or something. We've done that before and the numbers come back. And we're not, We are not against any of those children that we have left. Myself, we love them just the same, they'll come back and they will hug them. We'll see them at the grocery stores

(Ange Varner) Time

(MaryAnn Plum) See I need to have Jenn she pinches me when I get close to time.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Miss Plum. Norma Murray.

(Norma Murray) Good evening, board of education members, Mr. Martin and the wolfpack. Nice to see you here. Now, when Mr. Tatham was having a moment of silence, on my mind was Stan Shafer and Don Post. They are not here tonight, but they would have really been proud of all coming and supporting this cause. They believed in small schools and core education, that is what we need. My talk tonight might be a little different. It really irritates me that we have so many charter schools popping up. Are we paying for the charter schools, does people know our tax paying money is going into that? It soon will be. People, I'm not sure the levy's going to pass. People are fed up. I, for one, would welcome a tax decrease. We have paid a lot over the years for our schools. And it seems like every four to five years we're here, we're back here fighting for our cause. We shouldn't have to and one of them, might have been. Mariann said that your business is to take care of our people. That's why you are elected. I taught in the school system for 33 years. My dad did not have an education, my mom went to eighth grade in school, but they sent all six of their kids to school. They taught us how important it was. We had truant officers back then, I can still remember Martha. Now she made sure the kids went to school. Now, going back to the Charter schools. It's just a matter of time. I give it five years there'll be no public education. It'll all be charter schools, Christian schools, church schools, home schools. Wake up people. A lot of these people aren't even served by teachers. Do you really want your kids to go to a charter school with a person that does not have their degree. That's not fair to the ones that really work for their years of college and their masters. I certainly wouldn't want my grandchildren to go to an uneducated person who doesn't have a college degree. Now that's not right. One other thing I would like to address. Like I said, give it five years, there will be no public education. There's ways work that pencil board of education keep our school open. I have one question, these students that are going to private school, charter schools. Church schools. Oh, they have all kinds of names, Academy wisdom schools right here is your wisdom. They're right here looking at you. I would like to know when they do come and play sports here and so forth. Are these students vaccinated? Can someone address that for me. Are charter school kids vaccinated? Are home school vaccinated? Are church school vaccinated? Who's going to address that? You said I could ask the question.

(Brad Martin) At this time, any student athlete that would come into the system should be rostered by the WVSSAC we have to work with our nurses to ensure that there are proper vaccinations, proof of insurance, requirements and testing like things. If they are through the Hope Scholarship program they can be charged service fee for participation in sports and take the curriculum classes, things, services, public schools can provide. It would be built through the the Hopes database system in terms of students are receiving services.

(Norma Murray) I'm not sure you answered my question. I'm more confused now than ever. Now when I went to school, I was over vaccinated. I wrote a note to get the booster so I could stay home the next day with a sore arm. But I would like to make sure when other athletes comes to play basketball when the other kids comes in. Are they vaccinated?

(Brad Martin) Sorry, I'll talk and explain.

(Norma Murray) What about home school, there's no one checking on their accountability. There's no one checking on this hope scholarship money. There's no accountability, people. There's no accountability. Why should we pay our tax money to support the levy.

When we're going to have to pay for charter schools and all this other stuff. The board please consider keeping this school open. Work that pencil, one way or the other, you can do it. You have buses out here with one and two kids on it. Where are these minibuses? It's just a matter of time when we will be transporting students to charter schools. Probably even out of the county. So wake up parents. Don't send your kids when they're not vaccinated or they have a college education for your teacher.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Miss Murray. Next is Lana Wolfe Rhodes. Mrs. Varner give loud signals when they're at one minute. OK, so that I can hear you.

(Lana Rhodes) OK, good evening everybody. How many people here graduated from Fellowsville high school? Stand up in place. OK. I remember holding signs, walking and all these other people here, but we fought the law and the law won. So here we are again. Now, what do you people all think? Has these people told the truth or have they lied like the politicians. I don't think they have. Now this school is full of love. You can't beat that. This school is full of love. And love is half of the thing is at least half of what a child needs to grow. So I'm with them all. We need to keep the school. And if you all are unhappy with what the board is doing, they'll come up for an election before long. So go get some new blood if you don't like their blood. OK and uh One other thing I have to say is vote to keep our guns, vote to save the babies.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Miss Rhodes next. Next we have Logan Field.

(Logan Field) Hello, I'm the proud parent of three children. Been here about 3 years ago now. Now we live in Tunnelton, so in the South district. And also saying g this I mean it's brand new school. This is awesome. We checked it out. It was a little crowded. Heard about Fellowsville. School as we come here, met everybody, instantly, sent them to Fellowsville. For us to drive our kids to school there (South) it is 4 miles round trip. Here it's 4 one way. And our kids have perfect attendance. They don't miss school. We drive them every day, so, self-explanatory. That's all I gotta say.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Mr. Field. Next Buck Jennings.

(Buck Jennings) Thank you all for letting us present our piece here, but then I'm going to look at it a little bit different. As you can see here, all these people, these people come to watch their kids. One of the complaints that we always have as the parents and the and the grandparents do not participate with their kids. You move these kids over there, you will lose all the grandparents one click. And a lot of the parents see, I've been around like I I stood up here graduated in 69 right here. And I've been through all these consolidations. Never after a consolidation did the budget go down. Noise went up, so it wasn't really for money then, apparently because it always went up. But the thing you've got to realize, we are not 50th. Did you know that? There's two territories that rank higher than West Virginia in education. You've got something right here that's getting started. These kids are exemplary. They are learning to read. It took six years to get a bill passed down there so that we could have K through three, where we could have aids in, in with the teachers. So nobody had more than 12 students in the class, you don't want to know why, because our kids were graduating at a high rate, but they were illiterate. They couldn't read. You hire these kids out and you give them instructions and if it doesn't have pictures, you're in trouble. So our biggest asset is our kids. Don't ever tell me our kids is dumber than anybody else in this country. They aren't. They're smart kids, our teachers. We've got some of the best teachers any place in the United States. But our management and that's where it comes to you is not doing with what should be done. It's really easy for you to say. OK, close Fellowship, Well, we're done. Good night. But it's a little harder. Lets leave Fellowship open. Let's start working there. We've got something going. Let's see if we can communicate that to other the other schools. We want to make Preston County the top county in the entire state. We can do it. You can do it. And it's up to you guys. Right there, it's your problem. You wanted to run for this office. Now you do your job. Figure it out. Don't destroy what you've already got started. Expand on it. That's what you should do instead of cutting these kids. So we need to take that vote and I want you to think about that real hard. These kids here will go in the background. Now whenever they move out there, I've seen it over and over again in the 70s when they consolidated. People from Fellowship, Newburg, After that consolidation wouldn't drive to Kingwood for nothing, that's how the hate was. Now if it gets so these students, there's ten students or 15. These parents will realize this maybe isn't the best thing for my kid. They'll want to consolidate. Then they'll be a part of it. But if you come in and say I'm way smarter than you, I know what's best for your kids. And for the other kids Then we're going to move them out there. It's just going to be more. It's telling you how it works and I don't know. I know you weren't, You probably weren't. You may have been around for the consolidations. You know, all about it, how bad it was. And that's what you're working up to here, but it shouldn't be. You guys should be figuring out how to make this work better. Don't take this school away, there's nothing wrong with this school. And I'll tell you something else right here, one I can think of Bub Funk. I taught him whenever he was in grade school and junior in the Little League. He's worked in these little leagues since then, sometime in the 90s you've been in charge of it. That's the kind of people you have here. You can't pay for that. You couldn't possibly pay the hours he's put in here and the other people that work on there all over this this stands here you couldn't pay for that. These people won't be out there. I've seen it over and over again, so you have got to think it over. Don't be rushed yet. It took me 6 years to get. To get enough people behind me. To push this K through 6. Where they have to have you know, your ratio of 12 every year, they would go to finance, finance would kill it because it was such a big financial burden. It takes \$34 million a year per class is what it takes to put an aid into it. And so just think it over. You've got something good. Don't lose it. Applause

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Mr. Jennings. Next is Deanna Pennell.

(Deanna Pennell) Hello everyone. Thank you for giving me the time, this evening. I didn't sit down and gather any facts, I just want to come up here and speak from my heart. I was born and raised in Preston County and I can speak how important it was for me to remain in a small school to value how well I learned. I went to Independence School and as a kindergartener, that was the only grade we had that we had in the whole school and some of my most fondest memories came from that school. And then I continued to go on to Newburg, which I can honestly say that's probably my favorite school thus far since I went to school. And a lot of memories came from there and, I'm sorry. Then I love the close knit community and how involved our teachers and staff were. I truly believe being in a small school made a huge difference in how well I learned and kicked off my education. The schools have started then to consolidate and as a student I hated it and it made it harder on me to learn and have that one-on-one time with my teachers. At the time Newburg was closed due to repairs and we were sent to South Preston. Which, if I recall correctly, South Preston was in way more worser shape than Newburg. So that actually made no sense to me at all for that kind of reason. Now being a parent to my daughter sitting right there in the front row, I've watched how much it's grown the last year and a half. umm being here at Fellowship umm, and it has made the exact same effect on her and how well she learns how it's all Fellowship know, has been in her education and being so close. and I have peace in mind driving her back and forth Fellowship because I know that she is in good hands and she will be well taken care of and most importantly, she matters to the teachers and the staff. It's important for me to continue to see her, to have that and to save our school from closing so that she isn't forced to have to go to a larger school and lose that important one-on-one time. Our children are the future, and I ask of you to please consider what myself and others are asking of you to keep our school open and let our children continue to learn where they know. I would love to go. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Deanna. Next Sandra Webber.

(Sandra Webber) I think you have heard what I was going to say Thank you guys.

(Lucas Tatham) OK. Thank you. Next, there were two names that are scratched out, so we'll move to Edward Knotts. (Applause)

(Edward Knotts) Thank you

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you Mr Knotts

(Edward Knotts) Preston County Board Members and county staff. My name is Edward Knotts. I live at 2883 Marcus Road and have lived at this address practically all my life. I was born at the old house property with its former address of Route one, Box 79, Tunnelton, West Virginia. And the old house was built with square nails and had no plumbing until 1957. When my dad built a small entrance to an old camel coal mine using three quarter inch plastic pipe, which has not been available for very long. A water line was run for some 1200 feet in the old house using a horseplow matic shovels and several family members and others. It had to be 24 inches deep below the frost line, and lo and behold, we had running water. In the 60s, my father installed a bathroom and a waterfront in the kitchen wood stove and we were all set in the 20th century. During this, during this period of my life, the Marcus area consisting of Marcus Rd. Rankin Rd. Stone Harbor Rd. Shahan Rd. Singler Rd. Great Run Rd. Runner Cut Rd. Schoolhouse Rd. Golf Hill Rd. Davis Rd. Sinclair Heights and had three had three full bus loads of kids who went to this school. I happen to be one of those kids. I was a second grader, when this building started in 1953. When it first opened, I guess Now, my wife, taught school here for 20 years and retired with 42 years of experience. I have even been a substitute teacher at this school. This school has had two or so additions since its opening, and with a few cosmetic changes such as new energy saving windows in the oldest part of this building, it would look as good as any school building, in this county here in 2024. Our enrollment numbers for here have dropped because of high school graduates who come from the Marcus area for one reason choose to live in other areas of the county and beyond because of the absence of one essential public service. That is public water. It is sad to think that an area such as Dry Fork for a very sparsely populated area has public water and we do not. Our efforts to secure public water for Marcus are intensifying as we are now in a drought and many area residents are hauling water in the backs of pickups. We are working on getting water, public water, but have fallen short to the date of making it a reality. Another reason for enrollment problems at this school is the students that are supposed to be attending classes here have been administratively allowed to attend South. Discussion on this issue would open up a can of worms that I will not go into for this meeting, but I do wish that our county staff and board would have a discussion on the matter and come up with a number of kids attending South that should or could be enrolled in this facility.

(Ange Varner) One minute.

(Edward Knotts) Another question to bring up is why are the students prek to 4th grade from the Rowlesburg area if it should close not coming here they were brought here after the flood of 85 and there's a lot more space than during that unfortunate period. And finally, the problem of kids being homeschooled, privately schooled or attending charter schools or attending pop-up church schools are far right Republican controlled state legislature has made a gross mistake of allowing public school funding for these methods of educating our youth. When the smoke settles and the state legislators come to their senses and realize what a big mistake they have made to undermine the good of public schools and to jeopardize the education of our children. The public schools will get these kids back. Let's hope that Fellowsville School is still open to receive these gifts. Accountability will eventually come to the forefront as a generation of students are at risk of being essentially uneducated. There may be some exceptions, but the 500 plus students. Oh. Their county is not receiving public funding for is taking a toll on our school system and will soon time to come if it continues, the effect will be monumental. I asked it to keep this open even if the school levy fails. If the levy is passed, the decision should be a no brainer. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you. Mr. Knotts. Next is Carol Casteel.

(Carol Castle) Castle like the big house

(Lucas Tatham) Sorry, my reading is not as good. Carol Castle Thank you.

(Carol Castle) OK, here we go again. We feel feel like we are on a merry go round. I've been attending these things since way back in the 70s and shame on the public that lets them happen. Shame on them. I've heard it said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. How many schools have we closed in this county? What was the result we were looking for there? Have we had that result? No, we've not sadly. Can anybody tell me what the smallest school district in this country is and how many people attended? I bet there's not a one here that knows that statistic. The smallest school district in the year 2019 or 2018 had four students. The whole district 4 students, but in the state of Michigan felt that those four students was enough value that they kept that school open. And today, as far as I know it's still open now. I'll give you this, it was on an island in Lake Huron, so that makes it a little difficult, but four students for the state of Michigan feel that four students was worth what it cost and the number was astronomically per student. Oh. One of the most effective ways to improve student achievement and curb school violence is to reduce the size of the nation schools. Hundreds of studies have found. I'm really nervous, I don't like public speaking. Hundreds of studies have found students who attend small schools outperform those in large schools on every academic measure, from grades to test scores, they are less likely to drop out and more likely to attend college and go on to be productive members of society. Isn't that our goal? Let me ask each of them, Mr. Martin, why did you become a teacher and then want to be an administrator.

(Brad Martin) Passed on and I was from a family of educators. I have always liked working with kids and want to make a difference.

(Carol Castle) And OK, that's the answer I want to hear from people. Why did each of you become board members? And I, and I've heard different and I won't make you all answer, but I've heard everything from wanting to be a AAA school to a AA school and all that. Does anybody know what the number 200 represents? As educators, I would hope you would know. The number 200 is the magic number for a K through 12 school. The most positive outcome has has and there's been hundreds of studies done if you have 200 or less in a K through 12. We're not talking K through four, we're talking K through 12. Now. We could test your math skills. Do you know what that comes out to per class? Or do you just know the concept of multiplication and division. I've heard that line. Small schools also build strong communities, parents and neighbors are more likely to be actively involved in the school. The students benefit from community support and the school in turn fosters connections among neighbors, encouraging civic participation. I think you saw that here tonight. State and local policymakers often prefer large schools because they believe them to be less expensive to operate. Such policies are short sighted.

(Ange Varner) One minute

(Carol Castle) Oh, I I have to, I have to say I don't like the five minute rule because I have a stack of about two foot deep of statistics. So let's cut over here and you'll get the rest of it tomorrow night, I guess. OK, achievements, small school students equal or will outperform larger school. School students indicators use include great test scores, honor roll enrollment, subject area achievement, higher order thinking skills, and years of education attained after high school. These findings hold even when other variables, such as students, attributes or staff characteristics are taken into account. Many small schools are in rural areas, but researchers have concluded that it is smaller smallest of the school, not in setting that makes it successful. The smallest of the school for attendance and drop out, and I have some statistics on what happens in larger schools.

(Ange Varner) Time

(Carol Castle) OK. Well, I guess you'll get it tomorrow night or I'll sit till later, but. Saying these calls it's. And if it's a K- 12 that needs to be 200, think of what you're doing and when you look in the mirror, do you want to see somebody that took the prospects of children away from because if the school was bigger than 200, the success rate drops drastically. (Applause)

(Brad Martin) Make sure we can get a copy of that document.

(Carol Castle) What's that? I'll Bring one to the meeting.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Miss Cassell. Thank you. I want I want to confirm it looks like this name is scratch scratched out. Anna Wolf. Did you want to speak still?

(Someone in Crowd) She left.

(Lucas Tatham) OK. Same for Jazz Bosley. It looks like it may be scratched out. OK, Next is Logan Stefan. Stephen Stephen.

(Logan Stephen) Please don't close our school. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Logan. OK. Next Arthur Boylan.

(Arthur Boylan) Um Fellowsville's been getting ripped off for years and years started in like 71 or 72 I believe. They sent Fellowsville to Newburg brought Newburg over here. We made friends. We were like family. Then they all had to consolidate some more. So you broke up Fellowsville and Newburg, Newburg to Masontown and Fellowsville to Kingwood. Everythings gotta go there, you know well. OK. Uh. All it did was spread hate and discontent is what I've found out of this consolidation. But that's in past. I have a granddaughter now and she can count to 100 by 10's does her ABC's. She told me what vow's are for, and don't forget papa that sometimes y. This girl is in kindergarten. I've seen people come out your so-called consolidated high school up there, graduated that have struggled to count to 100 miles and don't got a clue what a vow is. So. How do y'all figure that this consolidation is so wonderful. Because it's not. All you do is cause problems. Small school where it's at. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Mr. Boylan.

(Brad Martin) Can you hold Mr Tatham

(Lucas Tatham) Yes. Umm, is it Bentley?

(Someone in Crowd) Bentley

(Lucas Tatham) OK. Just once we're going to, we're trying to. Figure out our virtual thing here. We're good, OK. All right. We have a few more. So let's stay focused here. So we have Bentley and Danny Ridenour.

(Mr. Ridenour) That's our's. She's She's nervous. Now we should know what the people this situation. I mean, it's all about these kids. It's all about this family. I mean, they led the Pledge of Allegiance. I mean, you don't see at school now. Yeah, I'm younger States and stuff. I mean, we need these schools, both schools, all small. OK. Lose all these space. They support us, they support these kids. So you got these supporters too, please. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Mr. Park. Thank you. Next is Kyler. Is it Hines?

(Kyler Aynes) No Aynes. When I was in the preschool it was pretty good. And nap time I put my head down for a nap of 5 or 10 minutes. I went to Kindergarten it was pretty easy. It was like piece of cake. Yeah, I went to 1st grade and it's pretty hard. Then in second reading. It's getting harder each grade you go up. I've been three different schools. I was in South first, then went to Kingwood for a week or two and then I ended up here. That is all. Bye. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you. Next we have Stacy Poole.

(Stacy Poole) Well. My name is Stacy,

(Lucas Tatham) Stacy, please use the mic.

(Stacy Poole) My name is Stacy Poole. I'm a small business owner here so I'm. I'm actually at Preston County and plan and I've been in this community five years. I grew up in Lawn County where my dad worked for Lawn County education for almost 20 years. Here in Preston County, my wife works for Preston County Board of Education and so does my sister-in-law and my father-in-law. So I've been around this system. And I know how I'm paying some pretty close attention to Mr. Martin's statements there right at the end. There it was well I shake my head because essentially you're putting prices on all these kids right here. No. Let me make my soul barrier. I don't put my faith in man, I put my faith, in God and his word tells me. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord through to the award. To shut this small school is a crime and essentially putting prices on these children. Let me leave you with one thing to the right thing is seldom the easiest thing to do. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you Stacy, Is there anyone that signed up that I did not call? OK. Our community presentations are concluded as per our opening statement. Mr. Superintendent, is there anything that you want to say?

(Brad Martin) Certainly Mr. Tatham, I certainly appreciate the all of the feedback that we received from the citizen tonight. You know, as a former principal of Fellowsville Elementary and a teacher at South Middle School, and a coach. I have experience in this community and I realize the importance of these schools. I do also have to say, though that that the Board of Education, you know, it is my job to look to look after the the well-being of the entire district. and you know, as I said, it's not say it's simply a dollars and cents issue, I can't say not exactly, but ultimately look at our past in. 2009. Preston County Schools was taking over due to issues with the financial issues that we were operating in substantial deficits. And it is my job, you know, to make recommendations for our board to make sure that those things. And I understand that that has been brought forth, but it's important to also look at potential wasteful spending, things of that nature to try to. Also we made that problem. But you know, we are in a circumstance where financial resources are dwindling. We have, we have the federal money center will be exhausted. At this time, we are operating without the an excess levy and we are rapidly losing students. When you put those factors together, it is a major financial crisis and that certainly doesn't turn into this decision. But again, I do want to thank everyone for being here tonight and certainly expressing your views. Certainly I I know that all the word takes all of this very seriously. Thank you.

(Someone from crowd) You hold in your hand.

(Lucas Tatham) Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me. The public. Excuse me, I understood. Excuse me. OK. Our public comment session is complete as per opening statement, the board will take this matter up on November 18th, 2024 at six at Preston High School. It appears our business is complete, so I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

(Michael Hovatter) I'll make that motion.

(Jeff Zigray) Second

(Lucas Tatham) Motion made by Mr. Hovatter. Second by Mr. Zigray. Is there any discussion amongst the board members? OK, the motion has been moved and 2nd I now. Call the vote.

(Brad Martin) Voting is now open Mr Kisner can you give a voice vote

(Cross Kisner) Yes

(Shelley Miller) Yes

(Jeff Zigray) Yes

(Brad Martin) And the motion passes 5- 0 and time is 8:32PM.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you. The meeting is adjourned. So I'm going to hit pause now.

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD MEMBER  
SIGN-IN SHEET (PAYROLL)  
2024-2025 School Year  
DATE: 10/29/2024

Attendance – Please Initial.

**Michael Hovatter**

MH

**Cross Kisner**

Virtual

**Shelley Miller**

Shelley Miller

**Lucas Tatham**

LT

**Jeff Zigray**

JZ

**Preston County Board of Education  
 Tuesday, October 29, 2024 South Preston 4:00 PM  
 Delegations Sign-in Sheet**

Regular Meeting                       Adjourned Session                       Special Meeting

**If you wish to speak or present to the Board of Education, please print and sign your name.**

Community Members (Print Name)	Title—(Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
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**Preston County Board of Education (Proposed School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary School) (Tuesday, October 29, 2024)**

Generated by Bradley Martin on Tuesday, October 29, 2024

**Members present**

Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

**Meeting called to order at 3:59 PM**

## 1. Opening Business

## Procedural: A. Call to Order

- The President called the special meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mr. Zigray then lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.
- Following the pledge, Mr. Tatham advised that the meeting was a public hearing and he declared that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent were present.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that this public hearing was convened in accordance with the terms of WV Code 18-5-13a, in connection with the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School. He stated that the statute provides that members of the public: 1) Have a right to be present; 2) Have a right to submit statements and testimony; and 3) Have a right to question school officials.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. He announced that a total of zero members of the public had signed in and indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials.
- Next, he detailed that if any member of the public had been present that every member of the public would have been given a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony and to question school officials. He stated that five minutes had been allotted for each member of the public to address the board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that the responses of school officials to questions would not have been included in the time allotted for each member of the public, that no member of the public could present more than once, and no member of the public may be granted time from another presenter.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that Mrs. Angie Varner has been designated as the time keeper and would have advised when one minute was remaining for each presentation and when time would have expired.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that had speakers been present that it is not necessary to consume the total amount of time they had been allotted. He also indicated that written statements and materials would also be given full consideration of the Board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that all questions were to be initially directed to the Superintendent and that the Superintendent could then elect to respond to the question or could delegate the response to another school official.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that at the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, that the administration would be afforded with an opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public. He stated that aside from questions that may be directed to school officials and their responses, there will be no debate or dialoge between members of the public and school officials.
- Next, he stated that no decision upon the proposed closure would be made during the current meeting. He stated that the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation of PK-4 students into South Preston School would be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Preston High School. He stated that the Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.
- Next, Mr. Tatham asked Superintendent Martin to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation. (Martin provided the following statement below)
- *"Thank you Mr. Tatham. Tonight we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation with South Preston School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Pre-K through fourth grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and today's hearing at South Preston along with a scheduled hearing at the Fellowsville later tonight at 6:30 PM is part of the required process leading up to a potential local Board vote on this issue on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Preston High School. In summarizing the reasoning for the recommendation to close Fellowsville Elementary School several areas were assessed. First, Fellowsville has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over an 10-year span (assessed between the 2015-16 and 2024-25 academic years) totaling a loss of 63 students. It should be noted that during the 2021-22 school year, the Board approved a shift of 5th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2022-23 academic year and beyond. This action actually resulted in Fellowsville seeing an increase in enrollment during the 2022-23 academic year. However, since that year, the school has lost 30 students over the past two years. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 16% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment. Next, in assessing facilities, Fellowsville Elementary School is considered in fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain and update the facility were estimated at \$1,995,000.00. In assessing, South Preston School, the school is considered in excellent condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. South Preston School has an assessed program capacity of 629 students as assessed in 2024, so South has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Fellowsville which now stands at 59. South's current enrollment stands at 308. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 367, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for South Preston School. Next, the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School is estimated to save a total of \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$623,932.02 with the anticipated elimination of 6 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Fellowsville School over the same span of time is \$15,940.90. That is a difference of \$4,400.18 per student. This gap is widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Fellowsville's is \$18,741.44. This is a difference of \$5,289.62 per student. Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over a number years and their 3rd and 4th grade students are annually assessed via the WV General Summative Assessment. South Preston is also assessed via the WVGSAs and students in grade 3-8 are tested at South In assessing Fellowsville's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to South Preston, Fellowsville on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Fellowsville had a 43% proficiency compared to South's at 40% (a difference of 3%). In Math, Fellowsville had a 43.59% proficiency compared to South's at 23.93% (a difference of 19.66%). (I believe I made an additional statement here that is not in this document) Fellowsville currently is a feeder school to South Preston with students coming from the same communities. Fellowsville Elementary School is approximately 5.5 miles from the South Preston School and the trip is currently made daily for students in grade 5-8 from the Fellowsville attendance area. Many students from the Fellowsville attendance area annually submit intra-county transfer requests to attend South Preston with most noting the desire to have all of their children in one school setting as a desire. Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Fellowsville and the district at-large and due to the substantial cost-saving associated with the closure. While I am and will continue to be a strong proponent of small schools, the district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment and loss of the levy in the Spring of 2024, make continued operation of Fellowsville not economically feasible or responsible. Thank you."*
- Following Mr. Martin's statement, Mr. Tatham indicated that zero members who had signed up to address the Board this evening. He then moved to close out the meeting.

## Discussion, Information, Procedural: B. Delegations

- No one was present that signed up to address the Board.

## 2. Closing Business

## Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn

- Recommend the Board adjourn the meeting.
- Motion by Michael Hovatter, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)- Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM

**Transcript of Fellowsville School Closure Meeting held on 10/29/24 at 4:00 PM at South Preston School**

(Lucas Tatham) Hello everyone, can you hear me out there, so, welcome to the October 29, 2024, Preston County Board of Education meeting regarding the proposed school closure hearings for Fellowsville Elementary School. It is now 4:00 the president will call this special meeting to order and ask for a moment of silence. Mr. Zigray will then lead all of us present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

(Everyone present) Recites the Pledge of Allegiance

(B.Martin) Mr. Kisner can you hear us ok?

(C Kisner by teams) Yes

Ok, let me emphasize that this is a public hearing, and my name is Lucas Tatham, President of the Preston County Board of Education. I declare that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent are present. It is now time to call this meeting to order.

This public hearing has been convened in accordance with the terms of WV Code Chapter 18-Article 5-Section 13A, in connection with the proposed closure of Rowelsburg Fellowsville Elementary School. (sorry it's good) The statute provides that members of the public: 1) Have a right to be present; 2) Have a right to submit statements and testimony; and 3) Have a right to question school officials.

Members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. A total of zero (0) members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials.

Therefore, in order to give every member of the public a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony and to question school officials, five minutes have been allotted for each member of the public.

The responses of school officials to questions shall not be included in the time allotted for each member of the public. No member of the public may present more than once, and no member of the public may grant time another presenter.

Mrs. Angie Varner has been designated as the time keeper and will advise when one minute is remaining for each presentation and when time has expired.

It is not necessary to consume the total amount of time allotted. Written statements and materials will also be given full consideration.

All questions will initially be directed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent may elect to respond to the question or may delegate another school official to respond to the question.

At the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, the administration will be afforded with an opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public. Aside from questions that may be directed to school officials and their responses, there will be no debate or dialogue between members of the public and school officials.

No decision upon the proposed closure will be made tonight. The proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation of PK-8 students into South Preston School will be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Preston High School. The Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.

To begin, I will ask Superintendent Martin to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation.

(Brad Martin) Thank you, Mr. Tatham. Tonight, we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation with South Preston School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Pre-K through fourth grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and today's hearing at South Preston along with a scheduled hearing at the Fellowsville School later tonight at 6:30 PM is part of the required process leading up to a potential local Board vote on this issue on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Preston High School.

In summarizing the reasoning for the recommendation to close Fellowsville Elementary School several areas were assessed. First, Fellowsville has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over an 10-year span (assessed between the 2015-16 and 2024-25 academic years) a total a loss of 63 students over that span. It should be noted that during the 2021-22 school year, the Board approved a shift of 5th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 2022-23 academic year and beyond. This action actually resulted in Fellowsville seeing an increase in enrollment during the 2022-23 academic year. However, since that year, the school has lost 30 students over the past two years. During this same time span,

Preston County Schools overall has seen a 16% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment.

Next, in assessing the facilities, Fellowsville Elementary School is considered in fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain and update the facility were estimated at \$1,995,000.00. In assessing South Preston School, the school is considered in excellent condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. South Preston School has an assessed program capacity of 629 students as assessed in 2024, so South has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Fellowsville which now stands at 59 students. South Preston's current enrollment stands at 308 students. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 367, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for South Preston School.

Next, the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School is estimated to save a total of \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$623,932.02 with the anticipated elimination of 6 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between fiscal years 18 and fiscal year 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Fellowsville Schools over the same span of time is \$15,940.90. That is a difference of \$4,400.18 per student. This gap is widening as well with fiscal year 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Fellowsville's is \$18,741.44. This is a difference of \$5,289.62 per student.

Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over a number years and their 3rd and 4th grade students are annually assessed via the WV General Summative Assessment. South Preston is also assessed via the WVGSA and students in grade 3-8 so they have more students tested at South Preston. In assessing Fellowsville's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to South Preston, Fellowsville on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Fellowsville had a 43% proficiency compared to South's at 40% (a difference of 3%). In Math, there is a more pronounced Fellowsville had a 43.59% proficiency compared to South's at 23.93% (a difference of 19.66%). It should be noted when comparing scores by grade levels on last years WVGSA that South Preston did exceed Fellowsville's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in English Language Arts by 12% and Fellowsville did exceed South Preston in 3 and 4 grade the other areas.

Fellowsville currently is a feeder school to South Preston with students coming from the same communities. Fellowsville Elementary School is approximately 5.5 miles from the South Preston School and the trip is currently made daily for students in grade 5-8 from the Fellowsville attendance area. Many students from the Fellowsville attendance area annually submit intra-county transfer requests to attend South Preston with most noting the desire to have all of their children in one school setting as a primary desire.

Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Fellowsville and the district at-large and due to the substantial cost-saving associated with the potential closure. While I am and will continue to be a strong proponent of small schools, the district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment and loss of the levy in the Spring of 2024, make continued operation of Fellowsville not economically feasible or responsible. Thank you Mr. Tatham.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you

Thank You Mr Martin At this time we would now proceed with the members who have signed up to address the board this evening. Since, we have no one signed up to speak our business is complete. I will entertain a motion for adjournment. So moved, it has been moved by Mr. Hovatter, second, seconded by Mr. Zigray, is there any discussion amongst the board about the motion to adjourn? Not hearing anything, I will call for the vote.

(Brad Martin) You will need to take a voice vote Mr. Tatham I can mark it in the system, but you will have to take a roll call.

(Lucas Tatham) Ok Ms. Miller we will start with you

Shelley Miller: Yes

Jeff Zigray: Yes

Lucas Tatham: Yes

Michael Hovatter: Yes

Cross Kisner by teams: Yes

(Brad Martin) Motion passes 5-0 , one second Now motion passes 5-0 it is 4:12 pm.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you everyone.

**Fw: Closer of Fellowsville Elementary School**

---

**From** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>  
**Date** Fri 11/15/2024 5:56 AM  
**To** Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>  
**Cc** wlridenour@gmail.com <wlridenour@gmail.com>

Dear Wendy,

Thank you for providing your feedback and perspective. It is appreciated.

I am forwarding your email to the Superintendent, Mr. Martin, so that he can provide your information to the remaining BOE members and include your email in the official records.

Sincerely,  
Lucas

---

**From:** WI Ridenour <wlridenour@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2024 9:38 PM  
**To:** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>  
**Subject:** Closer of Fellowsville Elementary School

You don't often get email from wlridenour@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Lucas,

I wanted to reach out about the closer of Fellowsville Elementary School. As you are aware I do not live in Preston County any longer, but I am a proud alumni of Fellowsville from Kindergarten through 6th grade. I have amazing memories of the school and teachers that I experienced there. My mom, my aunt, and my cousins all attended. My cousins have small children who will hopefully attend there in the future.

Closing rural schools, of which Fellowsville is can significantly harm the community by disrupting students' social connections, increasing transportation issues, leading to potential population decline, impacting local businesses, and undermining the sense of identity and stability. This can often negatively impact student academic performance and overall well-being, leading to less parental involvement.

It is the last school in the southern part of the county. The county BOE has for years neglected the upkeep of the school to set up closer. For no reason taken away the 5th grade and moved it to Tunnelton making the school even smaller in numbers.

In considering your decision, please think about the children and the impact on their academic performance in these early stages of development and learning. Give kids a chance to grow with their local community.

All the best,

Wendy L. Ridenour, M.A.  
College of Creative Arts and Media  
West Virginia University

**Re: Question on school closures**

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From Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

Date Wed 11/13/2024 5:49 PM

To Mariann Plum <mplum@k12.wv.us>

Cc Angellicia Varner <angellicia.varner@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>

Mariann,

I have modified the cover page and reworded the recommendation to reflect the merger of the schools rather than consolidation.

Bradley R. Martin  
Superintendent, Preston County Schools  
(304) 329-0580 ext. 225  
(304) 288-0941

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**From:** Mariann Plum <mplum@k12.wv.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:39 AM

**To:** Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

**Cc:** Angellicia Varner <angellicia.varner@k12.wv.us>

**Subject:** Question on school closures

*Good Morning Brad,*

Yesterday I sent an email to Mr. Tatham. I misunderstood and thought the lawyer was for the BOE members. I want to ask the lawyer if the public could insist that South Preston and Aurora change their names and have to become a new school. My children and other family members were and are now South Preston Yellow Jackets. I do not want to have these schools lose their identities. Is there any way to resubmit the paperwork to say merge instead of consolidation?

Thanks,,

Mariann

**Mariann Plum**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Fellowsville Elementary School  
304-892-3866

mplum@k12.wv.us

## Fellowsville Elementary School

### Local School Improvement Council Proposal/Recommendations

Please vote NO to the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consider the following:

1. Petitions- (one copy is available) Support for FES/ Against Consolidation

- Shows support for Fellowsville Elementary School county wide
- Shows that Prestonians do not think consolidation is the right move
- We started our petition a little over a week ago and have already got over 300 signatures.

\*Consider the possibility that people do not support the levy because they do not support the investments being made. Take the time to ask the people of Preston County how they would like their money invested. Vote NO to closure.

2. Survey-(attached) Why are families leaving PCS?

- It came to our attention that the county did not follow up with the families that removed their students from our public schools to find out why. By not investigating the county did not do their due diligence to serve our county. If you fail to fully understand the problem, you will only put a band aid on the situation and then you will be faced with the same situations over until you have no public school system left to work in.
- Our own survey was sent to several administrators of micro, Christian, private as well as a hand full of out of county transfers, virtual and home-schooling families in Preston County. While the sample size is small what we mostly see is that people are unhappy with the quality of education. When diving a bit deeper, the size of the classes and social/ bullying issues played a big part. Those issues seem to go hand in hand, with smaller classrooms it would be easier for teachers to control those situations. Understandably, safety concerns were also cited with the recent school shooting threats, also more easily controlled when on a smaller scale.
- We believe although small in scale this study shows that smaller classes help parents feel more secure about sending their children to public schools. We believe it would be irresponsible for the board to close an academically successful school. Fellowsville is likely boosting the overall performance as a county.

\*Consider doing an exit interview with every family leaving Preston County Schools. Find out the reasons why we are losing so many students and work on fixing those issues. Work on becoming more competitive with the other schooling options instead of closing the one in the county that is most comparable to them.

3. Impact statement (provided by the county) – Cites 3 reasons why FES should close

- A. Maintenance/ Facility issues... This impact statement shows inflated figures and wasteful spending
- Walkways for \$25,000- were you planning on putting them on top of the blacktop?
  - Parking lot paved- \$90,000- It is mostly patched now but does need a few patches. Beside of the basketball court we have needed a load of gravel and in the back by the field for a couple of years and have put many work orders asking with no results
  - Exterior doors- \$110,000 why??
  - Patching and Painting Interior- \$90,000- It is block so I am not sure what patching and painting I'll do for free

- Plumbing- We were told by maintenance dept that the septic tank has not been pumped for at least 4 years and that would remedy the toilets backing up and that the boiler line in the hallway needed dug up and replaced, both of which could be done for around \$10,000.
- Roofing- Riley Homes from Masontown was nice enough to give us an estimate by satellite imagery. To completely tear off everything, an abatement, materials, disposing of everything would be approx. \$450,000. Compared to the almost one million that's in the impact statement. The \$450,000 doesn't take into account that some of the structures are already steel, nor does it take into account that the gym roof would most likely be going over top of the shingles without total removal, so the \$450,000 is probably an over estimate.

\*My point is to take this impact with a grain of salt. I realize this School Improvement cost summary is used to prove the narrative that the school is not worth the investment and that the intent to actually fix these things is not there. I don't know of anything that was taken care of as of the last impact statement. However, what it does show is that we need do a better with our contractor/ vendor services and get more estimates and competitive prices. Take time to look at our maintenance department and find out why there is not more accountability and why regular maintenance is not performed. If people see our maintenance dept working to maintain the buildings that we have, they are more likely to want to invest their own money in them. It is also important to note that we have an incredible community of successful business owners and laborers that I am certain would help out with any necessary repairs.

B. Financial (provided by the county)

I encourage you to request financial information and look at the disparities that have surfaced and ways to cut unnecessary and excessive spending and possible misappropriated funds. (unused curriculum, trips that could have been taken to closer locations with less staff...etc.)

C. Student Population Decrease

- Our Little Learner's (list of names attached) group is thriving, and a second class may need to be added to accommodate everyone and still maintain a small enough class.
- List of Future Wolves (attached)
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade was sent to South, Bring it back!
- Rowlesburg has 21 elementary students and 8 middle schoolers. Bring them to Fellowsville! And the middle schoolers all go together to South.

We already share a principal. We already take field trips together, so our students are familiar with each other. We are close communities. It was done in 1985 after the flood. With Rowlesburgs building being larger than ours, our kids going to their school wouldn't make as big of an impact on their capacity. However, bringing them to Fellowsville would allow that building to be sold to say an expanding business located in Kingwood (EX: Mountaineer Challenge academy). This would be great for the Rowlesburg community, for the economic development of Preston County and for Preston County Schools.

The future of Fellowsville Elementary could be a bright one with your patience. When you get a chance, look up the Crellin school in Garrett County, Md. Fellowsville and Crellin already have so much in common, but to pattern after them would make us even more competitive with all the micro schools. The enrichment programs they have are all funded by the community and grants. I know with our incredible community support; this could easily be done at Fellowsville Elementary. <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15WuUehJfo/>

I think Fellowsville was counted out years ago, that's why there have been very little efforts to invest in us. I think when our PreK was taken; it was assumed that that would be our demise, but we fought hard and we brought it back. I think the last time we went through the school closure stuff; things looked bleak, but again we fought and not just for Fellowsville but for the whole county to get done what we knew needed to happen to save our school and help our county. Don't keep counting

us out. Closing Fellowship Elementary School would be a mistake. You're going to hurt an entire community and further damage the relationship between southern Preston County and the Board of Education. I know it's been said before, but I don't see a path to any future levy's if you take everything from the southern half. If this school closes you will lose even more students to other counties and alternative schooling options. If you want Preston County to succeed you must compete with these other options. And the only way to do that is by doing what's best for the children. We know we want different results when it comes to education, but we can't get there by doing the same old stuff over and over. It's not going to be an easy path, but nothing worth doing ever is.

Consolidation is the Ruination of a good Education.

To. All Preston county board members, Mr. Martin, and Mrs. Varner

I feel sure that not one of you believe that the public schools are a business. It is in all respects of the word. You have a product to sell to the public. That product should be a quality education for the children of the county. The people of the county are no longer buying what you are selling. They have voted with their tax dollars and even more important they are voting with their feet. More and more parents are saying I will pay the price to get my children the classical education that they deserve. They then leave the public schools. If you do not change this direction that is failing our kids and the tax payers, I fear that public education could become a thing of the past. I find that sad and devastating for some of our poorest and most underserved children. I truly believe that there is a need for public education and choice for parents too.

How do we fix the problem and move forward? First cut the waste. Use grants and local community support to add enrichment to the schools. The small school in Crellens Maryland is a great example of this. They have a five-star rating and are just a short drive across the state line. I would suggest you check them out. Parents are. Second improve the product and the value of the product. I have talked to many of the parents that have chosen alternative schools for their children. One thing they all have said they wanted was a focus on reading, math and writing skills. In a small safe setting that they feel welcome to be involved in with their children. That is the product they will buy. At this point Preston County has three small schools that could be exactly what parents and tax payers want. I find very few people that would object to helping the children of this county if they believe the children are getting what they would be paying for. When the levy was rejected it was not a rejection of the kids. It was a statement from communities telling you we don't believe the product you sold us was worth the price. And we want the product we are willing to pay for. If you truly want to pass a levy, listen to the people, ask what they want and listen. If you want Students to attend public schools, ask why they are not, and listen. Give them the product they want, show them the value and market it in a welcoming package. And you might just turn Preston counties education into the best in the state wouldn't that be something to be proud of.

You have a choice now to make. Close the two schools and keep moving backwards and contribute to the poverty and depression of our county and state.

That would be the easy choice. Or just maybe choose to keep both schools open, welcome the parents and community in, and turn the trend around. That is the right choice. And yes, the hard choice and will take work but at the end of the day it will be worth ever penny spent. When Preston County children can read, write and compete in math and science. I also would suggest that you bring Children from Kingwood elementary to Rowlesburg. You tell us it is crowed and in poor repair. Rowlesburgs building is large enough and in good shape. That would justify keeping Rowlesburg and give those student benefits of small classes and a good facility. It would also go a long way in showing that our community would be treated fairly. Not always us giving up our schools and our children having to ride the bus farther. And yes, we have heard excuses about bus schedules etc. as to why that would not work. That is a product we are not buying. Every time you have consolidated you made the schedule and everything else work

I have asked you to look in the faces of the kids. I have asked you to research the benefits of small schools. Now I am asking you to look in the mirror and ask the person looking back will I be proud of the choice I am making. Will you move backward into failure or forward for the good of the children.

Vote yes to keep what's good our two small schools and make them better.

Thank you  
Carol Castle

Preston County Board of Education  
members:

I thought you'd be interested  
in the enclosed articles

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Merriam

From Oct 18, 2024 Dominion Post

## Why early school start times are bad for kids

By WENDY TROXEL

Though my kids are now off to college, the sound of school buses outside my window, picking up high school students at 6:45 a.m., still makes me cringe. As a parent, I empathize deeply with the families sending their teens off to school at such an early hour. As a sleep researcher, I feel this secondary trauma especially intensely, knowing all too well just how damaging early school start times are for adolescent sleep.

Adolescents require eight to 10 hours of sleep per night for optimal health. However, more than 70% of teens fall short of this target, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, largely due to the conflict between early school start times and adolescents' biologically driven tendency to be night owls.

When children become teens, they experience a delay in their circadian rhythms that govern when they feel most awake and when they feel sleepy. This is driven in part by a shift in the release of the hormone melatonin — about two hours later than when melatonin is released in adults or younger children.

Effectively, this means waking a teenager at 6 a.m. is the biological equivalent of waking an adult up at 4 a.m. Recognizing this clear developmental shift in sleep-wake schedules, the American Academy of Pediatrics and many other medical organizations all recommend that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Unfortunately, most middle and high schools across the country and in Utah, begin much earlier, forcing students to wake up

before their bodies are ready.

There is a solution to this problem. In Seattle, for example, high schools delayed start times from 7:50 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. The results were significant: Students gained more sleep, reported feeling less tired, and showed improved academic performance. Locally, the Salt Lake City School District delayed middle and high school start times, recognizing the potential benefits for students' health and academic success. These changes reflect a growing awareness of the importance of aligning school schedules with adolescent sleep needs.

Although outcomes of the Salt Lake City School District start time change have yet to be published, research conducted in school districts around the country demonstrates significant public health benefits of later school start times. When schools start later, teens get more sleep. Not surprisingly, a well-rested teen is happier, more alert, and able to learn. Studies have even shown that with later school start times, attendance improves and graduation rates go up.

Beyond the public health benefits, my research with colleagues at RAND has demonstrated substantial economic benefits of this shift. Our analysis estimated that delaying school start times to 8:30 a.m. could contribute \$83 billion to the U.S. economy over a decade. This projected gain is due to higher academic and professional achievement, reduced car crash rates, and better overall health.

With later school start times, attendance improves and graduation rates go up.

While systemic changes are crucial, families can also play a pivotal role in promoting healthy sleep habits.

Here are some strategies:

**Set a consistent sleep schedule.** Encourage teens to go to bed and wake up around the same time every day, even on weekends. This can be very challenging for parents to enforce and teens to adhere to, but aim for keeping weekend wake-up times within a couple of hours of weekday wake-ups.

**Limit screen time before bed.** Reduce blue light exposure and the stimulating content consumed on electronic devices.

**Have a wind-down routine.** Encourage winding down with calming activities like reading or listening to music before bedtime.

**Encourage healthy school start times.** Engage with school boards and your community to discuss strategies to promote healthy sleep and overcome challenges to delaying school start times.

By working together, parents, schools, and communities can help ensure that teens get the rest they need to thrive. The shift to later start times is much more than a logistical change; it's a commitment to the health and future of the next generation.

Wendy Troxel is a senior behavioral and social scientist at RAND and author of *Sharing the Covers: Every Couple's Guide to Better Sleep*. She holds adjunct professor positions at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Utah and is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified behavioral sleep medicine specialist.

## Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!

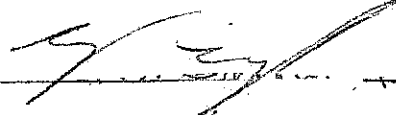


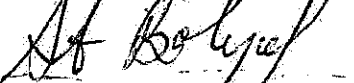
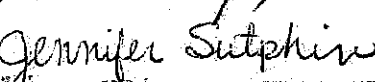
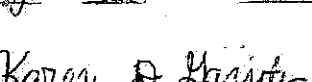
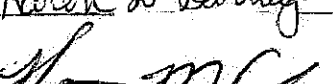
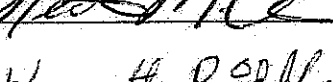
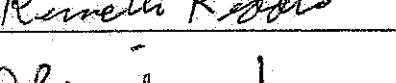
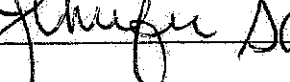
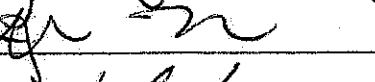

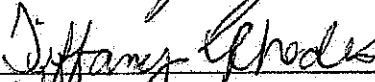
istics prove that smaller schools enhance a child's social, emotional and overall well-being. Children also perform better academically.  
Please stand with Fellowsville Elementary School and take Preston County towards a better future. STOP CONSOLIDATION!

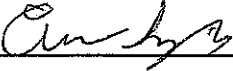
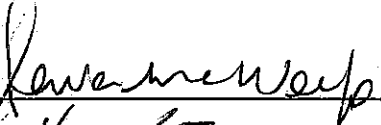



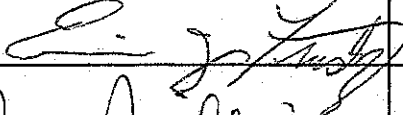
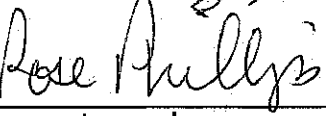

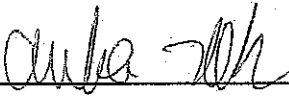

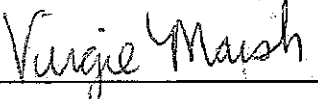
Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/6/24	Taylor Jennings	<i>Taylor Jennings</i>	Thornton 2187 Scotch Hill Rd. WV. 26440	Yes
11/6/24	Trevor Jennings	<i>Trevor Jennings</i>	"	"
11-7-24	Casey Chidester	<i>Casey Chidester</i>	Newburg Wv.	Not yet
11-7-24	Steven Watkins	<i>Steven Watkins</i>	Newburg Wv.	Not yet
11/7/24	Mickayla Travis	<i>Mickayla Travis</i>	Tunnelton Wv.	YES
11-7-2024	Mckayla Lambert	<i>Mckayla Lambert</i>	Tunnelton	NO
11/8/24	Travis Welch	<i>Travis Welch</i>	Albright WV.	Yes
11-8-24	Jeremich Deem	<i>Jeremich Deem</i>	Terra Alta, WV	Yes
11-08-24	Chad Thomas	<i>Chad Thomas</i>	Albright, WV	YES
11-08-24	JOE RECKART	<i>Joe Reckart</i>	BRUCETON, WV	YES
11-08-24	Keith Baker	<i>Keith Baker</i>	Kingwood, WV	YES
11-8-24	Daisy Hershman	<i>Daisy Hershman</i>	Fellowsville Wv	NO
11-8-24	Regina Hershman	<i>Regina Hershman</i>	Fellowsville Wv.	Yes

## Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!

Statistics prove that smaller schools enhance a child's social, emotional and overall well-being. Children also perform better academically.

Please stand with Fellowsville Elementary School and take Preston County towards a better future. STOP CONSOLIDATION!

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/8	Luke Balyard		2330 S Mountaineer Hwy Thornton WV 26440	YES
11/9	Justin Larew		606 Stevensburg Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	NO
11-9	Bill Clarkson		2547 Scotch Hill Rd. Thornton WV 26440	NO
11-9	Steven Balyard		568 Sunrise Dr Thornton WV 26440	Yes
11-10	Jennifer Sutphin		1 Ullom Ct Fairmont WV 26554	NO
11-10	Karen Garrity		1667 Mary Lou Retton Dr Fairmont WV 26554	No
11-11	Heather Clower		272 Hickory Orchard Rd Parsons, WV 26287	NO
11-11	Kenneth Riddle		4601 Washing Hwy 26440 Thornton	NO
11-11	Jennifer Sapp		670 Morgantown Ave Newburg, WV 26410	yes
11-11	Nicholas Sapp		670 Morgantown Ave Newburg, WV 26410	Yes
11-11	Alden Jennings		4124 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	NO
11-11	Tiffany Rhodes		8230 Senior Dr Tunnelton, WV 26444	Yes
11-11	Kevin Myers		572 George Washington Hwy Thornton WV 26440	YES

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/8/24	Ann Stryker		5005 Southfork Hwy	
11/8/24	Savanna Wolke		2604 Kaneton Rd Tunnelton WV	Yes x 2
11-8-24	Vincent Turner		32 Davis St. Tunnelton, WV	No
11-8-24	Dave Biggs		110 Bristol Lane Tunnelton WV 26444	No (IDID)
11/10/24	Stephanie Martin		103 Rock Hill Lane Tunnelton W.V. 26444	NO homeschooling
11 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>24</sub>	ERNIE J. TRUSTY		P.O. Box 288 Tunnelton WV 26444	NONE
11/10/24	Rose Phillips		45 Foreman Hill Thornon WV	home school
11/10/24	Savannah Stone		366 Smokeless rd Tunnelton WV	Yes
	Amber Nelson		254 Eagle Hill Tunnelton WV	NO private school
11/10/24	Allison Jackson		2757 Bowman Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	NO Homeschooling
11/10/24	Virgie Marsh		P.O. Box 334 Tunnelton WV 26444	Yes

**Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!**

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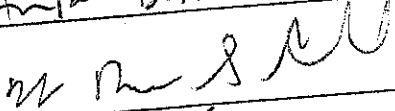
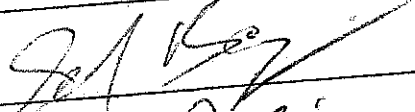
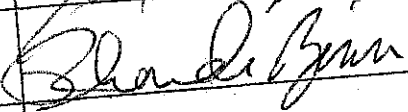



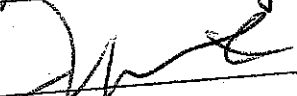
Please stand with Fellowsville Elementary School and take Preston County towards a better future. STOP CONSOLIDATION!

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S.?
11/7	Ashley Britton	Ashley Britton	438 Kimberly Ln. Kingwood	Yes
11/7	Todd Britton	R T R D	438 Kimberly Ln. Kingwood	Yes
11/7	CC151 Bernard + Dow: c2	[Signature]	2301 Ken Snyder, Tunnelton	NO
11/7	Rob Rhoads	[Signature]	2412 Campground Rd <del>Tunnelton</del>	NO
11/7	Sue White	Sue White	1892 Blazer Rd Tunnelton	NO
11/7	Victor White	Victor White	1892 Blazer Rd Tunnelton	NO
11/7	Andrew Dezzutti	[Signature]	417 Blazer Rd tunnelton WV 26444	Yes
11/7	Ryan Mason	[Signature]	164 11th Street Wellsburg, WV	yes grand kid
11/7	LeeAnn Dowell	Lee Ann Dowell	164 11th Street Wellsburg, WV	yes grand kid
11/7	Sonny Pyle	[Signature]	405 Gibson Street WV Tunnelton	<del>NO</del> Yes
11/7	Bernard Travis <del>Bernard Travis</del>	Beard [Signature]	W 97th St. Tunnelton WV	NO
11/8	Chyenne Dulin	[Signature]	1919 Bowmar Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	NO
11/8	Jessie [Signature]	Patricia Johnson	1681 Ken Snyder rd. Tunnelton WV	NO
11/8	Lush Johnson (Trish)	[Signature]	658 JCRd Tunnelton WV 711444	NO



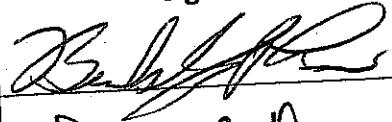
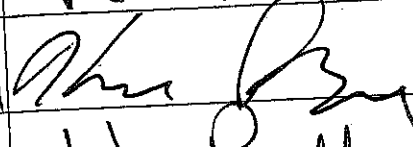
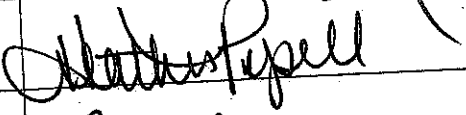

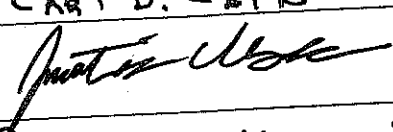
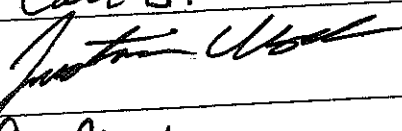



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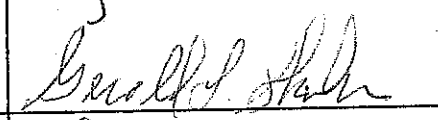


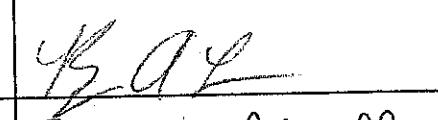
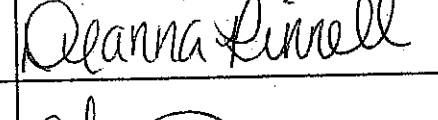
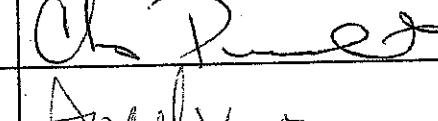
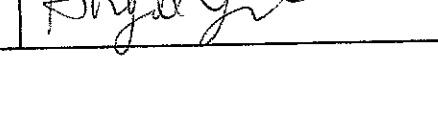
Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
				NO
11/3/24	Brando Naylor		Reedsville	NO
11/3/24	Michael A Hartsell	Michael Hartsell	Egdon	no
11/3/24	Anita Beras	Anita Beras	Terra Alta	no
11/3/24	Bruce Staub		Terra Alta	NO
11-3-24	John Crippen		Farmelton WV	NO
11-3-24	Rhonda Zinn		Tunnelton WV	no
11-3-24	MICHAEL STEMPLE		MEADOWVILLE	No
11.3.24	BARTLET. DONI		Flemington W.V.	'
11/3/24	Engene Mitchell		Newburg WV	
11-3-24	Stanley Paup		Quinton	NO
11-3-24	Denise Hymann	Denise Hymann	8478 Southwind Road Monroeville WV	NO
11/3/24	John Cunningham		247 Corbin Branch Rd Burt	NO
11/3/24	Carol Smiley	Carol Smiley	34 Henderson Dr. Philippi, WV	No



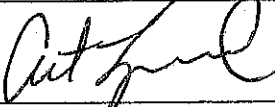



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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
	Berley Culbertson		209 Jones Lane W.V. 8443 Knottsville Rd TORTON, W.V. 26740	
	DORA DEVERS	Dora & Devers		
	Kristopher Pysell		1844 Yorks Road Newburg	
	Heather Pysell		1844 Yorks Road Newburg, W.V.	
	PATTY CLARKSON <del>Patty Clarkson</del>	Patty Clarkson	615 Cornwall Rd Thornton, W.V. 26740	
	Helen Knotts	Helen Knotts	PO Box 141 Terra Alta, W.V. 26764	yes
	Veronica Horvath	Veronica Horvath	282 Freedom Rd Terra Alta, W.V. 26764	No
	Charles Cline		8425 Craneyville Rd, Terra Alta, W.V. 26764	yes
	CARL D. CAIN	Carl D. C.		No
			46 S Preston Hwy	No
	Caithyn Metheny		787 Pleasant Valley rd, Tonnerton, W.V.	
	Carol Castle		10972 Geo. Wash. Hwy <sup>Protestant</sup> Rowley, W.V. 26725	yes
	Bradley Castle		10972 Geo Wash. Hwy Rowley, W.V. 26725	yes
	Adrian Funk	Adrian Funk	Red Oak Albright, W.V.	No

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
1-3-24	EANA BRITTON	<i>Eana Britton</i>	206 2nd ST Terrace Leta WV	NO
11-3-24	TERRANCE SAICOTT	<i>Terrance Saicott</i>	2115 ANNOD RD 26440	
11-3-24	KENNETH A. SHAHAN	<i>Kenneth A. Shahan</i>	1576 GORE WASHING THORNE HW 26440	NO
11-3-24	KateLyn Gribble	<i>KateLyn Gribble</i>	99 Herm Chriss ROAD thnneton	
11-3-24	Tom Willis	<i>Tom Willis</i>	Independence Rd, Ind.	NO
"	Tom Willis	<i>Tom Willis</i>	"	"
11-3-24	John Richman	<i>John Richman</i>	1229 Richman Rd. Montzville WV 26405	NO
11-3-24	Cheryl Clarkson	<i>Cheryl Clarkson</i>	596 RunnerCut Rd Thornton W 26440	NO
11-3-24	Chad Rush	<i>Chad Rush</i>	425 white oak rd philippi WV 26416	NO
11-3-24	Danielle Rush	<i>Danielle Rush</i>	425 white oak rd philippi WV 26416	NO
11-3-24	Alice Bean	<i>Alice Bean</i>	96 Abbey Ln., Fairmont, WV 26554	20 School Teacher Former Student

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/7	Autumn Smith		532 Joe Gibson Rd Newburg WV 26410	Yes
	Cody Braham	Cody Braham		Yes
	Gerald Stahn		84 Woodward Ln. Tennetown	Yes
	Tracey Fren		2020 Scotch Hill Rd Thornton, WV	<del>Several</del> grandchildren
	Brandon Shroat		233 Church St Newburg WV 26410	Yes
	Cheyenne Huffman	Cheyenne Huffman	233 Church St Newburg WV 26410	Yes
	Beverly Larew		184 Larew Rd Newburg, WV 26410	No
	Deanna Pinnell		151 High Ln. Independence, WV 26374	Yes
	Chris Pinnell		151 High Lane Independence WV 26374	Yes
	Angel Younker		52 Cabin Ln Thornton WV 26440 Preston County	Yes




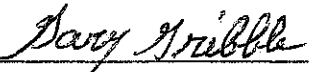
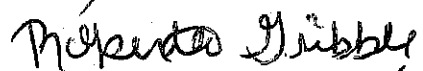
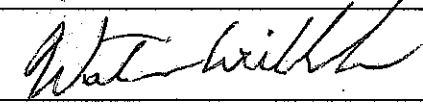
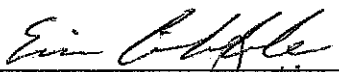
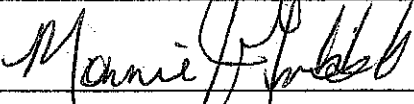
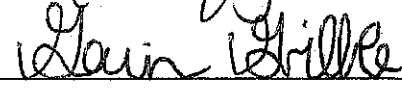
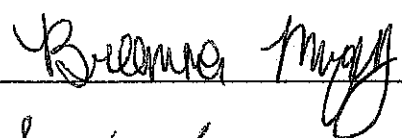
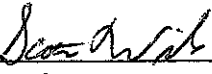
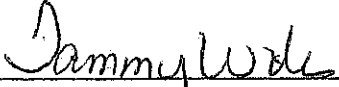

Date	Signature	Printed Name	Address	Comment
11/27/24	Janet Macrobie	Janet Macrobie	47 Chestnut Ridge Hts Newburg WV 26410	
11/2/24	Marshe Wille	Marshe Wille	107 dog run Roelsburg WV	
11-2-24	Amy Thorn	Amy Thorn	109 Seemant Dr Kingswood WV 26537	
11-2-24		John R. Thorn	109 Seemant Dr Kingswood WV 26537	
11-2-24		Justin Benson	301 Kimberly Lane Kingswood WV 26537	
11/2/24	Brenda Howard	Brenda Howard	57 Walkes Way Kingwood WV	
11/2/24		Art Lipscomb	125 East High St. Kingwood WV 26537	
11/2/24		Ray Funk	Lakeside Road Terra Alta WV 26721	
11/2/24		Corbin Lipscomb	104 South Sigler St. Kingwood, WV, 26537	
11/2/24		ROGER STREET	198 East St. Mountain, WV 26542	

Date	Signature	Printed Name	Address	Comment
11/2	Donna Hare	Donna Hare	57 Garbart RD Bruce ton Mills, WV 26525	No
11/2	Pat Bishop	Pat Bishop	195 Daisy ST Kingwood, WV 26537	No
11/2	Shelby Thom	Shelby Thom	113 N Price Street Kingwood, WV 26537	NO
11/2	John Thom	John Thom	113 N Price St Kingwood WV 26537	NO
11/2	Michelle Plum	Michelle Plum	185 Daisy St. Kingwood WV 26537	No
11/2	Samuel Plum	Samuel Plum	185 DAISSY ST Kingwood WV 26537	NO
	Lonnie Stonebraker	Lonnie Stonebraker	Kingwood WV 26537	NO
11/2	Wally Buford	Wally Buford	44 Bods Lane Teen Alta WV 26764	No
11/2	Dean Croft	Dean Croft	104 South Saylor Kingwood WV 26537	NO
11/2	Chris Wilson	Chris Wilson	429 Oak Street Kingwood WV, 26537	

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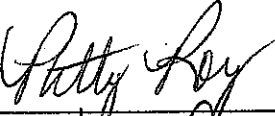


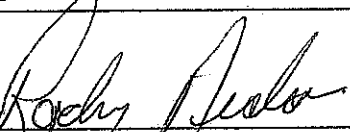



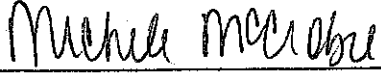
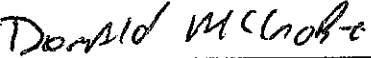
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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-2-24	Candace Burklyson		7853 George Washington Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	yes Braisley
11-2-24	Troy Burklyson		7853 George Washington Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	Yes
11-2-24	Ashley Balyard		2330 S Mantaineer Hwy Throcka WV 26440	Yes
1-2-24	Gary Gribble		2919 South Mountaineer Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	No
11-2-24	Roberta Gribble		99 Herm Criss Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	Yes/2
11-2-24	Watson Gribble		99 Herm Criss Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	yes/2
11-2-24	Eric Gribble		73 Walkers Way Kingwood WV 26537	no
11/2/24	Mannie Jo Gribble		73 Walkers Way Kingwood, WV 26537	No
11-2-24	Garvin Gribble		73 Walkers Way Kingwood, WV 26537	NO
11/2/24	Breanna Murphy		370 Oak Grove Rd Terra Alta, WV 26764	NO
11-2-24	Scott Wiles		2279 Bowmar Rd Tunnelton WV	yes
11-2-24	Tammy Wiles		2279 Bowmar R Tunnelton WV	Yes
11-2-24	Gail Bowmar		9312 Harmony Grove Rd Albright WV 26519	yes

Date	Signature	Printed Name	Address	Comment
11/8/24	Karen Sue Tichnell	Karen Tichnell	245 Cottage Hill Thornton WV 26440	my grandkids attend this school + others
11/8/24	Kristy Haddix	Kristy Haddix	26 Isner Dr. Grafton, WV 26354	Myself, sisters + nieces attended this school + I'm willing to drive my son to attend school next year
11/8/24	Jean Beveridge	Jean Beveridge	3359 Yorks Run Rd Newburg, WV 2640	My father, husband, myself, my children attend ACS.
11-9-24	Monica L Wolfe	Monica L Wolfe	63 Rankin Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	My son attended FES & received 2 Associate Degrees from UNASH My daughter attended FES & will receive her PhD in 2026
11-9-24	Bill White	Bill White	751 Shahan Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	Great school
11/9/24	Mary Wine	Mary Wine	3379 Marquess Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	Keep our school
11/9/24	Laurie Marsano	Laurie Marsano	300 Ludwig Rd Grafton WV 26354	smaller schools work! Friends children attend
11-9-24	Joseph Murray	Joseph Murray	4256 George Washington Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	Our community will be dead if we close our school
11-9-24	Gale Turner	Gale Turner	Tunnelton WV 676 Herm Priss Rd	

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/17	Crystal Johnson	Crystal Johnson		yes
	Joyce Spiker	Joyce Spiker		no
	Taylor Jennings	Taylor Jennings		Yes
	Mahayla Matlick	Mahayla Matlick		Yes
	Paige Hatch	Paige Hatch		NO
	Ashley Wilt	Ashley Wilt		yes
	Patt. Wilt	Patti Wilt		no
	Tiffany Field	Tiffany Field		yes
	Janet Worden	Janet Worden		NO
	R. Cheryl Weber	R. Cheryl Weber		

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S.?
11-7-24	Cathy Reithovich	Cathy Reithovich	774 Taylor School Rd Bridgeport, WV 24330	No
11-7-24	Christina Lyons	Christina Lyons	3456 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	Yes
11-7-24	Katie Jennings	Katie Jennings	1227 N. Mountaineer Hwy. Newburg, WV 26410	Yes
11-7-24	Deanne Goodrich	Deanne Goodrich	4468 Pleasantdale Rd Kingwood, WV 26537	No
11-7-28	Doris Sheets	Doris Sheets	123 Turnoff Street Kingwood, WV 26537	No
11/7	Breanna Gower	Breanna Gower	610 S Preston Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	Yes
11/7	Stacy Simmons	Stacy Simmons	9439 George Washington Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	Yes

Date	Signature	Printed Name	Address	Comment
02 NOV 24		JACOB FELDMEIER	249 BOVINE DR. ALBRIGHT, WV 26519	
11/16/24		Patty Roy	210 Jameson Ave PARSONS, WV 26287	
11/21/24		Kelly Street	4049 Heming Rd Kingwood WV 26347	
11-2-24		Scott M Funk	104 Frank St Kingwood WV 26537	
11/22-24		RODNEY NEWROW	1867 VISTA VIEW RD KINGWOOD WV 26537	
11/2/24		Anthony Miller	95 West Bourly St Kingwood, WV 26537	
11/2/24		RANDOLPH WHITE	101 Beverly St Kingwood WV 26537	
11/21/24		Reanna Miller	95 W Beverly St Kingwood WV	
11/2/24		Michele McEnroe	107 Albright Ave Kingwood WV	
11/8/24		Donald McEnroe	107 Albright Ave Kingwood, WV	





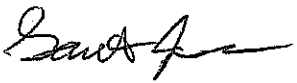

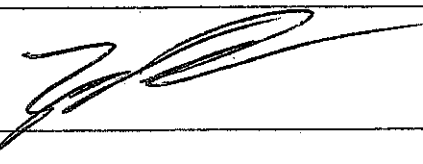


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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11-7-24	Mary Bradshaw	<i>Mary Bradshaw</i>	Kingwood	yes
11-7-24	Sara Felton	<i>Sara Felton</i>	Rowlesburg	no
11-7-24	Bonnie Hixenbaugh	<i>Bonnie Hixenbaugh</i>	Rowlesburg	yes
11-7-24	Stephanie Shay	<i>Stephanie Shay</i>	Rowlesburg	yes
11	Tim Brand	<i>Tim Brand</i>	11	
11-7	Doug Ice	<i>Doug Ice</i>	Rivesville	no
11-7	Franklin Stout	<i>Franklin Stout</i>	Rowlesburg	no
11-7	Mary Wagner	<i>Mary Wagner</i>	Rowlesburg	yes
11-7	Raymond J Wagner	<i>Raymond J Wagner</i>	Rowlesburg	
11-7	Daphne Wagner	<i>Daphne Wagner</i>	Thomas	
11-7	Ralph Wagner	<i>Ralph Wagner</i>	Thomas	
11-7	Dey West	<i>Dey West</i>	Rowlesburg	
	Jennifer Goff	<i>Jennifer Goff</i>	Rowlesburg	no
	Tim Mayhew	<i>Tim Mayhew</i>	Rowlesburg	NO

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11-3-24	Samantha Jennings		3117 George Washington Hwy Tunnelton WV	Yes
11/3/24	Emily Burns Zack		457 Stone Hollow Rd Tunnelton, WV 26440	next year, yes
11/3/24	Zack Burns		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓
11-3-24	K. Bill Burns	Bill Burns	765 Tanner Bedding Terrace	✓
11-3-24	Kathryn Burns	Kathryn Burns	765 Tanner Bedding Rd Tunnelton WV	✓
11-3-24	Teresa Shay	Teresa Shay	2065 Annon Road Newburg, WV 26410	
11-3-24	Kamryn Dribble	Kamryn Gribble		✓ Yes Mam
11/3/24	Jane Mundell	Jane Mundell	2434 Banner Ridge Rd. Fairmont, WV 26534	Retired Teacher
	Darlene Wolfe	Darlene Wolfe	110 Wolfe Run Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	2- graduated
	Edward Wolfe	Edward Wolfe	110 Wolfe Run Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	2- graduated
	Ronald Smith	Ronald Smith	Phillips, WV	1-

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS? NO
	Rosemary Houser	Rosemary Houser	558 Sinclair Hts Moatsville WV 26405	NO
	Adrian Wolfe	Adrian E Wolfe	7083 George Washington Hwy 26444 Tunnelton, WV	No
	Donald Phillips	Donald Phillips	21229 MONTWOM PIKE Thornton WV 26440	
	Jacob Jordan	Jacob Jordan	502 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	No, but will
	Patricia Ridenour	Patricia Ridenour	236 S. Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	No
	Sonya Wolf	Sonya Wolf	608 Whitner Run Rd Philippi WV 26416	No
	Kathy Wolfe	Kathy Wolfe	664 Whitner Run Rd Philippi WV 26416	No
	LARRY HUFFMAN	Larry Huffman	1292 MERRIBUSS RD Tunnelton WVA 26444	No
	Meghan McCawley	Meghan McCawley	99 Sugar Run Dr. Buckhannon WV 26201	No
	Sandra Wolfe	Sandra Wolfe	80 Herm Criss Rd. Tunnelton, WV	No
	David Wolfe	David Wolfe	80 Herm Criss Rd. Tunnelton, WV 26444	No
	Kathy Fike	Kathy Fike	9013 North Preston Highway Abricht, WV 26519	No
	Richard Bergoyne	Richard Bergoyne	Needing w. va	No
	Thomas Ramsey	Thomas Ramsey	323 Elk City Rd Philippi WV 26416	No

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-22-24	Sharon Nire	Sharon Nire	480 3 Sinclair Road Mootsville	NO
11/22/24	Ashley Murray	Ashley Murray	1207 Horn Criss Road, Tunnelton	NO
11-22-24	Norma Murray	Norma Murray	600 Goff Hill Rd. Mootsville WV	NO
11-22-24	Jerry Murray	Jerry Murray	600 Goff Hill Rd. Mootsville	NO
11/7/24	Phil Watring	Phil Watring	Rowlesburg WV 90 S Diamond St 26425	NO
11/7/24	Roy J. Larew	Roy J. Larew	2066 STEVENSBURG RD TUNNELTON WV 26444	NO
11-7-24 11-7-24	Marlene K. Larew	Marlene K. Larew	515 Tunnel Hill Rd Tunnelton	NO
11-7-24	Ron White	Ron White	93 Magadown Ave Newburg	NO
11/7/24	Dexter Parkam	Dexter Parkam	Yorles Run Rd Newburg	NO
11-8-24	MICHAEL RIDENOUR	Michael Ridenour	4396 GEORGE WASH HWY TUNNELTON WV 26444	NO
11/8/24	Vanessa White	Vanessa White	Thornton WV 26440	YES
11-8-24	REBECCA MOULOHAN	Rebecca Moulohan	685 COCHRAN RD THORNTON W.V.	YES
11/8/24	Lacey Tichnell	Lacey Tichnell	Thornton WV 26440	NO
11/8/24	Lloyd R. Tichnell	Lloyd R. Tichnell	245 Cottage Hill Thornton WV 26440	grandchildren YES

# Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/2/24	Judith Nelrow	Judith Nelrow	1227 Upton View Rd <i>Kingwood</i>	
11/5/24	Terry Hayes	Terry Hayes	1735 Pleasantdale Rd. Kingwood WV 26537	
11/5	RICHARD DALTON	Phil Dalton	3507 Kingwood Pike Pleasantville WV 26547	
11/5	DARLENE DALTON	Darlene Dalton	IL "	
11/5	Carmen Dalton	Carmen Dalton	1355 North Preston Highway Kingwood WV 26537	Yes
11/5	<del>Mary</del>	Monett Cummings	744 Crow ave Morgan TOWN, WV 26505	No
11/5	Jessica Kitchener	Jim Kitchener	19549 George Washington Hwy Elk Garden WV 26717	No
11/5	ANDY Dalton	Andy Dalton	1355 North Preston Hwy Kingwood, WV 26537	Yes
11/5	Matt Dixon	Barry Dixon	8637 Bradenmill R Pk Alb, WV 26017	No
11/5	Jan Light	Jan Light	Kingwood	
11/5	Regan Light	Regan Light	Kingwood	
11/5	Nathan Light	Nathan Light	Kingwood	
11/11	Molly Lipscomb	Molly Lipscomb	106 LaRue Ave. Kingwood	No



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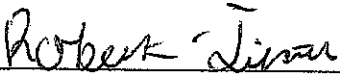
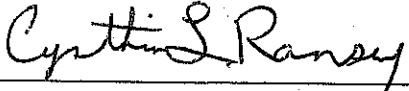

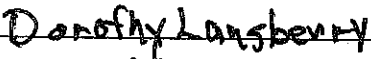
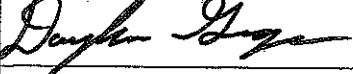

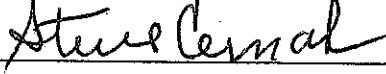

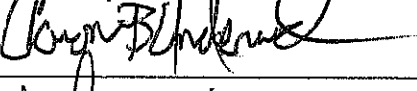
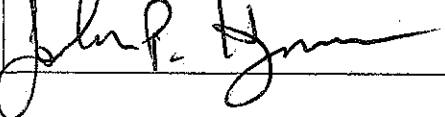
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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
	Karlee Hilt	<i>Karlee Hilt</i>	3338 Campground Rd Tunnelton, WV	yes, goes to Fellowsville
	LeeAnn Dowell	<i>LeeAnn Dowell</i>	164 4th St Wellsburg, WV	yes, grandchild goes to Fellowsville
	John Gragg	<i>John Gragg</i>	Rt 1 Aurora WV 26705	yes, niece and nephew
	John Swingle	<i>John Swingle</i>	806 Thornton	no
	Brianna Hawk	<i>Brianna Hawk</i>	Thornton	no
	teresa Shingleton	<i>teresa Shingleton</i>	Thornton	no
	Melissa Pritt	<i>Melissa Pritt</i>	TERRA AITA	no
	Rick Westbrook	<i>Rick Westbrook</i>	ARTHURDALE	No
	Carolyn Bolyard	<i>Carolyn Bolyard</i>	Grafton WV	No
	Karen Huffman Bolyard	<i>Karen Bolyard</i>	Kingswood, WV	No
	Terry Mason	<i>Terry Mason</i>	Tunnelton WV	No
	Sherry Theoford	<i>Sherry Theoford</i>	Kingswood, WV	No
	Tonye Helms	<i>Tonye Helms</i>	Kingswood	no

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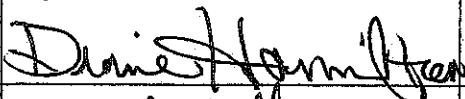
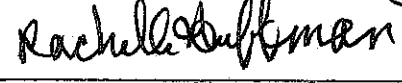


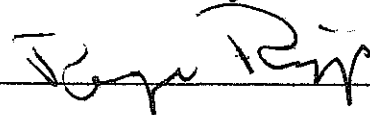
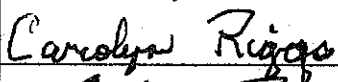
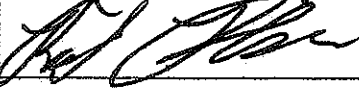

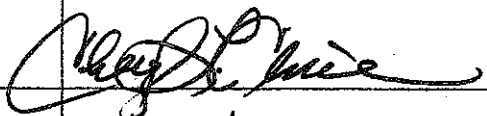
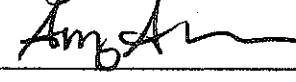

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
	Carla Lottus		2915 Parsons Rd <sup>26283</sup> Martrose WV	NO
	Christina Lyons		3456 Evansville Pike Thornton WV <sup>26440</sup>	Yes
	Robert Tichnell		↓	Yes
	Cynthia Ramsey		323 Elk City Rd. Philippi, WV <sup>26416</sup>	NO
	Bekky Albano		414 South Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV <sup>26444</sup>	yes
	Charles Lansberry		277 George Washington Hwy Thornton WV <sup>26440</sup>	Yes
	Dorothy Lansberry		452 Graton WV, 26854	Yes
	Douglas George		319 Cherry Hill RD 26416	Yes
	Gary Clarkson		150 Salt Creek Rd <sup>Rowlesburg</sup> WV <sup>26425</sup>	NO
	Steve Cernak		118 Albright Rd Kingwood WV <sup>26537</sup>	No
	Kelly Underwood		29 Diana Dr. Fairmont WV	NO
	Aaron Underwood		29 Diana Dr. FAIRMONT WV	NO
	John Hynes		808 Pittsburgh Ave Fairmont, WV	NO

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-3-24	Darryl Grabowski		185 Maplebrook Ln Philippi WV	No
11-3-24	<del>CAROLYN</del> Carolyn Funk		932 Rankin Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	No
11-3-24	Breanna Osborn		759 Rankin Rd Tunnelton, WV	No
11-3-24	Diane Hamilton		985 <del>St.</del> Preston Tunnelton WV	No
11-3-24	Rachelle Huffman		1146 S Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	No
11/3/24	Tammy Jacobs		Newburg, WV	No
11/3/24	Ralph Lyons		Newburg, WV	No
11-3-24	Rogen Riggs		Rowlesburg WV	No
11-3-24	Carolyn Riggs		Rowlesburg WV	No
11-3-24	Rick Rhodes		Tunnelton WV	No
11-3-24	CHARLES CLINE		23221 Glw Hwy Clearwater WV	No
11-3-24	Cheryl L. Cline		23221 Glw Hwy Clearwater	No
11.03.24	Amy Allen		5394 Union Rd Philippi	No
11.03.24	Barbara Allen		5394 Union Rd Philippi	No

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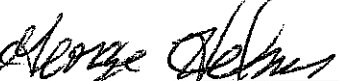
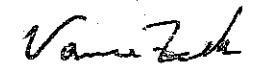


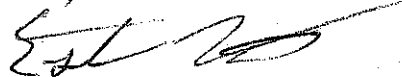
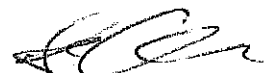



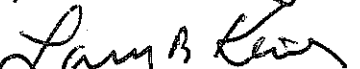

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-3	Lynn A. Jenkins	Lynn A. Jenkins	PO Box 267, Ellenboro, WV 26346	
11-3	Michael T. Proudfoot	Michael T. Proudfoot	1540 Nestorville Rd. Philippi WV 26416	NO
11-3	William Brown	William W. Brown	PO, Bx 33 Newburg WV 26410	Yes
11-3	Kendra Brown	Kendra Brown	P.O. Box 33 Newburg, WV 26410	No
11-3	Joseph Knotts	Joseph Knotts	108 FIRE DEPT Loop WV 26414	NO
11-3	Rebbie Lyons	Rebbie Lyons	P.O. Box 393 Newburg, WV 26410	NO
11-3	Richard Lyons	Richard Lyons	P.O. Box 393 Newburg, WV 26410	NO
11-3	Donna Shahan	Donna Shahan	8907 George Washington Hwy 26444	NO
11-3	Judy Helms	Judy Helms	10590 Newburg WV 26410	
11-3	John Helms	John Helms	10590 Newburg WV 26410	
11-3	Tom Funk	Tom Funk	1993 Chestnut Ridge Newburg	NO
11-3	Jodi Larew	Jodi Larew	2892 Marquess Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	Yes + I Teach
11-3	Taylor Jordan	Taylor Jordan	502 Evansville Pike Thornton, WV 26440	No but I will
11-3	Gaige Haddix	Gaige Haddix	70 West Main St. Grafton, WV 26354	No

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	Tessa Smith		1460 Scotch Hill Rd Thornton, WV 26440	No
	Tom SHAHAN		8907 GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY TUNNELTON WV	NO
	George Helms		10598 NEWBURG WV	NO
	Vance Funk		1983 Chestnut Ridge Hts.	No
	Elijah Osborne		759 Rankin Rd Tunnelton	
	Amanda Wilson		18155 Morgantown Pike Meatsville	No
	Eston Kirkland		679 Little Falls Rd Morgantown	NO
	Shane Osborne		972 Rankin Rd Tunnelton WV	Yes
	LAWRENCE MOORE		202 FIVE FORKS ROAD-FAIRMONT	No
	Selena Wiles		651 Dogtown Rd. Reedsville	NO
	Pennie Murray		155 Sandy Bottom Drive Tunnelton	NO
	LARRY B. KINES		4646 Nestorville Rd Phillips, WV 26016	NO
	DAVE HOUSER		558 SINGLER HTS. MEATSVILLE	No

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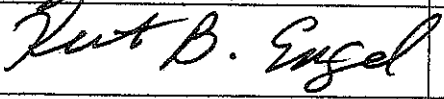

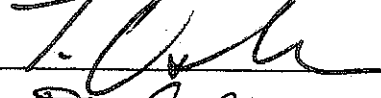

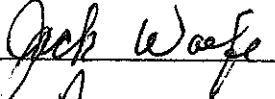
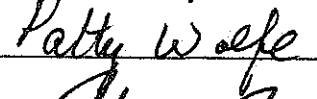
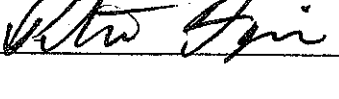
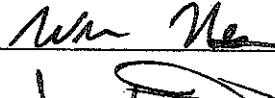
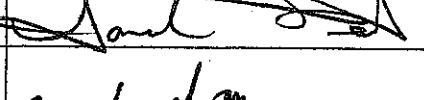
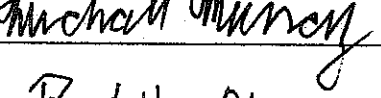
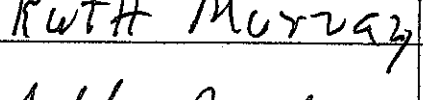
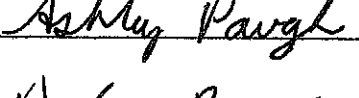
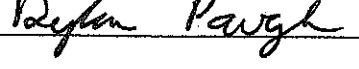
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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	BRENT SMITH	<i>Brent Smith</i>	1460 Scotch Hill Rd Thornton, WV 26440	NO
11-3-24	Stacy Poole	<i>Stacy</i>	160 Grimes Rd. Tunnelton, WV 26444	NO
11-3-24	Rebecca Poole	<i>Rebecca Poole</i>	160 Grimes Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	NO
11/3/24	Bill Larow	<i>Bill Larow</i>	712 Main Rd. Thornton, WV 26440	NO
11/3/24	Misty Calvert	<i>Misty Calvert</i>	1052 Concord Rd. Newburg, WV 26410	NO
	Ashley Hefner	<i>Ashley Hefner</i>	353 March Lane Morgantown WV 26508	NO
	Darlena Smith	<i>Darlena Smith</i>	237 Austin Dr Rd Thornton WV 26440	NO
	DAN Loughrie	<i>Dan Loughrie</i>	887 Green Valley Rowlesburg WV	NO
	Donna Loughrie	<i>Donna Loughrie</i>	887 Green Valley Rowlesburg WV	NO
	Michael Lyons	<i>Michael Lyons</i>	321 Sandy Bottom Rd Kingwood WV 26537	NO
	Cynthia Lyons	<i>Cynthia Lyons</i>	321 Sandy Bottom Rd Kingwood WV 26537	NO
	Tina Mayfield	<i>Tina Mayfield</i>	Enterprise, WV	NO
	Greg Mayfield	<i>Greg Mayfield</i>	Gpsj, WV	NO
	Dan Puller	<i>DANNY RUTHER</i>	Fellowsville	NO

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	Zach Barlow		Reedsville	NO
11/3/24	Kurt B. Engel		Terra Alta	NO
	George Herndon			
	Tim Osborne		Fellowsville	
	David ZINN		Fellowsville	NO
	Jack Wolfe		Fellowsville	yes
	Patty Wolfe		Fellowsville	yes
	Peter Frazier		Fellowsville	NO
	William Nestor		Fellowsville	NO
	Sarah Feather		Thornton	No I went here.
	Michael Murray		Fellowville	NO
	Ruth Murray		Fellowsville	
	Ashley Paugh		Newberg	yes
	Dylan Paugh		Newberg	yes

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	John Sinclair	John Sinclair	13294 Veterans Mem Reedsville, WV	Yes
11/3/24	Mike A. Hartsell	Mike A. Hartsell	1180 Breedlove Rd Eglogon, WV	NO
11/3/24	Sherrie Casteel	Sherrie Casteel	722 Marquess Rd Tunnelton	NO
11/3/24	Mike Wolfe	Jenny Machal Wolfe	1994 South Presto N Highway	NO
11-3	Aaron Shipp	Adrian Shipp	Marquess Rd	NO
11/3	Nichole Larew	Nichole Larew	791 Maple Run Rd Thornton	NO
11/3	Bryce J Larew	Bryce Larew	791 Maple Run Rd Thornton	NO
11-3	Rich Maynard	Rich Maynard	PO Box 72 Newber WV 26641	NO
11-3	Donald Layfield	DONALD LAYFIELD	34 Catfish Hollow Rd. Charlesburg WV 26301	NO
11-3	Charlotte HART	Charlotte Hart	609 Coleman Ave. Fairmont, WV 26554	NO
	MIKE HYMAN	Mike Hyman	8678 Southview, Stonewood WV	NO
	Dan Scholz	Dan Scholz	111 Hackers cr RD Philippi	NO
	Alex Wolfe	Alex Wolfe	2004 Grape Run Tunnelton, WV 26744	NO

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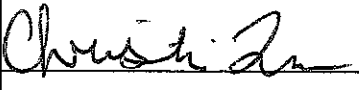
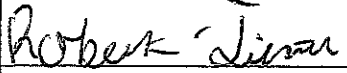
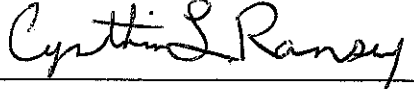

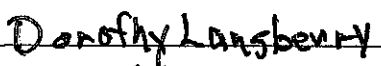
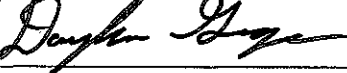





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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
	Karlee Hilt	<i>Karlee Hilt</i>	3338 Campground Rd Tunnelton, WV	yes, goes to fellowsville
	LeeAnn Dowell	<i>LeeAnn Dowell</i>	164 11th St Wellsburg, WV	yes, grandchild goes to fellowsville
	John Gragg	<i>John Gragg</i>	Rt 1 Aurora WV 26705	yes, niece and nephew
	John Shingleton	<i>John Shingleton</i>	<del>806</del> thornnton	no
	Brianna Hawk	<i>Brianna Hawk</i>	thornnton	no
	teresa Shingleton	<i>teresa Shingleton</i>	thornnton	no
	Melissa Pritt	<i>Melissa Pritt</i>	TERRA ALTA	no
	Rick Westbrook	<i>Rick Westbrook</i>	ARTHURDALE	No
	Carolyn Bolyard	<i>Carolyn Bolyard</i>	Grafton WV	No
	Karen Huffman Bolyard	<i>Karen Bolyard</i>	Kingwood, WV	No
	Terry mood	<i>Terry mood</i>	Tunnelton WV	No
	Sherry Thedford	<i>Sherry Thedford</i>	Kingwood, WV	No
	Tonye Helms	<i>Tonye Helms</i>	Kingwood	no

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
	Carle Lottus		2915 Parsons Rd <sup>26283</sup> Montrose WV	NO
	Christina Lyons		3456 Evansville Pike Thornton WV <sup>26440</sup>	Yes
	Robert Tichnell		↓	Yes
	Cynthia Ramsey		323 Elk City Rd. Philippi, WV <sup>26416</sup>	NO
	Bekky Albano		414 South Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV <sup>26444</sup>	yes
	Charles Lansberry		277 George Washington Hwy Thornton WV <sup>26440</sup>	Yes
	Dorothy Lansberry		453 Gratton WV, 26854	Yes
	Douglas George		319 Cherry Hill RD 26416	Yes
	GARY CLARKSON		150 SMTHEK Rd <sup>Rowlesburg</sup> WV 26425	NO
	Steve Cernak		118 Albright Rd Kingwood WV <sup>26537</sup>	No
	Kelly Underwood		29 Diana Dr. Fairmont WV	NO
	ANN Underwood		29 Diana Dr. FAIRMONT WV	No
	John Hynes		808 Pittsburgh Ave Fairmont, WV	NO

# Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-3-24	DERRYL GRABOWSKI	<i>Derryl Grabowski</i>	185 Maplebrook Ln Philippi WV	NO
11-3-24	CAROLYN Carolyn Funk	<i>Carolyn Funk</i>	932 Rankin Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	No
11-3-24	Breanna Doherty	<i>Breanna Doherty</i>	759 Rankin Rd Tunnelton, W.V	No
11-3-24	Diane Hamilton	<i>Diane Hamilton</i>	985 S. Preston Tunnelton, WV	No
11-3-24	Rachelle Huffman	<i>Rachelle Huffman</i>	1146 S Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	No
11/3/24	Tammy Jacobs	<i>Tammy Jacobs</i>	Newburg, WV	no
11/3/24	Ralph Lyons	<i>Ralph Lyons</i>	Newburg, WV	no
11-3-24	Rogen Riggs	<i>Rogen Riggs</i>	Rowlesburg WV	NO
11-3-24	Carolyn Riggs	<i>Carolyn Riggs</i>	Rowlesburg WV	No
11-3-24	Rick Rhodes	<i>Rick Rhodes</i>	Tunnelton WV	NO
11-3-24	CHARLES CLINE	<i>Charles Cline</i>	23221 G.W. Hwy. Clearwater WV	no
11-3-24	Cheryl L. Cline	<i>Cheryl L. Cline</i>	23221 G.W. Hwy. Clearwater	no
11.03.24	Amy Allen	<i>Amy Allen</i>	5394 Union Rd Philippi	No
11.03.24	Barbara Allen	<i>Barbara Allen</i>	5394 Union Rd Philippi	No

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-3	Lucan A. Jenkins	Lucan A. Jenkins	PO Box 269, Ellenboro, WV 26346	
11-3	Michael T. Proudfoot	Michael T. Proudfoot	1540 Nestorville Rd. Philippi WV 26416	NO
11-3	William Brown	William W. Brown	PO, Bx 33 Newburg WV 26410	Yes
11-3	Kendra Brown	Kendra Brown	P.O. Box 33 Newburg, WV 26410	No
11-3	JOSEPH KNOTTS	Joseph Knotts	108 FIRE DEPT LOOP WV 26444	NO
11-3	Rebbie Lyons	Rebbie Lyons	P.O. Box 393 Newburg, WV 26410	NO
11-3	Richard Lyons	Richard Lyons	P.O. Box 393 Newburg, WV 26410	NO
11-3	Donna Shahan	Donna Shahan	8901 George Washington Hwy 26444	NO
11-3	Judy Helms	Judy Helms	10590 Newburg WV 26410	
11-3	John Helms	John Helms	10590 N Mountain View Hwy	
11-3	Pam Funk	Pam Funk	1993 Chestnut Ridge Hts Newburg	NO
11-3	Jodi Karew	Jodi Karew	2892 Marquess Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	Yes + <sup>I</sup> Teach
11-3	Taylor Jordan	Taylor Jordan	502 Evansville Pike Thornton, WV 26410	No but I will
11-3	Gaige Haddix	Gaige Haddix	70 West Main St. Grafton, WV 26354	No

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	Tessa Smith	<i>Tessa Smith</i>	1460 Scotch Hill Rd Thornton, WV 26440	No
	Tom SHAHAN	<i>Tom Shahan</i>	8907 GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY TUNNELTON WV	NO
	George Helms	<i>George Helms</i>	10598 NEWBURG WV	NO
	Vance Funk	<i>Vance Funk</i>	1993 Chestnut Rdg. Hts.	No
	Elijah Osborne	<i>Elijah Osborne</i>	759 Rankin Rd Tunnelton	
	Amanda Wilson	<i>Amanda Wilson</i>	18155 Morgantown Pike Meatsville	No
	Estan Kirkland	<i>Estan Kirkland</i>	679 Little Falls Rd, Morgantown	NO
	Shane Osborne	<i>Shane Osborne</i>	972 Rankin Rd Tunnelton WV	Yes
	LAWAENCE MORRE	<i>Lawrence Morre</i>	202 FIVE FORKS ROAD-FAIRMONT	No
	Selena Wiles	<i>Selena Wiles</i>	651 Dogtown Rd. Reedsville	NO
	Pennie Murray	<i>Pennie Murray</i>	155 Sandy Bottom Drive Tunnelton	NO
	Larry B. Kines	<i>Larry B. Kines</i>	4646 Nestorville Rd Phillips, WV 26016	NO
	DAVE HOUSER	<i>Dave Houser</i>	558 SINGERLAR HTS. MEATSVILLE	No

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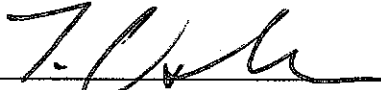

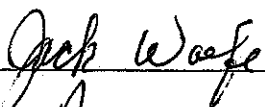
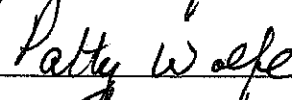
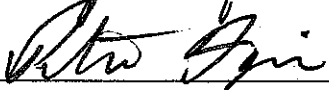
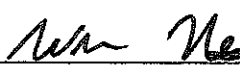
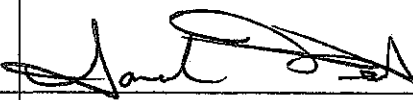


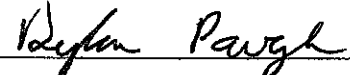
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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	BRENT SMITH	<i>Brent Smith</i>	1460 Scotch Hill Rd Thornton, WV 26440	NO
11-3-24	Stacy Poole	<i>Stacy Poole</i>	160 Grimes Rd. Tunnelton, WV 26444	NO
11-3-24	Rebecca Poole	<i>Rebecca Poole</i>	160 Grimes Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	NO
11/3/24	Bill Larow	<i>Bill Larow</i>	712 Main Rd. Thornton, WV 26440	NO
11/3/24	Misty Calvert	<i>Misty Calvert</i>	1052 Concord Rd. Newburgh WV 26410	NO
	Ashley Hefer	<i>Ashley Hefer</i>	353 March Lane Morgantown WV 26508	NO
	Darlene Smith	<i>Darlene Smith</i>	237 Austin Fr Rd Thornton WV 26440	NO
	DAN Loughrie	<i>Dan Loughrie</i>	887 Green Valley Rowlesburg WV	NO
	Donna Loughrie	<i>Donna Loughrie</i>	887 Green Valley Rowlesburg WV	NO
	Michael Lyons	<i>Michael Lyons</i>	321 Sandy Bottom Rd Kingwood WV 26537	NO
	Cynthia Lyons	<i>Cynthia Lyons</i>	321 Sandy Bottom Rd Kingwood WV 26537	NO
	Tim Mayfield	<i>Tim Mayfield</i>	Enterprise, WV	NO
	Greg Mayfield	<i>Greg Mayfield</i>	GPSJ, WV	NO
	Dan Pallen	<i>DANNY PALLENS</i>	Fellowsville	NO

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	Zach Barlow		Reedsville	NO
11/3/24	Kurt B. Engel	Kurt B. Engel	Terra Alta	NO
	George Herwin			
	Tim Osborn		Fellowsville	
	David Zinn		Fellowsville	NO
	Jack Wolfe		Fellowsville	yes
	Patty Wolfe		Fellowsville	yes
	Peter Frazier		Fellowsville	NO
	William Nestor		Fellowsville	NO
	Sarah Feather		Thornton	No I went here.
	Michael Murray		Fellowsville	NO
	Ruth Murray	Ruth Murray	Fellowsville.	
	Ashley Paugh		Newberg	yes
	Dylan Paugh		Newberg	yes

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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	John Sinclair	John Sinclair	13294 Veterans Mem Reedsville, WV	Yes
11/3/24	Mike A. Hartsell	Mike A. Hartsell	1180 Breedlove Rd Eglog, Wv	NO
11/3/24	Sherrie Casteel	Sherrie Casteel	722 Marquess Rd Tunnelton	NO
11/3/24	Mike Wolfe	Jenny Michael Wolfe	1994 South Presto n Highway	NO
11-3	Araron Shipp	Araron Shipp	Marquess Rd	NO
11/3	Nichole Larew	Nichole Larew	791 Maple Run Rd Thornton	NO
11/3	Bryce J Larew	Bryce Larew	791 Maple Run Rd Thornton	NO
11-3	Rich Maynard	Rich Maynard	PO Box 72 Newbs WV 26410	NO
11-3	Donald Layfield	DONALD LAYFIELD	34 Catfish Hollow Rd. Charlesburg WV 26301	NO
11-3	Charlotte HART	Charlotte Hart	609 Coleman Ave. Fairmont, WV 26554	NO
	MIKE HYMAN	Mike Hyman	8678 Southover, Stonewood Wv	NO
	Dan Scholz	Dan Scholz	111 Hackers cr RD Philippi	NO
	Alex Wolfe	Alex Wolfe	2004 Grape Run Tunnelton, WV 26444	NO

Date	Signature	Printed Name	Address	Comment
11/2/24	Janet Macrosie	Janet macrosie	47 Chestnut Ridge Hts Newburg wv 26410	
11/2/24	Marsha Wolfe	Marsha Wolfe	107 dog run Reelsburg wv	
11-2-24	Amy Thorn	Amy Thorn	109 Seemant Dr Kingwood WV 26537	
11-2-24	John R. Thorn	John R. Thorn	109 Seemant Dr Kingwood WV 26537	
11-2-24	Justin Benson	Justin Benson	301 Kimberly Lane Kingwood wv 26537	
11/2/24	Brenda Howard	Brenda Howard	57 Walkes Way Kingwood WV	
11/2/24	Art Lipscomb	Art Lipscomb	125 East High St. Kingwood WV 26537	
11/2/24	Ray Funk	Ray Funk	Lakeside Road Terra Alta WV 26721	
11/2/24	Corbin Lipscomb	Corbin Lipscomb	104 South Sigler St. Kingwood, WV, 26537	
11/2/24	Roger Street	ROGER STREET	198 East St. Mountain, WV 26542	




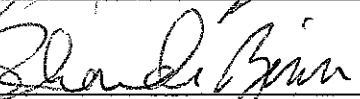

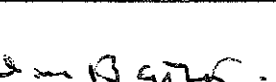


Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S.?
11-7-24	Cathy Reithovich	Cathy Reithovich	774 Taylor School Rd Bridgeport, WV 24330	No
11-7-24	Christina Lyons	Christina Lyons	3456 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	Yes
11-7-24	Katie Jennings	Katie Jennings	1227 N. Mountaineer Hwy. Newburg, WV 26410	Yes
11-7-24	Deanne Goodrich	Deanne Goodrich	4468 Pleasantdale Rd Kingwood, WV 26537	No
11-7-28	Doris Sheets	Doris Sheets	123 Tunnelton Street Kingwood, WV 26537	No
11/7	Breanna Gower	Breanna Gower	610 S Preston Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	Yes
11/7	Stacy Simmons	Stacy Simmons	9439 George Washington Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	Yes

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/7	Crystal Johnson	Crystal Johnson		yes
	Joyce Spiker	Joyce Spiker		no
	Taylor Jennings	Taylor Jennings		Yes
	Mabryla Matlick	Mabryla Matlick		Yes
	Paige Hatch	Paige Hatch		NO
	Ashley Wilt	Ashley Wilt		yes
	Patti Wilt	Patti Wilt		no
	Tiffany Field	Tiffany Field		yes
	Janet Warden	Janet Warden		NO
	Ricker / Warden	Ricker / Warden		

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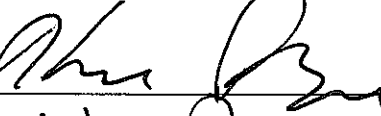
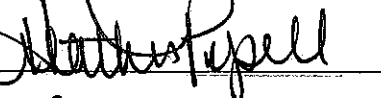

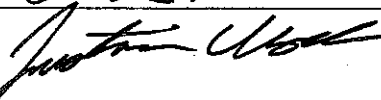
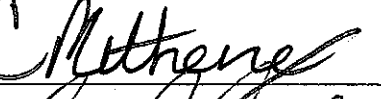


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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11/3/24	Brando Naylor		Reedsville	No
11/3/24	Michael A Hartsell	Michael Hartsell	Egdon	NO
11/3/24	Anita Berns	Anita Berns	Terra Alta	no
11/3/24	Bruce Staub		Terra Alta	no
11-3-24	John Crippin		Ferdinand WV	NO
11-3-24	Rhonda Zinn		Tunnelton WV	NO
11-3-24	MICHAEL STEMPLE		MEADOWVILLE	no
11.3.24	BARTLET. DONI		Flemington W.V.	No
11/3/24	Eugene Mottolo		Newburg WV	-
11-3-24	Stanley Paup		Crotton	NO
11-3-24	Denise Harmon	Denise Harmon	8478 Southwind Dr. Monaca WV	NO
11/3/24	John Cunningham		247 Corbin Branch Rd. B. Post	NO
11/3/24	Carol Smiley	Carol Smiley	34 Henderson Dr. Philippi, WV	No

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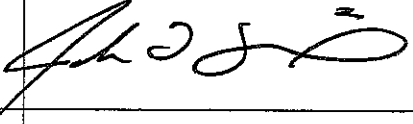

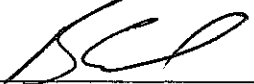
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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
	Berley Culbertson		209 June Lane W.V.	
	DORA DEVERS	Dora & Doreo	8443 Knottsville Rd THORNTON, WV 26840	
	Kristopher Pysell		1844 Yorks Road Newburg	
	Heather Pysell		1844 Yorks Road Newburg, WV	
	PATTY CLARKSON <del>Patty Clarkson</del>	Patty Clarkson	615 Cornwell Rd Thornton, W. V. 26840	
	Helen Knatts	Helen Knatts	PO BOX 141 Terra Alta, W.V. 26764	yes
	Veronica Hovatter	Veronica Hovatter	382 Fredland Rd Terra Alta, WV 26764	No
	Charles Cline		8225 Crossville Rd, Terra Alta, WV 26764	yes
	CARL D. CAIN	Carl D. Cain		No
	Justin Usher		46 S Preston Hwy	No
	Caithyn Matheny		787 Pleasant Valley rd, Tunnerton WV	
	Carol Castle		10977 Geo. Wash. Hwy Parkersburg, WV 26425	yes
	Bradley Castle		10972 Geo Wash. Hwy Rowles, WV 26425	yes
	Adrian Funk	Adrian Funk	Red Oak Allright, W.V	No

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S.?
11-3-24	EDNA BRITTON	Edna Britton	206 2nd ST Terrace Lta WV	NO
11-3-24	TERRANCE SILCOTT	Terrance Silcott	2115 ANNOD RD 26490	
11-3-29	KENNETH R. SHABAN	Kenneth R. Shaban	1576 GORE WASHING <sup>THORNTON</sup> HW 26440	NO
11-3-24	KateLyn Gribble	KateLyn Gribble	99 Herm Chriss ROAD thornnton	
11-3-24	Dana Willis	Dana Willis	Independence Rd, Ind.	NO
"	Tom Willis	Tom Willis	"	"
11-3-24	John Richman	John Richman	1229 Richman Rd. Moatsville WV 26405	NO
11-3-24	Cheryl Clarkson	Cheryl Clarkson	596 RunnerCut Rd Thornton W 26440	NO
11-3-24	Chad Rush	Chad Rush	425 white oak rd philippi WV 26416	NO
11-3-24	Danielle Rush	Danielle Rush	425 white oak rd philippi WV 26416	NO
11-3-24	Alice Bean L	Alice Bean	96 Abbey Ln., Fairmont, WV 26454	20 School Teacher Former Student


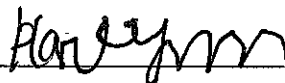

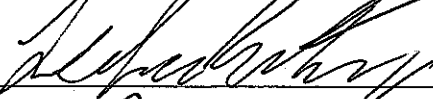

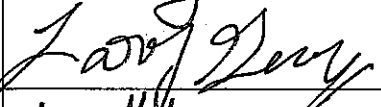

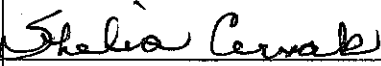
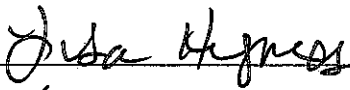


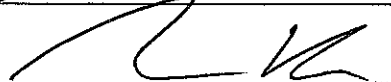
Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/3/14	Shawn Mike	Shawn Mike	204 White Oak Lane Elberts Wv. 26241	No
	David Bolyard	David Bolyard	GRAFTON W.Va.	NO
	Erma Mayle	Erma Mayle	Grafton W Va	NO
	GLEN SHAFFER	Glen Shaffer	GRAFTON WV	N/A
	Donna Bolyard	Donna Bolyard	Grafton WV	NO

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S.?
	Jody Markley	Jody Maury	17 Sandy Bottom Dr Tunnelton	N
	John Singleton		806 Eliason Rd Thornton WV 26440	N
	Mark Knotts		P.O. Box 141 Terra Alta WV	Y
	Rira Knotts	Rira Knotts	<del>SAB</del> PO Box 141 Terra Alta w.v. 26764	N
	Willow Knotts	willow Knotts	PO BOX 141 Terra Alta, w.v. 26764	N
	Caleb Beveridge	Caleb Beveridge	5090 S Preston Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	N
	Sandra Jennings	Sandra Jennings	4425 Marquess Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	N
	Betty Carr	Betty Carr	Philippi WV. PES (Teacher)	N
	Brenda S. Cool	Brenda S Cool	168 Meadow Dr. Loot Creek WV	N
	Brandon Cool		6000 Scenic View Dr. Morgantown WV 26505	No
	Abbigail Mace	Abbigail Mace	46 S preston HWY Tunnelton WV 26444	NO

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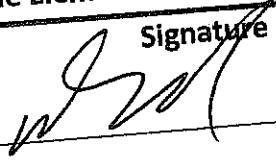
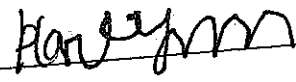


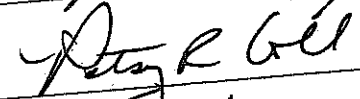
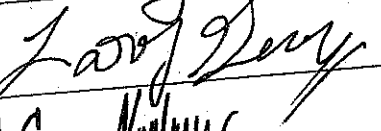


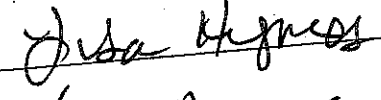
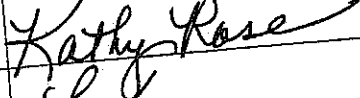


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Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-3-24	Donald Funk		418 South Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV	
11-3-24	Delsie Funk		" "	yes
11-13-24	Harlan Burleyson		7853 gorge Washington hwy	
11-13-24	Braisley Burleyson		7853 gorge Washington hwy	
11-13-24	Charles Lassbery Jr		277 George Washington Hwy	yes
	Leila Lassberry		" "	yes
11/3/24	Patsy R Coll		321 Dunkin Ave Bridgeport WV	No
11/3/24	Larry George		106 West Locust St	YES
11/3/24	Evan Clarkson		150 Saltlick Road	No
11/3/24	Shelia Cernak		118 Albright Rd. Kingwood, WV	No
11/3/24	Lisa Hynes		808 Pittsburgh Ave. Fairmont WV	No
11/3/24	Kathy Rose		335 Tyhannon Rd. Philippi WV	No
	Lee Mel		17 Sandy Bottom Dr Tunnelton WV	
11-3-24	Logan Field		3338 Campground Rd Tunnelton WV 26444	yes FES

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
	Jody Markley	Jody Markley	17 Sandy Bottom Dr Tunnelton	N
	John Singleton	[Signature]	806 Eliason Rd Thornton WV 26440	N
	Mark Knotts	[Signature]	P.O. Box 141 Terra Alta WV	Y
	Rita Knotts	Rita Knotts	<del>SAB</del> PO Box 141 Terra Alta w.v. 26764	N
	Willow Knotts	willow Knotts	PO BOX 141 Terra Alta, w.v. 26764	N
	Caldo Beveridge	Caldo Beveridge	5090 S Preston Hwy Tunnelton, WV 26444	N
	Sandra Jennings	Sandra Jennings	4425 Marquess Rd Tunnelton, WV 26444	N
	Betty Carr	Betty Carr	Philippi WV PES (Teacher)	N
	Brenda S. Cool	Brenda S Cool	168 Meadow Dr. Lost Creek WV	N
	Brandon Cool	[Signature]	6002 Scenic View Dr. Morgantown WV 26505	No
	Abigail Mace	Abigail Mace	46 S preston HWY Tunnelton WV 26444	NO

**Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!**

Statistics prove that smaller schools enhance a child's social, emotional and overall well-being. Children also perform better academically.  
Please stand with Felloesville Elementary School and take Preston County towards a better future. STOP CONSOLIDATION!

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in PCS?
11-3-24	Donald Funk		418 South Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV	yes
11-3-24	Delsie Funk			
11-13-24	Harlan Burleyson		7853 Gorge Washington WY	
11-13-24	Braisley Burleyson		7853 Gorge Washington hwy	yes
11-13-24	Charles Laasberry Jr		277 George Washington Hwy	yes
	Leila Laasberry		" "	yes
11/3/24	Patsy R Coll		321 Dunkin Ave Bridgeport WV	No
11/3/24	Larry George		106 West Locust St	YES
11/3/24	Evan Clarkson		150 Sattick Road	No
11/3/24	Shelia Cernak		118 Albright Rd. Kingwood, WV	No
11/3/24	Lisa Hynes		808 Pittsburgh Ave. Fairmont WV	No
11/3/24	Kathy Rose		335 Tyhannox Rd. Philippi WV	No
	Lee Mah		17 Sandy Bottom Dr Tunnelton WV	yes
	Logan Field		Tunnelton WV 26444 3338 Campground Rd	yes FES



# Preston County Residents say NO to CONSOLIDATION and YES to SMALLER SCHOOLS!!!

Statistics prove that smaller schools enhance a child's social, emotional and overall well-being. Children also perform better academically.

Please stand with Fellowsville Elementary School and take Preston County towards a better future. STOP CONSOLIDATION!

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/9/24	Linda Schooley	<i>Linda Schooley</i>	2159 S. Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	No
11/9/24	Gary Schooley	<i>Gary R Schooley</i>	2159 S. Preston Hwy Tunnelton WV 26444	No
11/9/24	Abby Jennings	<i>Abby Jennings</i>	1190 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	Yes
11/9/24	Peggy Jennings	<i>Peggy Jennings</i>	463 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	No grand kids
11/8/24	Franklin Jennings (Rocky)	<i>Rocky Jennings</i>	463 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	No grand kids
11/9/24	Trampus Jennings	<i>[Signature]</i>	1190 Evansville Pike Thornton WV 26440	Yes
11/11/24	Stephanie Plum	<i>Stephanie Plum</i>	Newburg WV	Yes
11/11/24	Emilee Riffle	<i>Emilee Riffle</i>	Reedsville WV	
11/11/24	Jennifer Jennings	<i>Jennifer Jennings</i>	7 Meadow View Ln Thornton WV	Yes

Date	Printed	Signature	Address	Do you have a child in P.C.S?
11/8/24	Russell B Turner II	<i>Russell B Turner II</i>	738 <del>7</del> <sup>WV</sup> <del>Coatesville</del>	Grand kids
11/8/24	Pamela Turner	<i>Pamela Turner</i>	Coatesville WV	Grand kids
11/8/24	Rodney Hatch	<i>Rodney Hatch</i>	Reedsville WV	Grand kids
11/8/24	Michelle Hatch	<i>Michelle Hatch</i>	Reedsville WV	Grand kids
11/10/24	Bill Clarkson	<i>Bill Clarkson</i>		NO
11/10/24	Tori Clarkson	<i>Tori Clarkson</i>		NO
11/10/24	Emma Rankin	<i>Emma Rankin</i>		NO





10/25/24

Diane Hamilton  
985 S. Preston Hwy.  
Tunnelton, WV 26444-7123

## Board of Education Members

As a member of the  
Fellowsville Community,  
I would like you  
to reconsider closing  
our school.

Would you try to  
work out a better  
solution?

Our school is the  
best! Teachers relate  
to the students so  
well.

The school is our  
community meeting of  
our neighbors and  
friends place.

As a 4-H Leader, we  
need a meeting place.  
And you know what  
a good program 4-H  
has for the kids.

As a CESS member,  
I have been going to  
the school to work  
with the kids - reading,  
judging social studies,  
pumpkin carving with  
Kindergarten (since  
2005) supporting the  
teachers when we  
can and many fun  
times. Diane Hamilton  
KEEP Fellowsville Open!

10/29/24

To Whom It May Concern:

Once again, the people who we hired to oversee the education of our children want to close more good schools. The kind of schools that our children and grandchildren find safe and secure. The kind of schools where the teachers and administrators look out for children. The kind of teachers that think they are more than babysitters. They enjoy seeing the kids learn and grow up.

These schools bring about students interested in learning to make their lives better.

These students take that learning and pride in being better home with them.

They are proud of their school and community because they are not just a number. The people they see and learn from every day think of these kids in terms of far more than a means of getting "funding".

These kids are mostly from working families. They do chores at home and on the farm.

They come from these schools.

They have a good background to go on to good, productive lives. When they end up at a Central High School, some get lost.

Many college grads from this area have made their mark on this world. There are kids from this area that work in different trades that are in great demand. Then, there are those that don't get exposed to the knowledge of more Vocational programs and apprenticeship programs that pay young people good money to learn a trade. Those are the kids that are let down. Some end up on drugs or permanent assistance which does nothing to help them, the County, or the school system. Anytime you have a school that truly wants to give the kids an opportunity to learn and make their lives better you should give great consideration to that fact.

Richard Rhodes

10/29/24

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lukas. I go to school at Fellowsville. I love my school and the teachers that teach me. Please don't close my school.

Lukas Stephen

Karlee Hilt (Mother)

To be read at Board of Education Meeting Tues. Oct. 29 2024

My name is Patty Clarkson a 1960 graduate from Fellowsville High School. After my 2 children started attending Fellowsville School, I was employed as a school cook, I worked here and 2 other schools for 25 years.

Fellowsville School is a community supported school as the C.E.O.S. (Community Educational Outreach Service) helps here when asked. We now come on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 1 to 2 hours to help students with reading, math, and the alphabet letters. We've done crafts and pumpkin carving since 2005. If there is a need we will see it is taken care of.

Ruritan is another organization that helps this school.. we reasonably gave \$200. for a computer program in math having 300 skills for 3rd grade. At the book fair gave a donation so all students could buy a book or two. We also buy a book called "I Like Me" for 1st. grade with students name and their friends names init. Last year and this year we have an attendance program at the end of 1st and 2nd semester giving money to best attendances. They receive cash money. Ruritan gives a scholarship to a Senior at Preston High each year. When there is a need we will help

The Fellowsville Alumni also gives a scholarship for a Senior each year and gave money for computer program too.

Fellowsville Fire Dept. gives safety programs at school for students to know what to do when fire is near.

The churches in the area also help students when there is a need.

The school makes a wonderful yearbook each year.

We have a great principal, wonderful teachers and aids, cooks and custodians are the best.

I ask you the Board of Education to PLEASE, save our Fellowsville Elementary School.

*Thank you!*

Sincerely,  
Patty Clarkson

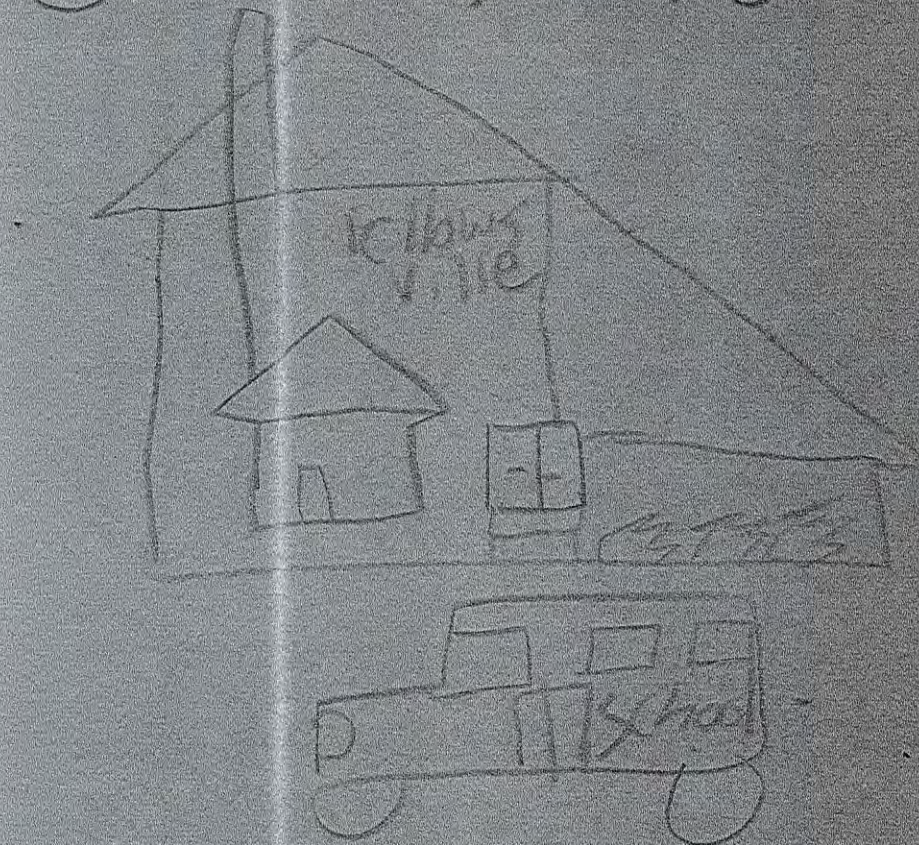
*Patty Clarkson*

S.O.S

Save our School

Fellowsville  
Elementary  
School.

This is  
OUR School!



Pledge  
don't  
close  
our  
School

we ♥

Fellowsville

Please dont close

Our school we

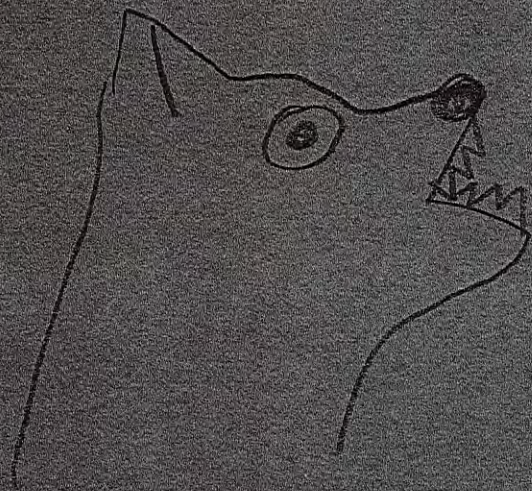
love it here

and dont want

to leave



Fellowsville  
Elementary



I like our school  
my teachers  
and friends  
don't take out

School

Please

We don't want to leave

To Whom it May Concern

No amount of words can truly express how I feel about this possible school closure. I already emailed a long message about my thoughts, opinions and some facts about the school. I got one response from Mr. Hawatter telling me that he feels closing the school is what's best for the county. I strongly and respectfully disagree. I feel that this school closure could be very harmful, not only for our community, but for our children. I sincerely hope that hearing from our community today helps you understand how important our school is to all of us.

- A former Fellowsville  
Elementary student and  
current mother to three  
students.

Good evening, my name is Candace Burleyson. I'm the proud mom of 2 amazing little girls who have had the pleasure of attending Fellowsville Elementary School. I also sub as an aide for Preston County schools. So, I have seen firsthand just how amazing this school and its staff really is.

When my husband first told me the plan to move to Fellowsville from my hometown of Bruceton to say I was not enthusiastic about it would be an understatement. I think my exact words were "great my kids get to go to a little backwoods one room schoolhouse". I didn't know much about the school or community. I just knew it was not my great hometown of Bruceton mills.

My opinion quickly changed once my girls became part of Fellowsville elementary. My oldest started kindergarten here and my youngest started the little learner's program here. The staff and community were so welcoming. They made me feel more welcome than I'd had ever felt in my own hometown. They welcomed us with open arms and open hearts. I had the pleasure of meeting some amazing parents and community members who genuinely cared for everyone there and went out of their way for these kids.

Not only did my girls thrive educationally but they also thrived socially here as well. My oldest is now in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at south Preston and my youngest is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade here at Fellowsville Elementary. Everyday my youngest comes home excited to tell me all about everything she has learned that day. She wakes up every morning an hour before she needs to because she is excited to go to school and refuses to miss a day. Now days that is very hard to find in a child. To her the staff here are like an extended family. I know that I have nothing to worry about when she is here. That the staff will not only be giving her an amazing education but she is safe and loved while here.

Not only is this school important for the education of these amazing kids but it's also the only safe place some of them have. It's very clear that this end of the county has a very high drug and poverty rate. It's just the sad reality of the world that we live in. The staff here genuinely cares for these kids. Doing everything possible to make sure they feel loved and safe while they are here not knowing what they will go home to. Some of these students already feel like they have been forgotten and pushed to the side by the rest of the world. They do not need to lose one of few safe places that they do have just to be thrown into an overcrowded classrooms where they are just another child in a seat. They deserve so much better!

My husband's 84-year-old grandfather is a Fellowsville alumni. This school and community mean so much to him as it does to so many others. Seeing the pride in his eyes while he has gotten to watch his great grandchildren perform in school programs and take

part in sports in the very same place he did as a child. They very same place he met and fell in love with his late wife of 60 beautiful years.

These little” backwoods one room schoolhouse” has changed and continues to change so many lives for the better. I’m proud to call Fellowesvill my home and be part of the Wolfpack!

I could honestly go on and on with reasons why this school needs to be open, but you all already know that it does. So please consider the consequences of what will happen to these wonderful children and this community if Fellowesvill is closed. Prove to these kids that they matter more than money! Thank you for your time!

In 2017 when it came time to enroll my first child in school, I was dead set on him attending Fellowship, but that wasn't how it worked out. Pre-K had been removed from Fellowship at that time and he had to attend South Preston. He liked it and wanted to stay with his friends. Kindergarten I kept telling the teacher he just wasn't getting it she wasn't concerned with that just that he kept switching from right to left hand to write. 1<sup>st</sup> grade he still wasn't doing great he was going to tutoring with Mrs. Squares it was helping and he had a great teacher this year that was willing to help to try and get him help, but Covid happened and they were virtual the rest of the school year. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade I tried to get him help once again I went to his teacher her response "I was going to say something but I was afraid to." Like really. I ended up paying out of pocket to get him tested through our pediatrician. He has a learning disability ADD and Dyslexia. The County wouldn't take his testing because it wasn't done by the County. At this point I was fed up with it and pulled him from school and home schooled for his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade year and his Brothers Kindergarten year. It was a change

But a necessary one, because he was so far behind. When I called to remove them the lady that answered the phone said "Do you know how much money we are losing from you pulling your kids?" Really fix the problem and I wouldn't have had to. They wanted to go back to school to be with their friends I removed them at Fellowship and from the beginning it was a different experience they were ready to help by doing anything they could. The 1on1 time he needed to help him was just what he needed he was doing great they started the SAT process. The classes were ~~smaller~~ smaller and that gave the teachers time to help those that needed the extra help. 5<sup>th</sup> grade had also been taken away from Fellowship, so back to South he went 25 kids in his class but total 50 kids how can they learn this way? He is now in 6<sup>th</sup> grade still on a SAT Plan still not tested by the County and still falling behind, because everything takes time. The bigger classes are NOT going to help those that are falling through the cracks. Yes Fellowship has small class sizes, but it is designed to those that need the help to learn and this is the

best school for them to get it.  
The small class sizes are  
a result of taking things away.  
If the school closes there goes youth  
league basketball and in turn it will impact  
the kids with their extracurriculars. You  
can't add kids to already maxed out  
classes and expect them to learn and  
succeed. Keep Fellowship open  
these kids are our future.

Thank you  
Tamra Bragg

Good evening I'm John Bragg  
a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at South Preston.  
I attended South Preston for Pre-k to  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I attended South from the  
start because Pre-k had been taken away  
from Fellowship. I made friends and  
wanted to stay at South in kindergarten  
and first grade I began not learning as  
quick as the other kids, my mom had  
a meeting with teachers and started the  
process of getting me help my first grade teacher  
helped with testing. It came back I was  
dyslexic and had ADD. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade was a  
crazy year with Covid. I had a hard time  
getting help because they no longer took testing  
not from the county. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade I was  
home schooled because I was falling further  
behind still with no help, I was getting  
caught up slowly I wanted to go back to  
school so for 4<sup>th</sup> grade I was enrolled at  
Fellowship and what a change it was  
smaller classes teachers had the time  
to have 1 on 1 time to work with me  
and I was learning. 5<sup>th</sup> grade was also  
taken from Fellowship so I went back to South  
there was 2 classes 25 kids each  
I was still behind and we started the  
SAT process and we are still doing  
that after 3 yrs I hope you decide to keep  
Fellowship open so kids can learn in  
the smaller class size.



Thank you

JOHN BRASS

October 29, 2024

Mr. Martin and Members of the Preston County Board of Education,

My name is Katie Jennings. I am the mother of a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Fellowsville Elementary and my son has attended the weekly Little Learners program during the past two years. Both of my children love this school and are so proud to be Fellowsville Wolves.

I asked my daughter what it is that she loves about this school and here were her answers: My school is calm. Ms. Angie keeps our school really, really clean. Ms. Mary and Mr. Seth make the tastiest lunches. Ms. Tina helps us with our boo boos, and Mr. Schmidl is so silly! I love the playground because it is super fun! I love my teachers because they are nice and they help me do math. The adults in my school make me happy because they are kind and I know they will keep me safe. This is where my dad went to school. I don't want to go to a different school because I love my school. I love being a Fellowsville Wolf.

While that may not seem like much to you, these answers were exactly what myself and I'm sure many parents wish for in their child's school. These answers told me that my child feels safe and loved by the adults in this building. They tell me that she recognizes and respects the jobs of each individual. They tell me that she feels confident in her strengths and acknowledges her weaknesses, and that she knows her teachers will help her when she struggles. They show that she is proud to be a member of this small community school which has spanned generations of members of her family. Most importantly, it tells me how much my children have to lose if you choose to vote to close this school. It tells me that while there may not be anything that I can say to change your minds, I owe it to my children to try.

While I can understand and appreciate the pressure that you must be under to do what you feel is financially responsible, this decision is certainly not as simple as a set of numbers on a fiscal spreadsheet. There is much research citing the negative impacts of consolidation to students including negative impacts to their psychological well being, less individualized attention, decreases in academic achievement, and loss to the community as a whole.

Some of the most common statements I hear from those who believe these small community schools needs to be closed is that they are "sucking all of the resources", "cost too much to maintain", and that "enrollment is falling". So, when I dove into the numbers I was fully expecting to see where an obscene amount of money was being funneled into these schools, and that students were leaving our school at a far higher rate than all the others. I just did not find that! Almost every school in our county has seen a drop in

enrollment. What I found interesting is that from 2019-2023 the enrollment at Fellowsville was actually increasing. I believe that what hurt their enrollment for 2024 was the failing of the levy vote in May along with the constant threat of school closure.

From a financial prospective, the proposed recommendation states an estimated savings of almost \$684k from the closure of Fellowsville Elementary. This sounds like a lot; however, compared to the general expense fund budget for this year of over \$49 million dollars, this breaks down to a savings of roughly 1.4%. I think it is also important to note here that over the past 5 years of levy funding, less than \$50,000 was specified in the levy reports for Fellowsville in the areas of Maintenance and Operations which had a total budget of \$13.5 million dollars. That is well under half of one percent of the total budget for Maintenance and Operations being sent to Fellowsville.

I say all of this not to complain about money, but to illustrate that the three biggest reasons given for closing this school just don't hold up to the facts. I also say it to show that despite the lack of support being given to Fellowsville Elementary, these students are succeeding! This is due to the amazing teachers and administration, support from local citizens like the CEOs and surrounding small businesses, and a community of parents who truly believe in the value of education.

You might argue that by consolidating these schools, students will be provided better educational opportunities. Well, let's look at the data from WV's Dept. of Education website. In regards to behavior, over the past three years Fellowsville has had the absolute lowest incidence of disciplinary action of any school in the county by far. Academically, according to state testing data over the past three years by grade level, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Fellowsville were 46% proficient in reading compared to countywide proficiency of 39%. They were also 67% proficient in math compared to 45% countywide. There are also no attendance issues to speak of at Fellowsville Elementary – an area of constant concern for many of our schools.

It is clear to see that our children are thriving right where they are! **Is a one percent savings really worth what it will cost to these kids?**

According to your documents, "Preston County Schools is dedicated to improving outcomes for **each** student in an ever-changing world." Your "district vision is to be student-centered, future-focused, and to encourage learning for all stakeholders." If you truly believe this, you will acknowledge the facts and can agree that what is best for **each** student in this school is to remain in this school and to be given the chance to continue to learn and build a solid foundation with the love and support they are shown everyday by the members of this staff and this community. It brings to mind the old saying, "If it's not

broken, don't fix it!" These kids are meeting all of your goals for attendance, behavior, and academics. Keep this school open and give this community the opportunity to continue its legacy of success!

I know that the State Board of Education is strongly encouraging consolidation; however, I also know that the power to make this decision is in your hands and you would not be sitting on this board if you did not have a heart for the children of this county. The voters of Preston County have put their trust in you to do what is best for our children and to provide them with the absolute best education and foundation possible. Please don't make this decision at arms length or from a set of numbers on a spreadsheet. Come into the school. Join us for the Veteran's Day program next week. Walk the hallways and see the wonderful examples of student writing that my son and I admire each week on our walk to Little Learners. Speak with the staff and students who are proud to call themselves Fellowsville Wolves. I believe that you will see that this small school is something truly special and deserving of being protected.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss anything in more detail.

Cell: 304-698-9091

Email: [kmjennings@sandhillwv.com](mailto:kmjennings@sandhillwv.com)

**State Testing Data - Proficiency Rate by Grade and Subject**

[ZoomWV \(k12.wv.us\)](http://ZoomWV(k12.wv.us))

<b>Fellowsville Elementary Testing Data</b> (Proposed Closure)	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Average</b>
3rd and 4th grade Reading	41.5	50	47	<b>46.16667</b>
3rd and 4th grade Mathematics	91.5	67	43.5	<b>67.33333</b>
<b>South Preston State Testing Data</b> (Proposed Receiving)	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Average</b>
3rd and 4th grade Reading	40	25.5	35.5	<b>33.66667</b>
3rd and 4th grade Mathematics	31.5	26.5	38	<b>32</b>
<b>Preston County Average</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Average</b>
3rd and 4th grade Reading	35.5	37.5	42.5	<b>38.5</b>
3rd and 4th grade Mathematics	41	44.5	48	<b>44.5</b>

Preston County Board of Education Members,

\* Submitted by Roberta  
Gribble on 10/29

Good evening. My name is Roberta Gribble. I am a Fellowsville community member and was a student here from 1986-1993. Both of my daughters, Katelyn and Kamryn, were also lucky enough to get their education from here. I'm sure as board members being asked to make such an important decision, you have done research on the logistics of closing this school. I'm going to ask that you consider more than just the money that you are being told that you will save the county.

The most important role of the Board of Education is to ensure that our children receive the best education possible. I would like you to **consider the academic success that our children have here vs. other elementary schools in the county.** I have printed this information for you right from the West Virginia Department of Education website. And as you can see, Fellowsville remains one of the top elementary schools in this county. It does not make sense to me as a parent to send my children on to a much larger school that does not perform well academically. Every parent should go to this website and look at their school's scorecard. When you are done comparing each school in Preston County, compare each county school district in West Virginia. Out of 55 counties in West Virginia, Preston County is ranked 34<sup>th</sup> according to School Digger and 48<sup>th</sup> according to Niche, 2 of the leading statistical information websites. Preston High is ranked 90<sup>th</sup> out of 114 high schools in West Virginia according to US News and World Reports. I say this not to embarrass or anger anyone (although it sure does me), I say this because what we are doing is not working. School consolidation is not working for our kids. Senator Mike Stuart is working on this now.

Student enrollment in Preston County continues to decrease, with a loss of 500 students throughout the county. School choice may be easy to blame for this, but I ask you to **consider why these folks are choosing to pull their kids from Preston's public schools and try something different.** I can't speak for others, but I can say overpopulated schools with proven weak academics is what will drive me to try something different.

There are so many studies showing the negative effects of consolidation on a child's mental health. With an impersonal atmosphere and decreased individual attention being cited as the top culprits. You do not have those problems here at Fellowsville. I ask you to **consider our children's wellbeing.**

I would like for you to think back to when the levy failed in 2018, and the school closing procedures started. Our community members came together in this gym to ask that BOE members consider tabling the vote and running that levy again. We promised to work hard to help get it passed and in 2019 it did. For the first time in such a long time, the feeling around our community was more positive towards the Board of Education. I think everyone from Southern Preston County hoped this meant we would be seen, heard and valued as part of the county. Unfortunately, that changed with the lack of funds used at FES and then of course all of the reports of misappropriations of funds and wasteful spending. I ask you to **consider cutting out their wasteful spending to help the budget rather than cutting out another successful school and hurting an entire community.**

A look into the wasteful spending in our maintenance department needs to happen also. If you could compare the time they spend traveling vs. working, I'm sure it would be eye opening. A light bulb that needs replaced may require a couple of trips from Fellowsville to Kingwood and back again. I saw them

firsthand in "action" when I painted the outside of this school building. The principal asked me to make a list of things that needed attention as I was making my way around the building. One of the first work orders put in was for the gutters to be cleaned. There were literally trees growing in them, so who knows how long it had been since they had done that. I painted my way around the front of the school to the cafeteria side cleaning them out as I went. A county van drives by, turns around and leaves. A while later, the van again drives through the parking lot and leaves. I asked the principal why they were wasting our tax money just driving around and not stopping. He came out later and told me that they had the work order to clean the gutters and didn't have a ladder. No ladder to clean the gutters!?!? Did they think the gutters were on the ground? At the end of the day, the van returns with a truck behind it, with a ladder on it. Now there are at least 4 men here to clean the few gutters that were left. One guy goes up and instead of taking a bag to drop the debris in, he just throws it to the ground, all over the Pre-K playground. Rotten leaves and muck thrown everywhere. I typed out a complete statement, had pictures and gave it all to Mr. Wotring when he took the time to meet with me. He said he would take it up with maintenance. Of course, that didn't seem to change anything because when they accidentally put their foot down through the drywall in the hallway, instead of properly fixing the drywall, a screw with a washer was just driven up into it. These are our hard-earned taxpayer dollars they are wasting. There are so many other examples just like this. I realize finding new employees is difficult at this time, but there should be some accountability. **Please consider addressing the problems for everyone in the county.**

It feels as though we have been a target for many years. They removed our Pre-K and sent them to South. We fought to bring it back and were successful. Then they took our 5<sup>th</sup> grade because they are now to be considered middle school. They added another bus run to allow kids that should be enrolled at Fellowsville to go to south, when they had said they would not do that. Parents switching out of their community schools were to find their own mode of transportation. Bus routes were removed all over the county and then one was added here. Every time the threat of closure comes up, people panic and we lose some children. We are the underdog, but that is OK. Regardless of the lack of funds used at our school, our community is always there to support Fellowsville Elementary school as you can see.

I ask you to please **vote NO** to the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School for our children and our community. I ask you to consider cutting wasteful spending, not the entire southern end of the county. If we are going to get back on track, Preston County Schools will need to be more competitive with the micro, charter and home schooling. This is your chance to do the right thing and make a change. Please vote NO.

Sincerely,

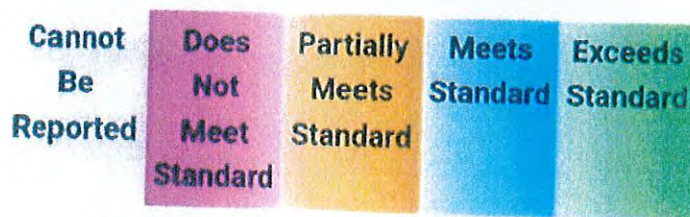
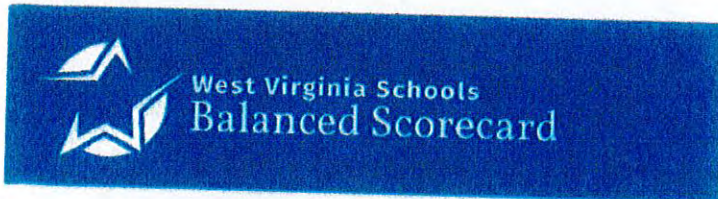
Roberta Gribble

# School Year 2017 - 2018

pg. 1

Elementary Schools	2
Enrollment	553
Middle Schools	7
Enrollment	2,769
High Schools	1
Enrollment	0
Total Schools	10
Enrollment	4,518

## State / District Summary



✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools	<u>Academic Achievement</u>	<u>Academic Progress</u>	English Learners	Student Su
	English Language Arts	English Language Arts	<u>English Learner Progress</u>	<u>Attendance</u> !

School	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
<u>Fellowsville Elementary</u>	✓	✓	
<u>Kingwood Elementary</u>		✓	
<u>Aurora School</u>	✓	✓	
<u>Bruceton School</u>			
<u>Central Preston Middle School</u>		✓	
<u>Rowlesburg School</u>	✓		
<u>South Preston School</u>		✓	
<u>Terra Alta/East Preston School</u>		✓	
<u>West Preston School</u>		✓	



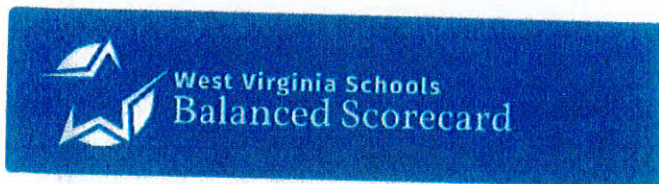


Menu

# School Year 2018 - 2019 *Pg. 1*

Elementary Schools	2
Enrollment	494
Middle Schools	7
Enrollment	2,701
High Schools	1
Enrollment	0
Total Schools	10
Enrollment	4,408

## State / District Summary



Cannot Be Reported	Does Not Meet Standard	Partially Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
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✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools

Academic Achievement

Academic Progress

English Learners

Student Success

	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
<u>Fellowsville Elementary</u>	Yellow	Yellow	Pink	Yellow		Yellow	Green
<u>Kingwood Elementary</u>	Yellow	Yellow ✓	Yellow	Pink		Yellow	Green
<u>Aurora School</u>	Blue ✓	Yellow ✓	Blue	Blue		Blue	Green
<u>Bruceston School</u>	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow		Yellow	Green
<u>Central Preston Middle School</u>	Yellow	Pink ✓		Pink		Pink	Green
<u>Rowlesburg School</u>	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green		Yellow	Green
<u>South Preston School</u>	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink		Pink	Green
<u>Terra Alta/East Preston School</u>	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink		Yellow	Green
<u>West Preston School</u>	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Yellow		Pink	Green

Does Not Meet Standard



Reports for 2019-2020 are unavailable

# District - PRESTON - School Year 2020 - 2021

pg. 1

Elementary Schools	2
Enrollment	447
Middle Schools	7
Enrollment	2,549
High Schools	1
Enrollment	0
Total Schools	10
Enrollment	4,205

## State / District Summary



Cannot Be Reported	Does Not Meet Standard	Partially Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
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✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools

Academic Achievement

Academic Progress

English Learners

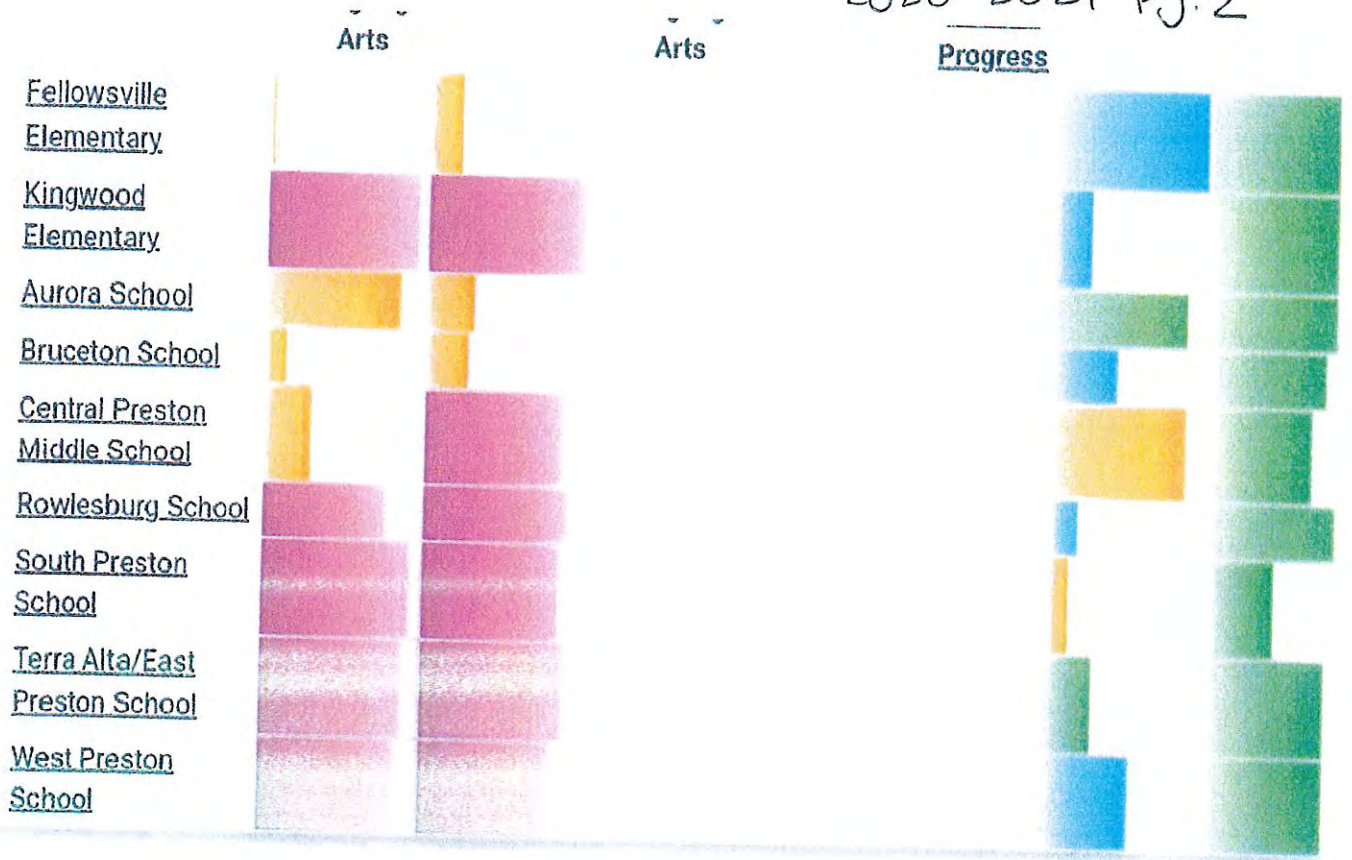
Student Success

English Language Mathematics

English Language Mathematics

English Learner

Attendance Behavior



High Schools    Academic Achievement    Graduation Rate/ cohort    English Learners    Student Success





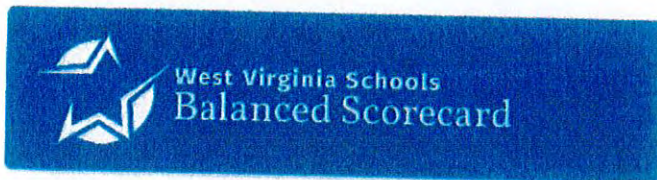
Menu

### School Year 2021 - 2022

Pg 1

Elementary Schools	2
Enrollment	447
Middle Schools	7
Enrollment	2,581
High Schools	1
Enrollment	0
Total Schools	10
Enrollment	4,231

### State / District Summary



Cannot Be Reported	Does Not Meet Standard	Partially Meets Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
--------------------	------------------------	--------------------------	----------------	------------------

✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle

Academic Achievement

Academic Progress

English

Student Success

	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
<u>Fellowsville Elementary</u>	✓	✓					
<u>Kingwood Elementary</u>		✓					
<u>Aurora School</u>							
<u>Bruceton School</u>	✓						
<u>Central Preston Middle School</u>	✓	✓					
<u>Rowlesburg School</u>		✓					
<u>South Preston School</u>	✓	✓					
<u>Terra Alta/East Preston School</u>	✓	✓					
<u>West Preston School</u>		✓					



Menu

State / District Summary



Page 1  
2022-2023



✓ = Meets Annual Target [Click for more information](#) | [Download Data Set](#)

Elementary/Middle Schools	Academic Achievement		Academic Progress		English Learners	Student Success	
	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Language Arts	Mathematics	English Learner Progress	Attendance	Behavior
<a href="#">Fellowsville Elementary</a>	✓						
<a href="#">Kingwood Elementary</a>	✓	✓					
<a href="#">Aurora School</a>							
<a href="#">Bruceton School</a>	✓	✓					
<a href="#">Central Preston Middle School</a>	✓	✓					
<a href="#">Rowlesburg School</a>							
<a href="#">South Preston School</a>							
<a href="#">Terra Alta/East Preston School</a>	✓	✓					

Preston School

West Preston School



High Schools

Academic Achievement

Graduation Rate/Cohort

English Learners

Student Success

English Language Arts

Mathematics

4 Year

5 Year

English Learner Progress

Attendance

On-Track to Graduation

Post-Secondary Achievement

Preston High School



### Notes

Cell Size: Colors on the balanced scorecard indicate items having a minimum of



October 29, 2024 Tuesday

Preston County School Board Members and County Staff

My name is Edward Knotts. I live at 2883 Marquess Road and have lived at this address practically all my life. I was born in the old house on this property with its former address of Route 1, Box 79, Tunnelton, WV. And the old house was built with square nails and had no plumbing until 1957 when my Dad developed a small entrance to an old cannel coal mines. Using  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plastic pipe, which had not been available very long, a water line was run for some 1200 feet into the old house using a horse, plow, mattics, shovels, and several family members and others, had to be 24 inches deep(below frost line) and low and behold we had running water. Had a little iron in, but nothing like the water we drank from the well that gave us sulfur water to drink, and safer than water from the dug well on the property which was there when my parents purchased the farm in 1944. My mother could not wash clothes in water from the drilled well so she was very happy to not carry water from the dug well or continue to collect rainwater to wash clothes with. In the 60's my father installed a bathroom and a waterfront in the kitchen wood/coal cook stove and we were all set for the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

During this period of my life the Marquess Area consisting of Marquess Road, Rankin Road, Stone Hollow Road, Shahan Road, Sinclair Road, Grape Run Road, Runner Cut Road, School House Road, Goff Hill Road, Davis Road, Sinclair Heights had 3 full bus loads of kids who went to this school. I being one of those kids was a first grader here in this building in 1953, when it first opened in the second half of the school year. Lots of good youthful memories here, my two children attended this school, and I have even been a substitute teacher in this building. It has had 2 or so additions since its opening. And with a few cosmetic changes such as new energy saving windows in the oldest part of this building, it would look as good as any school building in this county here in 2024.

Our enrollment numbers for here have dropped because high school graduates who have come from the Marquess Area, for one reason choose to live in other areas of the county and beyond because of the absence of one essential public

service-PUBLIC WATER. It is sad to think that an area such as Dry Fork, a very very sparsely populated area has public water and we do not. Our efforts to secure public water for Marquess are intensifying as we are now in a drouth and many are residents are hauling water in the back of their pickups. We are phase IV of the Newburg Water Project, but we have been in line for water lines long enough. The excuse of waiting till Independence gets hooked up is getting old and will have to have some high government intervention. We are working on this situation, but we need some help from high places.

Another reason for enrollment problems at this school is the students that are supposed to be attending classes here have been administratively allowed to attend South. Discussion on this issue would open up a can of worms that I will not go into for this meeting. But I do wish that our County Staff and Board do have a discussion on this matter and come up with a number of kids attending South that should/could be enrolled at this facility.

Another question to bring up is why are the students, pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade from the Rowlesburg School, if it should close, not coming here? They were brought here after the flood of 85 and there is a lot more space now than during that unfortunate period.

And finally the problem of kids being home schooled, privately schooled, or attending charter schools or attending pop-up church schools. Our far right Republican controlled State Legislature has made a gross mistake of allowing public school funding for these methods of educating our youth. When the smoke settles, and state legislators come to their senses and realize what a big mistake they have made to undermine the good of public schools and to jeopardize the education of our youth, the public schools will get these kids back. Lets hope that Fellowsville School is still open to receive these kids. Accountabilty will eventually come to the forefront as a whole generation of students are at risk of being essentially uneducated. There may be some exceptions, but the 500 plus students that our County is not receiving public funding for is taking a toll on our school system and will for some time to come if it continues. The effect will be monumental. I ask that you **keep** this school open, even if the school levy fails. If the levy is passed, the decision should be a no-brainer.

Thank You, Edward E. Knotts 2883 Marquess Road Tunnelton, WV 26444

[knottsedward@yahoo.com](mailto:knottsedward@yahoo.com)

To whom It may Concern  
please don't close down  
our school.

Logan Stephen

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD MEMBER  
SIGN-IN SHEET (PAYROLL)  
2024-2025 School Year  
DATE: 11/18/2024

Attendance – Please Initial.

**Michael Hovatter**

ML

**Cross Kisner**

CK

**Shelley Miller**

SM

**Lucas Tatham**

LT

**Jeff Zigray**

JZ

Preston County Board of Education  
 Monday, November 18, 2024 PHS 6:00 PM  
 Delegations Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting       Adjourned Session       Special Meeting

If you wish to speak or present to the Board of Education, please print and sign your name.

Community Members (Print Name)	Title—(Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
✓ 1. <i>Tracy Shumaker</i>	<i>Principal</i>
✓ 2. <i>Georgia Phillips</i>	<i>Georgia Phillips</i>
✓ 3. <i>Carol Castle</i>	<i>Carol Castle</i>
✓ 4. <i>Ashley Wilt</i>	<i>Ashley Wilt</i>
✓ 5. <i>Sophia W. It</i>	<i>Sophia Wilt</i>
✓ 6. <i>Caitlin W. It</i>	<i>Caitlin Wilt</i>
✓ 7. <i>Buck Jennings</i>	<i>Del.</i>
✓ 8. <i>Robertta Gribble</i>	<i>Robertta Gribble / Community Member</i>
✓ 9. <i>Rick Rhodes</i>	<i>Community Member</i>
✓ 10. <i>Tabatha Funk-Osborne</i>	<i>Community member</i>
✓ 11. <i>Donald Bub Funk</i>	<i>parent</i>
✓ 12. <del><i>Buck Jennings</i></del>	
✓ 13. <i>Doug Coombs</i>	
✓ 14. <i>ARTHUR BOYLAN</i>	<i>GRAND PARENT</i>
✓ 15. <i>Becky Bolyard</i>	<i>Parent / Teacher</i>
✓ 16. <i>Christine Feathers</i>	<i>Parent</i>
✓ 17. <i>Logan Stephens</i>	<i>Student</i>
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Preston County Board of Education  
 Monday, November 18, 2024 PHS 6:00 PM  
 Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting       Adjourned Session       Special Meeting

Please print names.

County Office Staff	Signature
Bradley Martin, Superintendent	<i>Brad Martin</i>
Angellicia Varner, Asst. Superintendent	<i>Angel Varner</i>
Angela Zofchak	
Justin Hough	
Jana Miller	<i>Jana Miller</i>
Katrina Kerstetter	<i>Katrina Kerstetter</i>
Katie Rush	
Brenda Layton	
Steve Plum	SP ✓
Matt Murray	MM ✓
Dani Kelley	
School Personnel	Signature
1. <i>Craig Schmitt</i>	<i>Craig Schmitt</i>
2. <i>Rhonda Phillips</i>	<i>Rhonda Phillips</i>
3. <i>Angela Williams</i>	<i>Angela Williams</i>
4. <i>Shanda Zinn</i>	<i>Shanda Zinn</i>
5. <i>Hillary Barkow</i>	<i>Hillary Barkow</i>
6. <i>Tina Walker</i>	<i>Tina Walker</i>
7. <i>Michael Yates</i>	<i>Michael Yates</i>
8. <i>Kimberly Nesci</i>	
9. <i>Jennifer Sanders</i>	<i>Jennifer Sanders</i>
10.	
Media (Print Name)	Signature
1. <i>Jacob Martin</i>	<i>Jacob Martin</i>
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
Community Members (Print Name)	Title--(Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
1. <i>Vicki Hovatter</i>	<i>Robert S. McGinn - Community member</i>
2. <i>Pam Heathers</i>	<i>Rick Rhodes - Community member</i>
3. <i>Vanessa Hayes</i>	<i>Angel Younker</i>
4. <i>Walter Koushik</i>	<i>Walter Koushik</i>
5. <i>Crystal Johnson</i>	<i>Buddy Albert</i>
6. <i>Polyton Johnson</i>	<i>Carlynn Funk</i>
7. <i>Joyce Spiker</i>	<i>Elnora Jennings</i>
8. <i>Kartee Hill</i>	<i>Bessie Funk</i>
9. <i>Logan Field</i>	<i>Christina Lyons</i>
10. <i>Linda Schooley</i>	<i>Jamie Eickelberry</i>

*Andy Nesci*  
*Chris Kerns*  
*Makayla Mattick*  
*Nathan Raybeck*  
*LISA Swisher*

*Danny Ridner*  
*Ashley Ridner*  
*Bentley Ridner*  
*Elizabeth King*  
*Rebekah Yates*

*Sarah Sygott*  
*Deseree Newland*  
*Deacon Newland*  
*Emmalynn Newland*  
*Sheila Corbin*

Raenelle Corbin

Julie Nesci

Jmy Nesci

---

Fellowsville Elementary

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From Jasmine Winters <jasminewinter09071988@gmail.com>

Date Mon 11/18/2024 4:40 PM

To Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>

You don't often get email from jasminewinter09071988@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My husband Clinton Winters is a licensed and insured general contractor that is willing to donate labor on Saturday to help repair the roof. Any questions please call him at 304-6984437.

---

**Fellowsville Elementary School**

---

**From** Tim Osborne <tim@provservices.com>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 11:19 AM

**To** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

You don't often get email from tim@provservices.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the members of the Preston County Board of Education,

I, Tim Osborne, owner of Pro V Tree LLC and Pro V Services LLC and my sons pledge to donate funding, equipment and manpower toward the roof repairs to help the Students of Fellowsville Elementary School. With working with local contractors and businesses it seems that there will be a more cost efficient option. We want to help do what we believe is best for the local children and our local community as we have two businesses in this area and many friends and fellow business owners on this small town.

Thank you,  
Tim Osborne  
Owner, Pro V Services LLC

---

**Fellowsville Elementary School roof**

---

**From** John Crippin <jbcrippin48@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 2:00 PM

**To** Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jbcrippin48@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I John B. Crippin of C & S Construction pledge my support and labor to help with the replacement of the metal roof on the Fellowsville Elementary School.

Others have also pledged thier support and labor. This should cut the cost to replace the roof. I have had two kids that have went through Preston County Schools. I may not have any kids but have family in our schools. I have and always will support the Fellowsville School. So I ask that you vote to keep Fellowsville School open and give the community a chance to help cut your overall costs for this and future projects.

John B. Crippin

114 Fellowsville School Rd, Tunnelton, WV 26444

304 698 5577

[Jbcrippin48@gmail.com](mailto:jbcrippin48@gmail.com)

---

**Vote no to Fellowsville closing**

---

**From** ww\_punkin <klbmsb89@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 2:01 PM

**To** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from klbmsb89@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sirs and Madam,

I am against the proposed closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. There are too many unanswered questions concerning this issue.

You are removing students from a higher performing school and sending them to a much lower performing school. Allow these students to continue to have academic success by voting no. Information obtained at [schooldigger.com](http://schooldigger.com).

This school is vital to our community. Students love attending this school. It deserves the same grace that has been given to Rowlesburg school and community for the past several years. There are upcoming students waiting for their chance to attend. It is also used for health fairs, by the Fellowsville Athletics, Inc, by after school Christian group, and the Sandy Pals 4-H Club.

Board members and our board office employees have repeatedly stated that the levy proposals do not pass in this area. However, citizens in this area of the county pay school levy property taxes that benefit other schools. They continue to pay these levy taxes each time a levy is passed. Even when they believe the promised spending for Fellowsville Elementary School has not occurred.

Have all repairs on record actually been made? If needed repairs are beyond the current ability of maintenance employees, has the Maintenance Supervisor visited the school to assess what is needed and made recommendations to bid that repair out? Is there documentation of these visits? Currently, there are recurring issues with the restrooms. Why has this not been put forth as an out of board bid job? It has been stated that an entire new roof is needed. Where is the documentation for this? I have heard that the roof contractor used the wrong size screws on this roof and intended to return to correct this. However, the project manager signed off on the project; so, the necessary correction never occurred.

To conclude, there are many questions that do not have data supported answers. Why are we sending students to a school with lower test ranking? Where is the Board of Education's documentation that levy funds were properly used on the Fellowsville School building? Please, vote no on the closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. Fellowsville Elementary School students perform academically higher than South Preston School, the community supports and uses the school building, and Fellowsville citizens pay their school levy taxes. Show this community you are willing to support their local school by voting no to this school closure.

Thank you,

K. L. Bolyard

Fellowsville Community Member

304.698.3824

---

**Vote no to Fellowsville closure**

---

**From** wv\_punkin <klbmsb89@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 2:37 PM

**To** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from klbmsb89@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

Vote no on the proposed closing of Fellowsville Elementary School.

Fellowsville Elementary School students have outscored South Preston School elementary students consistently for the past years. F S has ranked higher on test scores than other school within our county. Information can be found at [schooldigger.com](http://schooldigger.com).

Allow these students to continue their education in their home community. Allow them to shine for Preston County Schools.

Vote no to closing Fellowsville Elementary School.

Thank you,

K. L. Bolyard

Fellowsville community member

Preston County taxpayer

304.698.3824

---

**Fellowsville Elementary School**

---

**From** Fellowsville Wolves <fellowsvillewolves@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 2:49 PM

**To** Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from fellowsvillewolves@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

The Fellowsville Elementary School PTO, Inc. would like to extend a pledge of \$5000.00 to be used by the community organizers of the roofing project at Fellowsville Elementary School, if it remains open. We will also work towards collecting additional funds, materials and helping hands to make it happen. This school is a vital part of our community, and we will work hard to make up for the maintenance shortcomings. We are a strong and unified community. We can do this together.

Sincerely,  
FES PTO INC

---

**Sand Hill, LLC - Pledge to Fellowsville Elementary School**

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**From** Kate Jennings <kmjennings@sandhillwv.com>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 3:02 PM

**To** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

**Cc** Mrs.Gribble24@gmail.com <Mrs.Gribble24@gmail.com>

You don't often get email from kmjennings@sandhillwv.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

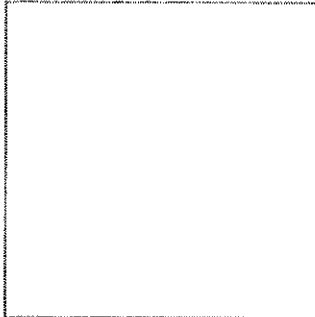
Members of the Preston County BOE,

Attached is Sand Hill's pledge to maintenance and repairs at Fellowsville Elementary.

Sand Hill, LLC - Pledge to Fellowsville Elementary

Thank you,

Katie Jennings  
1088 Evansville Pike  
Thornton, WV 26440  
304-698-9091




November 18, 2024

Members of the Preston County Board of Education,

We, Trampus, Eric, and Trapper Jennings, owners of Sand Hill, LLC pledge our support to Fellowsville Elementary School. We believe in this small school, and are committed to helping where needed whether through funding, equipment use, or laborers for the maintenance and repair of projects at this school. We stand with other local businesses in support of Fellowsville Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Sand Hill, LLC

 Outlook

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(No subject)

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**From** Angel Younker <angel.younker@k12.wv.us>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 4:31 PM

**To** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

20241118\_115138.jpg;

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S21 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

**Just Metal Roofing**

**#WV048692**

**33 cabin ln.**

**Thornton W.V. 26440**

**304-276-9500**

To whom it may concern, I Larry Younker the owner of Just Metal Roofing, is willing to donate my time, men and tools to help replace the Redwoodville school roof, if it would be voted to stay open.

Thank you, Larry Younker

---

**Letter Regarding School Closures**

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**From** Charity Sigley <charity.sigley@k12.wv.us>

**Date** Mon 11/18/2024 3:39 PM

**To** Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Ziggray <jziggray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

 1 attachment (24 KB)

School Letter.docx;

To whom it may concern,

I have attached a letter regarding the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School. I hope you have a chance to read it, and I appreciate your time.

Thank you,

*Charity Sigley  
Pre-K/Pre-K Special Needs Teacher  
Fellowsville Elementary School  
Preston County, WV  
Phone: 304-892-3866*

To whom it may concern,

My name is Charity Sigley, and I am an alumna of Fellowsville Elementary School. In the summer of 2019, I applied and was hired as the Preschool Lead Teacher at Fellowsville Elementary. When I began working full time at Fellowsville, I was absolutely blown away by the welcome I received. The phone call confirming I was hired was not only made by the principal, but the rest of the staff, who excitedly yelled "Congratulations" and welcomed me. I was overwhelmed by the love and support of just that phone call, and I didn't think it could be any better. Upon starting the school year, the entire staff and community rallied to ensure I had an amazing year. The parent volunteers and so many others were willing to help whenever and wherever I needed them. I was most appreciative of the support from families and the school staff when my beloved grandmother passed away only a few weeks after the school year began. I also received support and love from the families and staff when my precious four-month-old niece passed away in September 2021. The love in this community is second to none, and my family and I are forever grateful and so blessed to have them in our lives.

As we all know, when COVID hit our state, the schools closed, but our teachers did not hesitate to prepare all materials to help our students keep on track. From packets to virtual sessions, our teachers rallied to provide the best education possible for the children entrusted to us by their parents. While it was a very difficult, ever-changing situation for at least two years, our staff never ceased to amaze me with their dedication to the education of our students. Over the years, I have watched students go from struggle to strength through their efforts with our staff and the heart each staff member has for supporting students in achieving their best results.

Researchers have discovered smaller schools provide a better environment for learning because it allows the staff to teach from a "whole-child" approach. This means the student's academic, social, and emotional experiences and aspects are examined and used to design inclusive instructional activities, which help to ensure students are learning to their full potential. At Fellowsville, our small classes allow us to teach this way, and it is so much more than just the academics. We teach the students to have compassion, show their strength in adversity, and believe in themselves even when something seems out of reach. I can tell you so many stories of students who accomplished things they never thought were possible. I, myself, would never have thought I would make it through college, let alone become a teacher at my alma mater. I remember passing by my elementary teachers in grocery stores, where we would stop to talk for a while. Each time, I was asked how my schooling was going and encouraged to keep pushing towards my goal. I changed my college major because of the love I had for learning and the support from my former teachers.

As I write this letter, I am reminded of the strength of this beautiful community school. Each student is blessed with bonus aunts, uncles, grandparents, and so many other supporters wanting nothing more than to see them succeed. Our community is the strongest I have ever seen, and it is all due to this exemplary school. I am so proud to say I was a student in this loving school, and I would love to see my future children attend Fellowsville. My love for learning and desire to

become a teacher started in this small school. The school everyone seems to forget about or not consider good enough is the only school that has ever truly felt like home.

It pains me to see the level of blatant disregard and neglect of such a blessing to the community. Our main issues at the school could have been easily resolved over the past few years, but it seems to me no one really wanted to take the time to do so. I have witnessed firsthand how little some people care about the upkeep of the building. How would it feel for you to have someone coming to your home to 'fix' something, and all the person wants to discuss is how you should close or abandon your home? I personally would not want the person to complete any tasks for me, and I would look for someone who genuinely cared about what I needed, regardless of whether it was an easy task or not. I have spent many nights wondering how long it will be before someone decides to make a change for the betterment of the school.

Closing schools does not help our students, and it most certainly does not help our communities. I am very aware that this decision will not be made lightly by anyone on the board of education, and I hope each of you fully considers not only the impact of closure versus non-closure on the county, but also the impact on our students. Our students look to us for so much more than just learning to read and write. They look to us for support, love, guidance, and a safe place to grow and try things they may never imagine possible for them otherwise. I encourage you to please vote to keep our school open.

Thank you,

Charity Sigley



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**FW: Please advise**

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From Micah Whitlow <micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us>

Date Thu 11/21/2024 7:47 AM

To Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

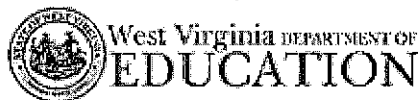
Good morning!

I received a question yesterday and wanted you to be aware of it and my response.

Micah Whitlow

Director School Facilities

Offices of School Operations



Building 6, Suite 650

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Charleston, WV 25305-0330

304.558.2969

[micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us](mailto:micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us)

wvde.us

f | t | Y | T

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**From:** Micah Whitlow

**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 7:45 AM

**To:** Roberta Gribble <mrs.gribble24@gmail.com>

**Subject:** RE: Please advise

Good morning,

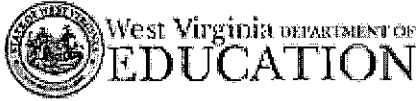
It is not uncommon for the book to be clarified. The most important aspect is that Fellowsvilles' closure and absorption by South Preston are consistent throughout the book. The book does not mention that South Preston is closing and is always set as the receiving school, school absorbing the other, and school being consolidated INTO. These things are consistent with a merger, so this amounts to a wording clarification and not a change in the proposal's intent.

I know these are unfortunate and difficult situations, and hopefully, this explains how things like this are reviewed.

Sincerely,

Micah Whitlow

Director School Facilities  
Offices of School Operations



Building 6, Suite 650  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0330  
304.558.2969  
[micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us](mailto:micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us)  
wvde.us

f | t | YI

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**From:** Roberta Gribble <[mrs.gribble24@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.gribble24@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 2:40 PM  
**To:** Micah Whitlow <[micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us](mailto:micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us)>  
**Subject:** Please advise

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Is it a normal practice for the Superintendent of schools to submit the impact statement and documents, put them out for public consumption, realize the mistake in calling it a consolidation and then quite literally strike through the words and writing merger instead? According to emails between a concerned teacher and the Superintendent, he "modified" and "reworded" these documents as he stated in the email that was sent 11/13/2024 @ 5:49pm. This does not seem like the correct course of action on legal documents. It was said by legal counsel of the county that no modifications could be made to the proposal. With the necessary action always being voted upon by the board members. Can you advise?

Thank you again,  
Roberta Gribble



Outlook

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## FES closing down - intentions with my children

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From Haley Chipman <haleydoodles101@hotmail.com>

Date Fri 11/22/2024 10:25 AM

To Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Rhonda Phillips <rlphilip@k12.wv.us>; mrs.gribble24@gmail.com <mrs.gribble24@gmail.com>; Bradley Martin <brmmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from haleydoodles101@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

should the closing of Fellowsville Elementary happen:

None of the other schools in Preston county are even worth the effort of looking into to enroll.

Not only are the test scores atrocious, but the gossip that surrounds not only the students, but the staff of nearby schools is problematic and concerning at the very least.

My children will not be surrounded by such unprofessionalism and negativity.

It was said that either a parent or an educator argued that Fellowsville is taking money from other children.

My question is, why are my children less important?

Should Fellowsville shut down, my children will be attending a Mon County school.

This county has made it clear where it's priorities lie, and it's not in places that I feel comfortable with. I feel safe, and I feel my children are safe when it comes to Fellowsville. If you take that safety away, we will find it elsewhere.

Thank you.

-Haley Sanders



Outlook

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## Closing our school

---

From Michael Sanders <michael\_sanders16@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 11/22/2024 9:52 AM

To Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Rhonda Phillips <rphilip@k12.wv.us>; Mrs.gribble24@gmail.com <Mrs.gribble24@gmail.com>; Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; brrmartin@k12.wv.us <brrmartin@k12.wv.us>

You don't often get email from michael\_sanders16@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, I am the parent of Michael W "Tripp" Sanders 3. My son attends Fellowsville Elementary School, this school is the pinnacle of our community. The teachers are the friendliest, most informed, and I feel safe leaving my son with them. I wanted to let you know that if you and the other board members choose to close the Only school in Preston County with an outstanding grade so that you can save money and give it to less worthy schools, I will have lost total faith in this school board. I am writing to let you know that if you continue with this, I will be moving my children to Trinity in Morgantown. This school has outstanding grades and is willing to work with me and my children. I will also mention that my second son will be starting school next year and would be attending Fellowsville as well.

**Preston County Board of Education (Monday, November 18, 2024)***Generated by Angellicia Varner on Saturday, November 23, 2024***Members present**

Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

**Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM**

## 1. Opening Business

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Action, Minutes, Procedural: B. Minutes- 10/28/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Rowleburg School Held at the Aurora School

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/28/24 School Closure Hearing for Rowleburg School Held at Aurora School.
- Motion by Jeff Zigray, second by Shelley Miller.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (4-0 with Mr. Kisner abstaining)
- Abstain: Cross Kisner

Action, Minutes, Procedural: C. Minutes- 10/29/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary Held at South Preston

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/29/24 School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary School Held at South Preston School.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Michael Hovatter.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

Action, Minutes, Procedural: D. Minutes- 10/29/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary Held at Fellowsville Elementary

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/29/24 School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary School Held at Fellowsville Elementary School.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

Action, Minutes, Procedural: E. Minutes- 10/30/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Rowlesburg School Held at Rowlesburg School

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/30/24 School Closure Hearing for Rowlesburg School Held at Rowlesburg School.
- Motion by Jeff Zigray, second by Michael Hovatter.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

Discussion, Information, Procedural: F. Delegations

Written Submissions Read In By Mr. Tatham:

- Clinton Winters- received by email at 4:40 PM
- Tim Osborne- received by email at 11:19 AM
- John Crippin- received by email at 2:00 PM
- KL Bolyard- received by email at 2:01 PM
- KL Bolyard- received by email at 2:37 PM
- FES PTO- received by email at 2:49 PM
- Katie Jennings (Sand Hill LLC)- received email at 3:02 PM
- Larry Youker- received by email at 4:31 PM
- Charity Sigley- received by email at 3:39 PM

Delegations:

- Craig Schmidl
- Georgia Phillips
- Carol Castle
- Ashley Wilt
- Sophia Wilt
- Caden Wilt
- Buck Jennings
- Roberta Gribble
- Richard Rhodes
- Tabatha Funk Osborne
- Donald "Bub" Funk
- Doug Coombs
- Arthur Boylan
- Becky Bolyard
- Christine Feathers
- Logan Stephens

## 2. New Business

Action, Discussion, Information: A. Proposed School Closure of Rowlesburg School and Merger with Aurora School.

- The Preston County Board of Education respectively requests approval for the closure of Rowlesburg School and the merger of those students into Aurora School for the 2025-26 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed per Policy 6200. This closure / merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner (3-2)
- No: Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

Action, Discussion, Information: B. Proposed School Closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and Merger with South Preston School.

- The Preston County Board of Education respectively requests approval for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and the merger of those students into South Preston School for the 2025-26 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed per Policy 6200. This closure / merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner (3-2)
- No: Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

## 3. Closing Business

Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn @ 8:24 PM

- Recommend the Board adjourn the 11/18/24 meeting.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

## 11-18-24 School Closure meeting transcription for Fellowsville and Rowlesburg Schools

Brad Martin: Miss Varner, you hot. Streaming. Yeah.

Lucas Tatham: Ms. Varner is doing times tonight's right?

Brad Martin: Yeah.

Lucas Tatham: OK, one final call. Anyone else wanting to speak? If so, this is your chance. OK. Are we all ready, Ms. Varner, are we on live stream? OK, Mr. Martin.

Brad Martin: OK.

Lucas Tatham: Hello, everyone, and welcome to the November 18th, 2024, meeting at the Preston County Board of Education. I am the President, and I will call this special meeting to order, and we'll begin by asking for a moment of silence. OK. And now the Vice president will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Cross Kisner: Thank you. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Kisner. OK, this meeting is called the order and at least a quorum of the board and the Superintendent is present is present. We will start. We have to approve our minutes from our hearings at each of the schools. So, the first item of business is to approve the minutes from. October 28, 2024, from the school closure hearing for Rowlesburg School held at Aurora School. This is an action item. OK. And before we go any further for all of the minutes, I would like the record to reflect that I've gotten written notification from all board members that they have read the minutes in advance.

Brad Martin: In addition, Mr. Tatham from there have been a full full transcript of each of the scheduled hearings below the minutes on each section.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. Can I please get a motion to approve the minutes for October 28th for the school closure hearing for Rowlesburg School held at Aurora.

Jeff Zigray: I make the motion

Lucas Tatham: Made by Mr. Zigray, can I get a second?

Shelley Miller: I'll Second the motion

Lucas Tatham: OK. Seconded by Mrs. Miller. Is there any discussion or corrections or changes to the Minutes from members of the board? OK. Not hearing any, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 4 O with one abstention.

Lucas Tatham: Next on the agenda is approving the Minutes for October 29th from the school closure hearing for Fellowsville Elementary held at South Preston. This is an action item.

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner.

Michael Hovatter: Seconded

Lucas Tatham: That's moved by Mr. Kisner second by Mr. Hovatter. OK. Is there any discussion, corrections or changes to the Minutes from members of? The board. Not seeing any, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 5-0.

Lucas Tatham: Take the next item on the agenda is approving the Minutes for October 29th, 2024, from the school closure hearing for Fellowsville Elementary held at Fellowsville Elementary. This is an action item. May I get a motion?

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner

Jeff Zigray: Second

Lucas Tatham: Second by Mr. Zigray. OK. Any discussion questions or changes? Not seeing seeing any I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 5-0.

Lucas Tatham: The next item is approving the minutes for October 30th, 2024, from the school closure hearing for Rowlesburg School held at Rowlesburg. This is an action item. Can I get a motion.

Jeff Zigray: I make the motion.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Zigray, can I get a second

Michael Hovatter: Second

Lucas Tatham: Seconded by Mr. Hovatter Are there any questions, changes or corrections. Not hearing any, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 5-0.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Thank you. OK. The next item on our agenda is delegations and citizen participation. I am going to go over our policy regarding delegations and citizen participation. This is a discussion and information item where the community discusses, and the board receives and hears information. The opportunity to question school officials was on October 28th, 29th and 30th as per policy R-1 we saw R. 1-9-11. Upon recognition by the President, a speaker making a presentation should clearly state his or her name and the subject of his or her remarks. If at the conclusion of the speaker's remarks any board member desires further

information, the member may address the speaker. If speakers pose questions, those questions can be answered by the superintendent or board members during the deliberation section or at the presiding officer's choice. If he wants to delegate someone to answer. Members of the public, in order of sign sign in shall be an afforded an opportunity to submit statements and testimony prior to the vote on the proposed school closures and mergers. In order to give every member of the public a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony, 5 minutes have been allotted for each member of the public. I received several emails today after 8:00 this morning that were not able to get into the official record, so I'm going to read those emails into the official record now. I have not had a chance to read them and I'm assuming other board members that they received them have not.

Lucas Tatham: OK, this is an e-mail from Jasmine Winters received at 4:40 PM today. My husband Clinton Winters is a licensed and insured general contractor that is willing to donate labor on Saturday to help repair the roof. Any questions, please call him at phone number given.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail is from Tim Osborne. It was received at 11:19 today. To members of the Preston County Board of Education, I Tim Osborne, owner of Pro V Tree LLC and Pro V Services LLC, and my sons pledge to donate funding, equipment and manpower toward the roof repairs to help the students of Fellowsville Elementary School. With working with local contractors and businesses, it seems that there will be a more cost-efficient option. We want to help do what we believe is best for the local children and our local community, as we have two businesses in this area and many friends and fellow business owners, in this small town. Thank you, Tim Osborne, owner Pro V Services, LLC.

Lucas Tatham: This is an e-mail from John Crippin received at 2:00 PM today. I John D Crippin of C&S Construction pledge my support and labor to help with the replacement of the metal roof on Fellowsville Elementary School. Others have also pledged their support and labor. This should cut the cost to replace the roof. I have had two kids that have went through Preston County Schools. I may not have any kids but have family in our schools. I have and always will support Fellowsville School. So I ask that you vote to keep Fellowsville School open and give the community a chance to help cut your overall costs for this and future projects. John B Crippin. Address and cell phone number given.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 2:01 PM Today Sirs and Madam, I am against the proposed closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. There are too many unanswered questions concerning this issue. You are removing students from a higher performing school and sending them to a much lower performing school. Allow these students to continue to have academic success by voting no. Information obtained at schooldigger.com. This school is vital to our community. Students love attending this school. It deserves the same grace that has been given to Rowlesburg School and community for the past several years. There are upcoming students waiting for their chance to attend. It is also used for health fairs, by the Fellowsville Athletics incorporated, by after school Christian group and the Sandy Pals 4H Club. Board members and our Board Office employees have repeatedly stated that the levy proposals do not pass in this area. However, citizens in this area of the county pay school levy property taxes that benefit other schools. They continue to pay these levy taxes each time a levy is passed. Even when they believe that promised spending on for Fellowsville Elementary School has not occurred. Have all repairs on record actually been made? If needed repairs are beyond the current ability of maintenance employees has the maintenance supervisor visited the school to assess what is needed and made recommendations to bid that repair out? Is there documentation of these visits? Currently there are recurring issues with the restrooms. Why has this not been put forth as an out of the board bid job? It has been stated that an entirely new roof is needed. Where is the documentation for this? I have heard that the roof contractor used the wrong size screws on this roof and intended to return to correct this. However, the project manager signed off on the project, so the necessary correction never occurred.

To conclude, there are many questions that do not have data supported answers. Why are we sending students to a school with lower test ranking? Where is the Board of Education's documentation that levy funds were properly used on the Fellowsville School building? Please vote no on the closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. Fellowsville Elementary School students perform academically higher than South Preston

School, the community supports and uses the school building, and Fellowsville citizens pay their school levy taxes. Show this community you are willing to support their local school by voting no to this school closure. Thank you. K.L. Bolyard Fellowsville community member. Telephone number provided.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 2:37 today. To whom it may concern, Vote no on the proposed closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. Fellowsville Elementary School students have outscored South Preston School students consistently for the past years. Fellowsville School has ranked higher on test scores than other schools within our county. The information can be found at schooldigger.com. Allow these students to continue their education in their home community. Allow them to shine for Preston County Schools. Vote no to closing Fellowsville Elementary School. Thank you, K.L. Bolyard, Fellowsville community member, Preston County Taxpayer telephone number given.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 2:49 today. The Fellowsville Elementary School PTO incorporated would like to extend a pledge of \$5000 to be used by the community organizers of the roofing project at Fellowsville Elementary School if it remains open. We will also work towards collecting additional funds, materials and helping hands to make it happen. This school is a vital part of our community, and we will work hard to make up for the maintenance shortcomings. We are a strong and unified community. We can do this together. Sincerely, Fellowsville Elementary School PTO incorporated.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 3:02 PM. Members of the Preston County BOE, Attached is Sandy Hill's pledge to maintenance and repairs at Fellowsville Elementary. Thank you, Katie Jennings, address and telephone number provided.

Members of the Preston County Board of Education. We, Trampas, Eric and Trapper Jennings, owners of Sand Hill LLC, pledge our support to Fellowsville Elementary School. We believe in this small school and are committed to helping where needed, whether through funding, equipment uses or laborers for the maintenance and repair of projects at this school. We stand with other local businesses and support of Fellowsville Elementary School. Sincerely, Sand Hill LLC letter dated November 18th, 2024.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was at 4:31 today. Just Metal Roofing Contractor Number/License provided address and telephone number provided. To whom it may concern; I Larry Younker, the owner of Just Metal Roofing, is willing to donate my time, men and tools to help replace the Fellowsville School roof, if it would be voted to stay open. Thank you, Larry Younker.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 3:39 today. To whom it may concern; I have attached a letter regarding the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School. I hope you have a chance to read it and I appreciate your time. Thank you, Charity Sigley.

To whom it may concern, my name is Charity Sigley. I am an alumna of Fellowsville Elementary School. In the summer of 2019, I applied and was hired as the preschool lead teacher at Fellowsville Elementary. When I began working full time at Fellowsville, I was absolutely blown away by the welcome I received. The phone call confirming I was hired was not only made by the principal, but the rest of the staff who excitedly yelled congratulations and welcomed me. I was overwhelmed by the love and support of just that phone call and I didn't think it could be any better. Upon starting the school year, the entire staff and community rallied to ensure I had an amazing year. The parent volunteers and so many others were willing to help whenever and wherever I needed them. I was most appreciative of the support from families and the school staff when my beloved grandmother passed away only a few weeks after the school year began. I also received support and love from the families and staff, when my precious 4-month-old niece passed away in September 2021. The love in this community is second to none, and my family and I are forever grateful and so blessed to have them in our lives.

As we all know, when COVID hit our state, the schools closed but our teachers did not hesitate to prepare all materials to help our students keep on track. From packets to virtual sessions, our teachers rallied to provide the best education possible for the children entrusted to us by their parents. While it was a very difficult, ever-

changing situation for at least two years, our staff never ceased to amaze me with their dedication to the education of our students. Over the years, I have watched students go from struggle to strength through their efforts with our staff and the heart each staff member has for supporting students in achieving their best results.

Researchers have discovered smaller schools provide a better environment for learning because it allows the staff to teach from a whole child approach. This means the student's academic, social and emotional experiences and aspects are examined and used to design inclusive instructional activities, which help to ensure students are learning to their full potential. At Fellowsville, our small classes allow us to teach this way, and it is so much more than just the academics. We teach the students. We teach the students to have compassion, show their strength in adversity and believe in themselves, even when something seems out of reach. I can tell you so many stories of students who accomplish things they never thought were possible. I myself would never have thought I would make it through college, let alone become a teacher at my alma mater. I remember passing by my elementary teachers and grocery stores where we would stop to talk for a while. Each time I was asked how my schooling was going and encouraged to keep pushing towards my goal. I changed my college major because of the love I had for learning and the support for my former teachers.

As I write this letter, I am reminded of the strength of this beautiful community school. Each student is blessed with bonus aunts, uncles, grandparents, and so many other supporters wanting nothing more than to see them succeed. Our community is the strongest I have ever seen, and it is all due to this exemplary school. I am so proud to say I was a student in this loving school, and I would love to see my future children attend Fellowsville School. My love for learning and desire to become a teacher started in this small school. The school everyone seems to forget about or not consider good enough, is the only school that has ever truly felt like home.

It pains me to see the level of blatant disregard and neglect of such a blessing to the community. Our main issues at the school could have been easily resolved over the past few years but it seems to me no one really wanted to take the time to do so. I have witnessed firsthand how little some people care about the upkeep of the building. How would it feel for you to have someone coming to your home to fix something and all the person wants to discuss is how you should close or abandon your home? I personally would not want the person to complete any tasks for me and I would look for someone who genuinely cared about what I needed, regardless of whether it was an easy task or not. I have spent many nights wondering how long it will be before someone decides to make a change for the betterment of the school.

Closing schools does not help our students, and it most certainly does not help our communities. I am very aware that this decision will not be made lightly by anyone on the Board of Education, and I hope each of you fully considers not only the impact of closure versus non-closure on the county, but also the impact on our students. Our students look to us for so much more than just learning to read and write. They look to us for support, love, guidance, and a safe place to grow and try things they may never imagine possible for them otherwise. I encourage you to please vote to keep our school open. Thank you, Charity Sigley.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Those were all of the emails I received today that were not included in the record beforehand. If one came in, I'm sorry, I mean, I printed it at 4:40, so. OK, so. All right. Next, we have 16 folks that have signed up to speak. We have a microphone up here. I would just say now you're going to have to probably remove the microphone from the holder and hold it up to you so it's close enough for everyone to hear. You have 5 minutes to speak. Mrs. Varner will keep time, and she will give a one-minute warning when you have one minute remaining, and she'll do so loud enough that I can hear. OK. First on the list is Craig Schmidl.

Craig Schmidl: Good evening. My name is Craig Schmidl and I'm the principal of Fellowsville Elementary School and Rowlesburg School. I would like to reiterate what I previously stated at the public hearings I have worked for Preston County Schools for almost 26 years. In those 26 years I've had the honor to work in seven schools in Preston County. I can honestly say the smaller schools such as Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School have been my favorite. Smaller schools have many positive attributes, including but not

limited to providing more one-on-one student adult interaction, providing a close-knit family environment and atmosphere and serving as a hub for the community. Please allow Fellowsville Elementary School and Rowlesburg School to continue their history of success. Please vote to allow Fellowsville Elementary School and Rowlesburg School to continue to exist into the foreseeable future. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Schmidle. Next on the list is Georgia Phillips. Just pull it hard. You'll be OK.

Georgia Phillips: Yeah. Hi, my name is Georgia Phillips and I'm in the 5th grade at Rowlesburg. And I'm on the honor roll. And I'm here to ask you to vote to keep my school. Don't put money over us kids. If you want to keep my school you find a way people always find money for what they really want. This is how much money you want and this is how well you think about the kids feelings. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Miss Phillips. Next is Carol Castle.

Carol Castle: I emailed everybody a copy of it and if you didn't get it, I have paper.

Brad Martin: Ms. Castle it was put in the public record.

Carol Castle: Ok

Lucas Tatham: Ms. Castle, just pull the mic. You can probably leave them stand. Or you could just angle it, there you go.

Carol Castle: I was going to read it again, but I'm not after everything that's been said, I'm here to speak for Rowlesburg and Fellowsville. I suggested that you all take a look at that Crellin and what they've done with the enrichment and everything. Those small schools that they were a Title 1. They're a Title one school and they have a five-star rating. We. To do that, we have three schools in this county. We can do that with Fellowsville, Rowlesburg and Aurora. And if you look at those schools and look at all the programs with technology, we can add enrichment such as sign language and things like that. And if you let the community, be welcomed and involved, you'll get a lot done. That's what happened in that area. So, I'd suggest everybody take a look at it. You ask why a levy don't pass or at least people argue with me about why it didn't pass. Ask the people. Ask the people that didn't vote for it. They'll tell you why they don't. They're not buying the product you're selling. They're voting with their tax dollars. They're voting with their feet. They're taking their kids to community other schools, Christian schools, home schools and micro schools. Asked why they're doing that. I was a parent that took my child and left the county for two solid years and drove almost an hour and a half. One way twice a day, until I decided I'd just volunteer there, but it was to get the best for my child. Let's give these children the best. Let's give them what we can and should give them. You're selling a product. You're selling education. We can, we can pass a levy. If the people feel like they're getting what they are buying, but they don't feel like they are getting that. We watch repairs not get done, we watch things happen like maintenance where we need a ladder, and it takes three trips to Kingwood for a ladder. That makes no sense whatsoever. We see waste cut the waste. Bring in an independent group to look at the books and I I guarantee you if you get several business people across the county, they can find a lot of waste that can be cut. I also guarantee you that if you talk to the people and make them feel like you care and are willing to fix the schools. They will vote for the children when they reject the levy. They're not rejecting the children; they're rejecting a product that they see as inferior and a price that's too high for what you're asking them to pay. If. If you will look at that and if you talk to people, don't just argue with them. I've had people get in my face and argue with me about why these two small schools should be closed, but if you go ahead and do this, I'll guarantee you in less than five years you'll be closing two more schools Aurora and Terra Alta because that is the track record. In the history that we've had and there's never enough money and I'll guarantee you that kids will keep leaving this county. They'll keep leaving the public school and I'll guarantee you people won't pass levies and. I see public schools going down the tubes if you don't start doing something different. We need change, we need change that's positive. We need change that involves the communities helping and making them feel that they have a vested interest and feel that they can trust what's being done with their tax dollars. We need to invest in our kids and what's good for them, because if not public school be gone. And the saddest part of that, because I feel there's a need for

public school, I feel that there's a need for children and parents to have a choice too, but I also know that if kids keep leaving, public school will be down the tubes and be underserved, and the poorest in our communities. Will be the people that suffer. So, I'm asking you please don't close these two schools. Let's put together a committee and work on getting them funded the way they should, with grants and help. And I have to applaud the Fellowsville community because they've really stepped up with offering to help and that's amazing. And you could have the same thing at all the schools. And when you want the extra products, there's band boosters, there's athletic boosters to pay for, some of the stuff that's come out of the levy, and people see that and they say, why should I pay for, you know, a dozen kids too?

Ange Varner: One minute.

Carol Castle: Play basketball or they want to see their dollars go into classical education. They want to see the kids be able to compete in math, science, english and the enrichment is all extra and it can happen easily. Let's just work together. Please don't close these two schools. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Castle. Next on the list is Ashley Wilt.

Ashley Wilt: Hi, my name is Ashley. I'm here to talk about, I guess, Fellowsville Elementary. Same thing could be said for Rowlesburg. I wasn't born in Fellowsville. I was born in Aurora, and I know I emailed all of you guys. A little bit of that history, but we have a lot of issues in Preston County and in West Virginia. We have over 6000 kids in foster care right now. I have adopted 3 kids in foster care and I'm not going to get into that because two of them are here to speak to you and it's hard to tell what they're gonna say. Ohh but when I initially got the placement of my two older children, we were living in Aurora, but I also had a house in Fellowsville, so I knew that I was going to end up moving to Fellowsville. So, I started my kids in Fellowsville and drove down to Fellowsville because some of you are well aware of the foster care system, but when they're placed, they lose every. Everything you couldn't imagine. A lot of us but the teachers at Fellowsville, they welcomed them with open arms, and they weren't easy as kids, they still aren't. You know, but they would get on the phone they would call me, we would work it out. But you know, and I'm not saying Fellowsville is the only one that has great teachers, because I've seen other great teachers in other schools, I really have because I've had other placements, I've had other placements that are reunified. I've seen the teachers in those schools, when they see those kids. You know, making stride, seeing them cry, you know. They care too, but. Fellowsville is special. OK, my kids probably wouldn't have made it in a bigger school. I probably would have went with my first school or home schooling or something along those lines. To be completely honest with you and if it does close, that's probably where we're going, and I don't say that as a threat. I say that because I need you to understand that some of these kids have more than just educational things that they need to know. I mean, all kids do, but some kids really need. Miss Sanders, you know. And teachers like that, and the Fellowsville School, the community, the PTO, they, you know, they run up to the PTO members and hug them. And all that other stuff. But my mom taught in Maryland for years she retired. She subs there so she just recently started subbing at Crellin. She usually, but anyways, a friend of mine, Shelby Miller, shared a post about Crellin Schools and the principal Dana. Um McMcauley, Thank you. Sorry, but we had the opportunity to go and tour Crellin School me, Roberta the Senator and Ms. Plum, she couldn't make it today, but we learned a lot. I mean, a lot. And it was amazing what they are doing. It's amazing to see the test scores and the enrichment programs they have. They also have the kind of like. Lots a stuff going on. Get into that with the enrichment programs. Their hands on they take the kids outside. They get to see stuff and you know, experience it.

Ange Varner: One Minute

Ashley Wilt: I think going towards something like Crellin has is going to compete with those micro schools is going to compete with some of this other stuff to where you guys can get more kids back into the Preston County School system. When Dana actually talked to us, and she was low on numbers like we were. She actually now has 154 students, which is over what she's supposed to have. But the reason is is because people actually moved to Crellin just so their kids could go to Crellin. She talked to us. We asked her, you

know, you guys voted no. If she would come over to Fellowshipville and help us and she said absolutely. She said she would come and tour, see what we could do over there, which you guys would be more than welcome, and she would welcome you guys with open arms as well to be able to see what we could do. She already told me she'd give me a list of grants, different stuff like that that we would be able to apply for.

Ange Varner: Time

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Wilt. Next on the list is Sophia Wilt.

Someone in crowd: Don't be nervous. You got it. Ahh oh no. Come on you can do it, here you can do it, don't be afraid. I I can do it

Lucas Tatham: Is. Is is that Caiden? Is that Caiden

Ashley Wilt: That's Caiden.

Lucas Tatham: How about we have, how about we have Caiden come up and then if Sophia wants to speak after Caiden, then she can.

Caiden Wilt: Hi, my name is Caiden. And I love my school because you get to learn about stuff that's very nice. You learn multiplication, you learn, you learn time. You learn math, you learn. You learn you learn division. And you learn how to be Saints, how to follow the rules at school and you always listen there. And you always have to be good.

Lucas Tatham: You did a good job Thank you Caiden. Sophia, did you want to go?

Ashley Wilt: Sophia gave a Thumbs down.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Thank you. Next on the list is Buck Jennings.

Buck Jennings: Can you hear me there. Do you want me to hold it?

Lucas Tatham: Why don't you hold it, you are a tall guy

Buck Jennings: OK, what I want to discuss with you tonight is West Virginia has a lot of problems. We're first in a lot of things and most of that's negative, but we have the greatest resources of most any state. And one of our resources is our kids. And you know, we have all these drug problems. We have not wanted to go to work. You know what the the answer to that is it's not rehab, it's education. And we're going to start our education from the very beginning. We have a school now that is showing signs of of really doing good. So why do we want to destroy that and blend it with another instead of going to the other school and making that school really good? You've already got this fixed over here. Now let's go over here and I happen to think that Brad does nothing but loves every kid in this county. I have great faith in Brad. But I can tell you right now, he's looking at the easy solution because of the finances. But if you guys would say, Brad, we're not doing that, figure it out, Brad will figure it out. And he will come up with a solution, but we can keep these schools. And and we can, whenever these schools die, that community dies. The reason Fellowshipville does so good is because you see all these people here, they're backing their kids. That's one of the things that we're missing. This consolidation started in the 50's. I remember when I was in high school and Fellowshipville, we was going to be consolidated and all this, but the community does not move with it. The community dies when it consolidates. I will say that in Charleston, we are working on the school aid formula. We're going to try to revise that to where it's it's more fair to to the counties. I can't promise you anything. And the other thing is we have been going the same thing over and over and over since the 50s. We've been consolidating, but we've been going downhill. We've not started, we've not gained. Do you know we are rated the worst in the nation for our schools and it's not because our teachers are worse. Our teachers are great. It's not because our kids are worse. Our kids are great. It's just that we're not. The leadership is not doing its job the way it should. To lead to figure out a way so kids want to go to school, they don't want to stay home. I know we're running into problems with kids wanting to go to micro schools and that, but alternatives is a good thing. It's called competition. Let's make our public

schools the best. So, these kids want to come back to our public schools where they can really thrive and really grow. And. To do that, you as board members have forgot to start being bold, not just following. OK, that's what we're going to do. That's the only. Option we have. You know, you've gotta say to yourself, you know, we're going to make Preston County the best county for education in all of West Virginia. And we can do it. We have the people here that will do it, but it's up to you guys to make that decision to push it. That's what you were ran for, that's what you were elected to do. That's what you got to do. Sometimes it's not easy. This is the worst job. Nobody ever wants on the Board of Education. There is never a right answer, but I'm telling you you can do it. You can and we want to keep these small schools. Once they're closed, it's done, they're gone. They'll not come back. And. Give it some more time. People are realizing these these smaller schools is the place they want to take their kids to.

Ange Varner: One minute.

Buck Jennings: And that's what we want to do. We want to make it so they want to move around Fellowsville, so they want to move. Rowlesburg is such a beautiful little town. I mean, you know, I just smile every time I go through there because of how they take care of their town. It will grow one day. But if you close that school, young people aren't going to bring their kids there to go to school. You've got to keep those those small schools open so that you keep this parent and grandparent and cousins in the involved in their schooling. That's what makes kids excel and I hope that you'll make the right decision here tonight. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Jennings. OK, Next is Roberta Gribble.

Roberta Gribble: Hello me again. Third times the charm right? So, I just want to talk to you guys about the Crellin trip that we took. I know we've a few people have had on it, but I think that would be a great opportunity for Preston County to get behind so that we can compete with the small schools. I feel like the the enrichment programs that they have brought more families in, which is what we need in our area in our state our whole county and our state. So, I really encourage you guys to to think about that when you vote, our school would be perfect for that. It it it felt like when I went to that area, it was home. It felt like Fellowsville. Dana is wonderful, she's she's a beautiful person. So, and she'll help us do everything that we want to accomplish. You know, I just, I think. If you close our school then like they said, it's not, we're not going to bring it back. We can't and we need to go forward. We do need to go forward, but we need to go smaller. We need to think smaller. We need to dial it back. We need to put our kids first. Pretty much what everybody else. Going to tell you so I'll let that be so please vote no.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Gribble. OK. Next on the list is Rick Rhodes.

Rick Rhodes: As I signed up, I had to sign up as a community member. I've got a long history with Fellowsville. I've got some surrogate grandkids that go there. And I'll have to ask myself, since I'm not allowed to ask a question from you. With all the people wanting to donate to put a roof on the school and with the the test scores and how good the kids are doing, and Rowlesburg too. I've got a friend who substitute teaches the two schools he really likes to sub at are Rowlesburg and Fellowsville were kids give him, give him respect and they want to learn. So, I'm going to ask myself. Why would you want to break up a community like that? And if you close Fellowsville School, you'll be breaking up the community.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Rhodes. Next on the list is Tabitha Funk Osborne.

Tabitha Funk Osbourne: Are you able to hear

Lucas Tatham: Yeah.

Tabitha Funk Osbourne: I am Tabitha Funk Osborne and we find ourselves here once again advocating for a vital cause, voting no to the closure of our beloved Fellowsville Elementary School. This isn't just about education, it's about our community, our children and our shared future. Our community is on a path of growth with an increase in population expected in the coming years. Upwards to like 63 kids. We have a unique opportunity to to nurture this growth and ensure that our school remains the heart of our community. For years,

we have supportive levies demonstrating our commitment to education, yet we've seen minimal funding for necessary repairs to the upkeep of our school which caused us to look other ways I went through this levy paper just say I was disappointed about our concern, we got nothing, nothing, hardly at all. As a lifelong resident, Preston County a parent, and a former educator I am passionate about fighting for our school to have another chance. It deserves better than to be shut down, especially when it's served as a cornerstone for so many children and family. Nationwide, the closure of schools is often portrayed as a cost saving measure that can boost performance and create opportunities for disadvantaged students. However, we must consider the hidden consequences, increased absenteeism, decreased involvement in after-school activities and a decrease in parent parental engagement often accompany these closures. For our communities could mean not just living in school but experiencing business downturns and population decline. Not everyone lives in the main Fellowsville community. Many of our children live in areas that will require them to spend an hour on a bus to reach South Preston. This can lead to experience and stress, lower academic performance and lack of participation and extracurricular activities. Our young children deserve better. They should not be burdened with such strain. Let's stand together, vote no to closing our schools. We have the power to protect the education future for our children. The time is stacked. Now let's ensure our beloved felt elementary school remains a pillar of our community. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Funk. Next is Donald Bub Bub Funk.

Bub Funk: Hello, my name is Donald Bub Funk. We're here again, as usual but that the last meeting I was informed that to replace the Fellowsville roof would cost \$900,000. Which seems an absurd amount. I'm a local contractor and I know how much stuff costs \$900,000 is ridiculous. I talked to a couple of members of the panel that are here tonight about the cost. Why it was so high? They said we had to follow guidelines set by the SBA, so I called a high-ranking official in SBA and he said there's no such guidelines that you had to follow as far as the meeting the asphalt shingles and the flat roof. So, then I called back and asked another question, and they said, Oh well, maybe it was the fire Marshall I had Mr. Jennings call the state fire Marshall. He said there's no such guidelines. So I talked to several of the contractors in the area about getting together to donate time to install the room. The SBA guy said there was no problem with that, but he has seen it several times in the past when the community came together to fix the problem, so take a look at the roof. In my professional opinion, most of the problem is from neglect. There are screws missing, screws not all the way in, pipe missing, out of the pipe, moss growing out of it, crate metal missing, no counter flashing up against the side walls. Somebody sent me a picture of screws that backed out in a certain location and five years later the same screws are still exposed. So, I came up with a materials list. I called, it's actually the guy I used for my roofing and he gave him the dimensions and everything he said I could get all the material for \$75,000 including lumber for pearls and everything like that. So, since there's no need to tear off the asphalt or the main part of the roof with it, just pearling it off, wouldn't mess with the asbestos. Then we can just put on the roof right? We're talking no problem. So, we as a community can cover the cost and installation of a new roof. We as a community can take care of them. We have numerous people pledge time, money and material. If you don't close the school. We're also looking into grants to help ease the cost. Do what's right, not what is easy. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Funk. Next on the list is Doug Coombs.

Doug Coombs: Good evening, everybody. My question still has never been answered, so I want to ask you again. I presented you guys with what the state, the state regulation is on the busing time. Has a schedule been worked out for both schools for the children to be on the bus less than one hour? And if it hasn't been, you have no choice but to vote this down. You can't, you're breaking the law. I don't know if it's done purposely, but like I said, the paperwork is getting ready to be turned in. Asking for waivers cannot be turned in until there is a bus schedule for all students that are going to be affected by these two school closings. I don't know if this has been happening. I know I'm not here now and I'm school bus driver, so as far as I know they're not. They haven't got these new schedules out yet. They haven't had their meetings. So, I've talked to the drivers and they're going to be affected by this. They haven't had their meetings. So, like I said, I want to look you look you all in the face and ask, you all gonna do what's right? You're gonna do what's legal? This effects both schools,

more so, Rowelsburg, than the other. I'm not going to talk about the safety of mountain because we know what that is. And also, you know I'm I have facts, you know that, that's ours. They have dropped the ball. That before this is even done, they should have already had these schedules for busing worked out. They have it done henceforth that puts Mr. Brad and Mr. Plum in a bad position. Because legally they can be, they can be held criminally responsible if they don't have this worked out but by the time school starts. It would be it would be classified as gross negligence, and knowingly and willingly endangering the welfare of the county. We don't need that in this county. And we don't need that against either one of them. I know they're doing their job, but right now it's on their shoulders. It makes it it, it's making them look bad. So, all I can tell you is from a legal standpoint, from a taxpayer standpoint, you have no choice right now, but to leave these schools open, table it, figure out what you want to do, especially with these busing schedules. Because, like I said, the kids cannot be on the bus an hour. They don't. You've heard other people say that's going to be an hour. What about it? They don't need to go on the bus that long. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Now we're going to address, or later

Brad Martin: I'll address it later

Lucas Tatham: OK Thank you, Mr. Coombs. Next on the list is Arthur Boylan.

Arthur Boyle: My name is Arthur Boylan and I have a granddaughter go to school here, Fellowsville and she's getting awesome education because these teachers love them kids. And I've heard y'all say that Fellowsville has some of the high scores of these school. Why ruin that? Maybe Denver School or South Preston, or whatever you call it they don't rate up with Fellowsville. Also, Rowlesburg, they have awesome teachers there. It's the small school thing. Where these kids are getting good education. And I can't believe y'all want to ruin that. You want to send Rowelsburg to Aurora? I don't know if y'all get out of Kingwood very much, but if you've ever been up Cheat Mountain in the wintertime that that's not a very fine place to be. It's always flat, large trucks running off up here. If you decide to do that and one of them kids get hurt, God have mercy on your soul, because it's going to be bad. And also. If you've been around the county every place that has has schools shut down well, if you look at them towns now. They look like a third world country. There's nothing there because nobody cares. The schools hold these communities together and that's, I mean, you want to pile them all up in one school. That's not the answer, man. If you look at like the test score. I don't know what they are here in this high school, but I guarantee it they're not as good as what they were when we had community schools. Throughout the country, county and you know I'm a product of consolidation. I was one of the first years that went to West Preston. Well, Masontown thought they had made well, what they getting? They're coming up here now and it's starting to look like a third world town. So. I just beg y'all to to keep these schools in the communities. I mean that that's I mean, I'm an old \*\*\*\*\*. But if I have to work till the day I die. I'll donate my time to help work on that school work. I'll donate money to help fix that school. I mean, y'all kind of hinted if it didn't pass the levy. But it's going to be shut down. You can't hold us hostage because we'll find way to make this work.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Boylan. Next is Becky Bolyard

Becky Bolyard: Good Evening board members.

Lucas Taham: Just pull it right out

Becky Bolyard: On voicemail, I'm Becky Boyard, I taught in Preston County, 12 years full time, 14-year substituting. I really enjoy substituting and going throughout the county and experiencing, you know, education done differently and the small schools is where it's at. I was a student at Newberg Elementary and in 3rd grade I found my report card the other day and said I was in danger of failing reading. And 4th Grade I had an awesome teacher, Diane Price, and she turned me on to reading. I read 100 books that year and I had her for 5th grade also. She had a four/ five split. And now, Newburg, like they said, is a ghost town because they close Newburg. I hate to see that happen to Fellowsville and Rowlesburg because they're both excellent schools. I've taught out at Fellwosville for over five years. I had fifth grade. There was scared to death because I

transferred from second at Tunnelton Denver to 5th at Fellowsville, and I was like, Oh my Lord, I've. I've only been second grade for five years. What's going to happen in 5th? And they were the most amazing children, I told them to go after I worked on my workbook page with them, I told them to go read their story and, you know, they went to their seats and opened their books and started reading the stories. I almost fell out of my chair. I was, wow, I like these children. They have farm morals they're raised on. Farm my son is a farmer himself. He's a Preston High senior this year. And he went to the little schools Fellowsville and South of when, when it was middle school. But this little schools are where it's at. I just as an educator. I had the first class I taught that had 23 kids and there was at Tunnelton Denver 3rd grade I was filling in I had five Cody's and every time I say Cody, they were all in trouble. But that was I had an amazing mentor. Teacher Janice Pierce helped me through that six months or so long six months, this half school year or whatever, and she's passed on now, but that was a little school come up in Denver and Fellowsville, Rowelsburg, Rowlesburg is awesome. Nice, beautiful school out there for a year in 2nd grade. And just coming from someone who's out there was out there in the trenches. I'm off on leave right now, but I really wanted to come back to the school year, but my doctor has not approved it yet. So, I'm only 50, so about 15 years to retirement, so I hope to return to the education system, and I hope it would be in the public school. I live right now on the side of a Laural Academy like they're more like home school. The teachers work with the children individually. They only have like 25 kids. And they're doing amazing things there. And January, they're taking over the upstairs and they have high school kids then. And she said they may be interested in me if I get the release from the hospital to get a job there. But I would love to come back to Preston County Schools because I've had 26 years in with you guys. And, but the small schools is what we need to keep open Fellowsville, Rowelsburg and I'm amazed at the the communities wanting to help with the roof at Rowlesburg opps Fellowsville, I haven't been there for a few years but I don't remember it being that bad, but that is just amazing the community step forward like that to donate their time and labor and money to help correct neglect. But anyway.

Ange Varner: One Minute

Becky Bolyard: Umm, Teachers talk too much anyway, so. Have a good evening and vote No on the closure.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Bolyard. Next on the list is Christine Feathers.

Christine Feathers: Good evening. Alright, so I am a parent of a Fellowsville student currently and a graduate of Fellowsville who's a 7th grader at South and I am currently the secretary of the PTO at Fellowsville and involved with the LSI C and when so tonight we have heard all kinds of testimonies from students, from parents from community members, they have been emotional and factual and objective, but I have one more thing to say. Umm ,so as a PTO member, we were an LSI C we were presented with the paperwork and as the proceedings for the closure began, it came to our attention that no info had no information had really been gathered regarding the reason that so many families left our county public schools and so with our limited resources at Fellowsville and our information, we developed our own survey and we made it available. As many families as we could find. Though ultimately, we had a pretty small sample size, we found some interesting information, and though most families like their teachers and a small class size, they were most unhappy with the quality of their education. So therefore, that says that more attention needs to be paid in creating a competitive educational environment, then attention needs to be paid to how to shut down schools. Especially schools that are performing better than any other school. So, I believe that it would be possible for the board to close the schools without obtaining more a more complete picture of the problem at hand. I also believe that a more thorough examination of the county's budget is in order to determine if this is the only option. If the county fails to fully understand the problem the same issue will be seen over and over, but this requires doing the hard work on the community level on the county level and with our lawmakers in Charleston. So now you are faced with making a difficult decision for our county and I ask that you make the right one.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Feather. Next is Logan Stephens.

Logan Stephens: Please don't close down the school.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Logan. OK, did anyone sign up that I did not call? Did you sign up?

Tim Weaver: I was held up by heavy traffic between Rowlesburg and Kingwood, and I like the privilege of speaking.

Lucas Tatham: Ms. Croyle

Kim Croyle: Has to be here to sign in

Lucas Tatham: Sorry, the rules are we have to sign up beforehand. Did anyone sign up that I did not call? OK. So that completes the citizen input delegations' portion, OK. Next, we will move to new business.

Lucas Tatham: Is it OK if I go on? OK. OK, so this agenda item is the proposed school closure of Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School. This is an action discussion and information item. It is recommended that the Preston County Board of Education respectfully request approval for the closure of Rowlesburg School and the merger of those students into Aurora School for the 2025-2026 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed. Per policy 6200, this closure merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment. OK before we can have discussion amongst the board, I need a motion.

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: OK, moved by Mr. Kisner

Jeff Zigray: Second

Lucas Tatham: And 2nd by Mr. Zigray. OK. I'm going to read the content that was provided on the website that's public content and also all board members have confirmed with me in writing that they've read all materials that are provided. The following information has been compiled for the board's review related to the recommended school closure of Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School for the 2025-26 academic year. The files included closure, closure, application rules for book, Rowlesburg SBA reports, Rowlesburg photo and layout, Aurora SBA reports, Aurora School photo and layout, physical appendix items to school (Brad Martin fiscal) fiscal, I always say it wrong, impact statement and supporting documentation verification, public hearing notification- published, published October 4<sup>th</sup>, public hearing notification-published on October 11<sup>th</sup>, public hearing notification- published on October 18<sup>th</sup>, public hearing sign in and delegation list from October 28, 2024, public hearing sign in and delegation list from October 30, 2024, submitted written statements from the October 30, 2024, public hearings at Rowlesburg School, mailed article from Elizabeth Merriam, communications between Tim Weaver and Brad Martin, communications between Tim Weaver and Cross Kisner, comparative enrollment 2023 to 2024 and 2025 to excuse me, 2024 to 2025 and letter from Carol Castle. OK, so at this time I will ask Mr. Martin for any opening statements that you have.

Brad Martin: Just to begin, Mr. Tatham, just in response to some of the delegation groups we heard earlier, one specific question was posed by Mr. Coombs is in regards to the bus. The bus allocated times we have applied through the through the process in which we have to submit the requested materials to the state board-based education pending board approval tonight. We have requested a waiver for the said bus routes, primarily related to younger students. In terms of the requirement of 30 minutes or less on the bus. The state board is aware that we are not necessarily fully in compliance. This time and when they make it, if it is ultimately presented to the state board, the State board can make a determination as to whether or not they are willing to approve the request based based upon. That the one thing that I would say is, is the anticipated saving of I believe, Mrs. Varner, we're about 9 or 10 service based positions. You know that's one thing that you could look at in terms of the additional drivers being added to try to get closer to compliance on some of the specified routes. So, I just wanted to try to provide you, and the answer based on you posed a specific question. The other thing, and I don't want to necessarily go too deep in this, but in terms of the most recent West Virginia General Summative Assessment results, it is true that that Fellowsville has outperformed South Preston in three out of the four areas. However, South Preston in 3rd grade mathematics did did exceed Fellowsville of proficiency by 12% last year. Rowlesburg had the lowest ELA scores in four of the six tested grades. Two of them were in the they were the bottom overall score in mathematics and two overall areas. So,

while they did have some areas where they, they performed very well very well. I just wanted to point out that in in these instance, our smaller schools do not always necessarily outperform the larger schools in which they're potentially slated to attend. So that's that was just in response to any of the the questions were brought forth earlier. So, at this point, I guess I would be speaking specifically to the situation at Rowelsburg, not Fellowsville. I do have a prepared statement over the past few weeks, the board and I have received public input at two hearings held on October 28th and October 30th regarding the proposed closure of Rowelsburg School and merger with Aurora School at this is proposed for the conclusion of the 24 -25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all kindergarten through 8th grade students from Rowelsburg to Aurora for the 2025 - 26 academic year. If approved by the board tonight and by the State board ultimately.

School closure and merger processes detailed on West Virginia Board of Education Policy 6204 and tonight's meeting has been convened for the board to publicly deliberate and decide on whether to proceed or reject the proposed action. I would certainly say this decision is not an easy one, as we have heard public comments not only tonight but at earlier and previous meetings. We've also received a number of written responses that strongly advocate for keeping Rowelsburg School open and speak to the many positive aspects that are seen at the Rowelsburg school. Despite these compelling arguments, I am here to briefly summarize the reasoning for the recommendation to close Rowelsburg. First, Rowelsburg has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing the long-term statistics, the school has seen a 69.9% decrease in student enrollment over a 10 year span. This has been assessed between between the 2015-16 academic years to 2024-25 academic years. Over this span, there's been a total loss of 79 students during the same spam, Preston County schools has overall seen a 16% decrease in enrollment, totaling a total loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of enrollment, both at both the school and district level, has had a hugely negative impact on district finances as state level funding is primarily driven by student enrollment. In assessing this year's compared this academic year compared to last year, Rowelsburg has lost 12 students, dropping to 33 students from 45 last year. As a whole, the district has lost 177 students from 3935 students last year to 3758 students this. Now to try to talk a little more detail, how that what, what, the ultimate impact that this has when the when assessing this substantial drop in students, this also results in the reduction of funding for both professional and service personnel positions. And while I applaud you know when we were talking about Fellowsville, but earlier the willingness to make improvements to the facility. The primary and the largest general savings is generated through personnel costs. Personnel is our number one expenditure building related costs certainly contribute, but personnel is really where a lot of a lot of our funding is designated. Based on this year's enrollment loss, district will be required to eliminate at least 15 professional positions and 19 service positions. However, at this time, it should be noted that the district is currently in excess for service personnel by 8 positions. This is often required for positions that have to be added, for example, for items such as special needs where we have to have made. I mean there's a variety of factors why we have to add personnel, but I think many of you have visited our schools. I don't feel like we could say that we have an abundance or we're overly staffed as it relates to custodial or cook or bus operators or, you know, I don't feel like we're over. But, you know, we're over. We're over the current state eight form and by 8 positions right now. With that being said, that pushes that to the needed cuts would be at 27 positions. Quite frankly, I I don't know where we find 27 positions in the absence of the action that we've proposed tonight. This would this pushes that need to 27 positions, Preston County, as we have said is no longer has an excess levy in place and that does help to absorb some of those personnel costs. We are no longer, we no longer have federal ESSERF funds, they're no longer available to use to hire personnel above and beyond the state aid formula, therefore the district either make cuts to get within the state aid formula or pay for any positions above and beyond the county formula with county based funds. Without the closure of these two proposed schools, I I find it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to maintain positions within the State aid budget. This action of not closing the schools will also reside in and if you want to know in terms of the the impact on students around the county, the lack of this action will result in a higher percentage of staff at other schools throughout the county being placed on reduction in force status or placed on transfer. What I have consistently seen is through those actions we lose personnel through that process, they seek out employment and other options because, at least in the interim, they don't have a guaranteed job. It is a problem, and it is a concern for sure. This situation would also create substantially higher student teacher ratios and schools throughout the district. With that being said, you

know what that was what that means is, you know, schools around the county going to have larger classes as a result of the lack of. You know, making the the decision to close these schools, you know, again, these schools have much smaller and we've done a lot of things. You know, when you look at Rowlesburg specifically, we have 1 teacher that's teaching 3-4 grades right now, so we've tried to make an efficient use of the staff at Rowlesburg, but that's an untenable situation for for those students at Rowlesburg, you know, with these ratios, it makes it much harder and sometimes impossible for to maintain staffing or level to maintain block scheduling for reading and math instruction at many of our district schools. Board members, I think you can remember. For the meeting at Terra Alta where it was, was indicated that the lack of staffing has made them adjust their schedules accordingly. So, you know that is something to take into consideration. It also should be noted that Preston County's inability to consistently maintain staffing levels within the West Virginia State aid formula and associated financial deficits this created resulting the state takeover of Preston County schools in March of 2009. The state maintained control through 2014 and the direct reasoning for that. As we were persistently operating over the budget that has been allocated for personnel, so I mean board Members I must say we have to look at that and in some of the speeches where men are that have been stated earlier in terms of reasoning and and there was discussion of the levy and I don't discount anything that was brought forth by the presenters but the one thing that's been told to me by many people in the public is Mr. Martin, you have to learn to live within your means. That has been stated many, many, many times people throughout the county and unfortunately, as I look at the situation, it is difficult based on our current fiscal situation to be able to operate schools and and operate buildings in this instance with you know 56 students and 33 students. It is it is very difficult to efficiently run buildings with that number of students. Next, when you assess the Rowlesburg school is considered to be in good and fair condition as assessed by Thrasher. Some of the documents were referenced earlier. That was part of the CEFP process in which we were required to submit a 10-year facilities plan back in 2020. The one thing I would also say board members is that CEFCEFP. And many people referenced tonight while we're back. Again, I would say that being back again should not necessarily come to a surprise to anyone in the fact that the CEFP called for the potential closure of Fellowsville and Rowlesburg after the 5th year, which is where we're sitting right now. So again, I I board members, you have a terribly difficult decision, but this was a decision that was discussed and talked about by and members of these communities served on those committees. So, I do I I did want to make sure. That that's that has been brought forth in terms of facility needed and potential facility improvements at Rowlesburg. The the the assessment by Thrasher Engineering estimate cost to be nearly 922,000. You know, as Mr. Funk alluded to, there can be inflation of those numbers for sure. And I think they are cheaper and more efficiently to make those repairs. But we're dependent upon you know the engineers to provide us with good faith estimates as to you know, the types of costs we might be looking to maintain those buildings long term. In assessing the Aurora School, Aurora School was considered to be in good condition as assessed by Thrasher. Aurora School has the assessed program capacity of 333 students and 327 students as of 2024. Aurora certainly has sufficient capacity to absorb the students from Rowlesburg, which now stands at 34. Aurora's current enrollment is at 144. There's been much discussion in terms of the desire to keep students in small school environments. The Aurora School is a small school environment. It offers many of the same advantages that have been discussed at schools and the benefits that are seen at schools like Fellowsville and like Rowlesburg. To move on in terms of the nuts and bolts in terms of cost, the closure of Rowlesburg school would estimate to save a total of \$648,215.90, which was provided in the assessment document. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50. This would result in the elimination of five and a half professional positions, 4 1/2 service positions. It should also be noted between fiscal year 18 and fiscal year 24 that the per pupil expenditure, the average per pupil expenditure is at \$11,540.72, while the average for Rowlesburg school over the same span of time was \$17,918.02. That was over a span of a number of years. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening when you look at the fiscal year numbers showing that the county per pupil expenditure or average for this year is third or for last academic year was \$13,451.82 while you look at the average Rowlesburg at \$22,918.28. This is an average difference of \$9,466.46 per student that has a substantial margin in terms of the cost and and guys, I know it's more than than dollars and cents, but that is a substantial difference in regards to the cost that it that it cost the district to educate students in Rowlesburg versus schools throughout the county. Due to the

smaller enrollment, currently Rowelsburg students in grades K through four are provided educational services in the single classroom. I think the educators at the Rowelsburg school do a tremendous job and I have a great deal of respect for the individuals who work in the Rowelsburg school, but it's different. It's very difficult in terms of the resources that they have, the numbers they have in terms of staffing. Students in grades five through 8 are educating the core subjects by two teachers. This is not a desirable configuration and a movement of students to Aurora would place students in traditional non split classrooms when assessing Rowelsburg's proficiency results compared to Aurora, Aurora on average is performed favorably. In English language arts, Rowlesberg had a 31.54% proficiency compared to Aurora's 36%, a difference of 4.46%. In math Rowlesburg had a 32.14 proficiency compared to Aurora's at 33.7, the difference of 1.56%. During the previous proposed school closure process, roles of Rowelsburg School in 2018, a major expressed concern was the proposal called for Rowelsburg students to be spread between multiple district schools, including Kingwood Elementary, Central Preston Middle School, Terra Alta East Preston School and South Preston School, and I do understand that, that that the at that point in time, the school felt like they were being ripped apart and spread throughout the county. And I understand. I certainly understand that mentality. The current proposal does call for Rowelsburg students to be sent to a single location. Aurora, I understand that there have been. There have been expressed concerns with the the the routing that students would have to take to get to Aurora school that's been discussed in previous meetings.

Someone in Crowd: saying something muffled

Lucas Tatham: Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me.

Brad Martin: Now one thing that is it should be mentioned is in terms of proximity. Aurora is not the closest option for Rowelsburg School. There are schools that are closer Terra Alta is 0.7 miles closer to the Rowelsburg school. The Kingwood Area Schools, Kingwood Elementary and Central Preston are two miles closer. However, in review of transcripts from the previous closure process, there were parents that asked why Aurora was not a consideration for placement of Rowlesburg students. Concerns have been expressed by people in the Rowlesburg community about the travel up and down Cheat Mountain. This route has been assessed by members of the Department of Education in terms of the Department of Transportation, no significant concerns have been expressed. However, I am cognizant of the concerns that have been brought forth in previous meetings. Travel would be primarily on Route 50, which is a major highway and priority snow route by the West Virginia Department of Highways. Due to the truck traffic on the road. It's felt that Aurora school is a school that closely compares to Rowlesburg in many aspects. The schools both have relatively small enrollments, yet there are major community hubs. The schools come. I currently share multiple teachers and that was a consideration as well as there are Aurora staff that actively work in the Rowlesburg school so there are relationships there. In addition, there have been cooperative athletic endeavors in which Rowlesburg area athletes have been able to compete with Aurora School. For parents concerned with travel to Aurora and this is something that's been brought up, current board policy does allow Rowlesburg students to apply for an inter county transfer to Kingwood area schools and this is inclusive of transportation services. Now it is understood that this request could be denied if there is not sufficient space at the Kingwood area schools. That I do feel that that is a point worth being made is that parents have that with concerns of the the transportation that we would have a bus going to Kingwood and if there is sufficient space in Kingwood area schools for Rowlesburg students, that is a possibility for those students to apply for enrollment in those buildings. Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Rowlesburg and the district at large and due to the substantial cost savings associated with the closure. I'm aware of the virtues and positives associated with small schools that have been discussed. The district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment, the loss of the levy make continued operation of Rowlesburg not necessarily economically feasible or responsible. Unfortunately, Preston County is not alone. When you look at this, there are currently 20 plus schools that are seeking potential closures with the school of the State School Board some of those are are taking place on the December meeting. There will also be

hearings both in January and February due to a waiver that's been a statewide waiver. For some schools to seek that process later. Board members, I know this is a terribly difficult decision, but I implore you that you should approve and consider the recommended closure for the reasons I've detailed.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Martin. OK, so now board members. If you want to pass your mic down as well. Questions. Comments. Discussion.

Shelley Miller: I guess my only concern is the transportation of the mountain. I have a very big fear of car accidents for particular. Reasons and to think about sending kids up that mountain is. What I'm having a hang up with. I'm I'm just really having a hard time with that.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mrs. Miller.

Brad Martin: Mr. Plum, in regards to some of the considerations, I know there's been concerns brought forth with some of the the safety options with the bus. I mean could be any discussion in terms of some of the safeguards that are available on some of our county buses that we feel would be helpful in this circumstance. Pass it down.

Steve Plum: There's been mention of a four-wheel drive bus so I've checked into that it's there's a upgrade kit cost \$30,000. We would not pass the inspection. Automatic chains are not used in West Virginia. They're used in bordering states, but they're not allowed in West Virginia. I believe the allocation of one of the new eight, one of the 8 new school buses, will be in that area. And it the route has been assessed very recently by the State Department of Transportation. They came up at our request and drove the mountain with me.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Thank you, Mr. Plum.

Cross Kisner: Mr. Plum, if the route would be considered unsafe. Due to weather or any other circumstance, would we have the ability to route the bus around it since there are multiple other routes that you could get from Rowlesburg to Aurora?

Steve Plum: That would be something that we can discuss. We haven't as yet discussed that. I know that it would change my routing that I'd check the weather routes in and would have to start there because I could not do it the other way and come down because when she come part way down the mountain I would not have a signal to call Mr. Martin at 4:15. So I would have to go reverse from my house and go up there 1st and come across the pike to Terra Alta.

Cross Kisner: But will we be permitted to do that if it was necessary or something? If there was a? If there was an 18-wheeler that was wrecked on that hill as an example.

Tim Weaver from the crowd: Like November 18th

Lucas Tatham: Please me, Mr. Feather or Weaver.

Tim Weaver: Doctor Weaver

Lucas Tatham: Doctor Weaver, sorry. Same thing, same point, same point, same point, same point, same point.

Tim Weaver: Doctor Sir.

Steve Plum: Yes, if there's a, you know, if the roadblock we want to take a you know, we definitely can take a detour as far as a permanent solution there that has not been discussed. So.

Cross Kisner: Right, right. Sorry, just for clarification. Yeah, I'm not asking for a permanent solution, just that we would have the ability even if we got the kids there 30-40 minutes later and we have a loss of education time, we can legally take a different route if necessary if something were to occur.

Steve Plum: Yes, we do that quite often.

Cross Kisner: OK. Thank you. Miss. Am I permitted to direct Ms. Croyle ?

Brad Martin: Yes

Cross Kisner: Ms. Croyle, are you familiar with the the concerns that have presented about being out of compliance with the time and the exemption that Mr. Martin has requested? Have you or have you been consulted on that? Are you comfortable that we have done everything in the legal, proper manner to address those concerns?

Kim Croyle: Yes, I have the I have the code right here and what what it says is it sets out times for transportation. For elementary students, and then for those that are seeking a a way where they're closing a school or consolidating a school says that the county board may not create, nor may the state board permit the creation of new bus routes that would exceed by more than 30 minutes the already timeslot 30 minutes for elementary students. It's my understanding that the transportation routes have not been set yet. For those exactly and as Mr. Martin indicated they would be looking at putting in new routes that would not exceed that 60 minute standard. And if there is an ability for a waiver if it's up to that point.

Lucas Taham: At this point, we're compliant with the state statue.

Kim Croyle : Yes, because they've created routes that exceed 60 minutes.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you.

Cross Kisner: For the benefit of the audience, this is Miss Croyle, our Bowles Rice Legal attorney.

Michael Hovatter: So for preparation, excuse me, I made a little bit of an a because there's so many things going through my mind, there's so many different things to consider, I made a statement. First of all, excuse me, first of all, Mr. Martin, I just want to thank you for all the time and all the put into this.

Brad Martin: Thank you.

Michael Hovatter: And I know it's a lot. We had a lot of time in this mess that you've had Yes, so it's a shame that we are put in this position. Unfortunately, with all the circumstances that led to this situation, it began way before this board. However, it is still our decision to make. I disagree with consolidation. Our little rural communities lose so much when they lose their schools, it's been said. I myself was part of that living in Masontown. Just look at independence, Newburg and even Masontown. This is one of the very last things Rowlesburg has left. Lastly, the teachers, they're doing great considering their circumstances. After the hearing we had in Rowlesburg. After the hearing we had in Rowlesburg. The two teachers I'm not going to say their name took their time, gave me a tour of the school, showed me their classroom and explained to me how their daily routine went. These teachers could do amazing things with the proper classroom setting. I applaud you both. I give them all the all the respect I can with what they do every day. Also, I contacted a member of Greer management and asked if there was ever going to be a chance that they may reopen Cheat River Limestone in hopes that this would bring people back to the community. Their answer was extremely unlikely. So, with all that being said, putting these children and all the children's all the future children safety at risk is something I cannot really agree to do. I have personally trucked up and down the mountain and we know exactly how dangerous it is to travel in big vehicles. In consideration of what our Department of Highways has said and our Transportation director has said, I disagree because I've experienced it. As you just said there a little bit ago at 4:00 at the top of the mountain to the bottom of the mountain I've experienced that you've had rain at the bottom and you've been spun out at the top, it's dangerous.

Tim Weaver: Saying something from the crowd

Lucas Tatham: Excuse me, Doctor Weaver. Excuse me.

Michael Hovatter: And that can change in 10 minutes time and it's it's that's on us to make this decision. Safety aside, although that should be the absolute number one reason we'll discuss some finances. And I understand everything that you propose, Mr. Martin. I really do. We are being asked to close the school but one time time you talked about possibly keeping it for future use of this correct? We'd like to, right? So, with that being said.

Brad Martin: Mr. Hovatter, at this time it is the the intention for the Rowlesburg school to be retained for at least one year to assess potential usage. We are pursuing grants for the potential option and alternative program that would be at a considered location.

Michael Hovatter: So, with that being said, on the 2018 assessment of the school, it was stated that and and I quote. The entire roof is at the end of life and its an. \$860,000 repair. So, we're going to fix that roof. With grants or with county funding if in a year we have that other school option.

Brad Martin: If we were to use the the facility long term and it's deemed that the roof would need replacement, I mean Mr Murray would work with with vendors, we we we could potentially seek SBA funding. Although I think that would be difficult to obtain. I would think it would be more off the off that this would be something we'd have to pay through or through county funds.

Michael Hovatter: So in the year, if it could potentially potentially be sitting, are we going to keep it heated and have that expenses?

Brad Martin: Yes, yes.

Michael Hovatter: So, if these children are bussed to Aurora, the added cost of maintenance should be assessed with that and I for one can tell you. The fleets of trucks I have, they're traveling up and down that mountain would result in two to three times more maintenance costs, Mr. Coombs stated that he contacted the bus manufacturer and that they, being expert on buses, stated the exact same thing two to three times more maintenance on the buses. In my opinion, we do not have the accurate account of the savings projection. We don't have all the information with with what I just said, so in closing.

Lucas Tatham: You can't say how you're going to. You cannot say how you're voting.

Michael Hovatter: Alright Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: You can't say how? What's that?

Michael Hovatter: Thanks. Alright so. The closing state. As I have to disagree with your proposal, and I cannot consciously vote to put these children and all the future children safety at stake and send them up the mountain to Aurora. I've said this a couple of times and in 30 years that there's a bus accident and one child is hurt or killed. It's because of this board's decision tonight and I can't live with myself making that decision.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. Mr. Hovatter

Cross Kisner: Mr. Martin, are you able to, when you had to do your analysis of the cost savings, are you do you, do you recall whether or not in that and increased cost to maintenance for the buses that as Mr. Hovatter's brought up, if that was one of the variables that's into account you know?

Brad Martin: I would say I'm making the cost would be very similar to tearing out the buses that go daily to Terra Alta these buses. We run them now with a nine percent grade up and down every day. So, I think our our cost would be similar, but in this instance we would only have one bus versus multiple buses that go up daily to Terra Alta East Preston. So, we would be looking at one, we would be looking at a singular bus going to Aurora.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. OK, just so the public knows this is the first time that the board has had the opportunity to talk together and that's how the open meeting laws work. We've had the opportunity to hear public content, but this is the first time we can hear each other. So with that being said, I would like to ask. Ms. Croyle a question. Is this the only way that this can work is that we say yes or no, or can there be a motion to

amend to where a different receiving school location? It can be changed to that for example Mr. Hovatter had. It sounds to me like he has a major concern with going up and down the mountain which is required to go to Aurora. Can the board amend the superintendent's recommendation and change the school? Where does that set us all the way back to the beginning?

Kim Croyle: It sets you back. Because you have to do the study for that school. Would set you back at the beginning because you have to do the impact for. Both the receiving school, which would be different than what you've done so far and hearings.

Lucas Tatham: So our option is just yes or no on the current proposal, the current motion as it stands. Thank you. OK. More questions,

Brad Martin : Mr. Tatham I would respectfully ask Mrs. Varner. I know I've done some work in preparing some documentation and anything that would not inclusive in my statement, I would just that respectfully ask if she could be allowed any time to speak.

Lucas Tatham: Please introduce yourself also

Ange Varner: I'm Ange Varner the Assistant Superintendent. The few things that I would like to point out and Mr. Martin was talking about are our personnel cuts because I do all of the personnel for the county with the state aid formula. With our amount of students that we lost this year, we are going to take a drastic hit again this year. Last year's personnel season for me was a nightmare. Not only did we lose a lot of kids. Through the state aid formula, but I also had to make cuts due to when we lost all of our ESSERF money, we lost all of our levy money. Last year I did cuts that affected over 94 staff members in our county. That was a lot of people for me to have to go out and talk to and say, hey, I'm cutting your job or I'm putting you on transfer. That took a lot to go out and have to do. This year we're going to impact 27 service personnel like Mr. Martin said and 15 professional personnel and this is solely due to the amount of students that we lost just for kids either going to charter schools, micro schools or just moving out of the county and the majority of them were just kids that either went to home school, Micro schools, charter schools. With that in mind we're going to need to find ways to make this work within the county. So, for every professional position that we're going to have to pick up out of county funds, it's going to equal out to anywhere between 95 to 100 grand per professional person that we're going to have to pick up out of county funds that includes salary and all the benefit packages. For every service personnel that we're going to have to pick up is going to be between 50 and 60,000 for every service personnel person we have to pick up. This year alone, we picked up 8 and we pick up 8 service personnel positions this year out of county funds. Next year, with the amount of cuts that we're looking at, I'm assuming that the county is going to have to pick up about 15 of them. Because I made a cut 27, so that's going to equal about \$900,000 that we're going to have to pick up out of county funds alone to keep people and jobs that we're going to need. And we're going to be looking at around \$500,000 to cover professional positions that I'm going to need to keep. And that's going to have to come out of county funds that usually I would have been able to cover from ESSERF money, which we no longer have or out of levy money, which I no longer have. So that's going to be an additional expense that we're going to have to find out how to help cover. If we would have close these two schools with the cuts that we were making out of these closures that would help me by reducing these positions and I would only be looking at having to actually find 3 1/2 professional cuts and 18 service cuts. One of the things that I would like to bring to your guys's attention when you were asking how would this affect everywhere else in the county when we were at like, Mr. Martin said, the meetings with Terra Alta and Bruceton, the LSIC meetings, all of them were saying, hey, this really messes our master schedules up or hey, this really messed our class sizes up. I can't do my reading blocks; I can't do this. I can't offer these enrichments courses. I can't do all of our special classes. We had to cut these class out of our master schedules because I can't have the teachers. If I have to cut all of these positions, these schools aren't going to be able to offer these classes. It's going to be even harder for all of our other schools to be able to provide to the rest of the 3649 students in our county what they need. Based off this. So. I want you to remember that part of that. The other thing is when it comes time for the personnel section on the county on the state scorecard. I'm going to have a very hard time meeting the demands on that. Let the obligations of how to fill all

of our positions and how to maintain the state aid part on that, and we're going to be going over because that's going to ding us on that. So just keep that in mind. A couple of other things on here. When it comes to the charter schools and things, and we have to pay the charter schools when our kids go there. I know on the last board agenda we had the amounts on there for where we paid out the title funds when we add in the state formula funds, that right now is at \$12,656.82. As our kids move fluently throughout the rest of the year and they transfer from county, the counties in, in and out, we could probably see about close to \$180,000 is what we'll end up paying as a total throughout the year. And as we get our kids moving in and out, Katrina will be able to help speak on that a little bit more as we get billed as the kids come in and out of our county. They have come in and out of the other counties, so that'll be an additional cost that is just starting this year that is new for this year. So that will be something additional that we're going to have to work with. And the other last really big thing I wanted to reach out and let you guys be aware of is summer school. We always take summer school out of ESSERF funds. And ESSERF funds now be gone. We're going to have to pick up the summer school cost out of county funds and last year just the personnel cost of summer school was \$455,187.75. That was just to run summer school. That was our teachers, our site coordinators, our cooks, bus drivers, custodians, nurses and our instructors. That was just the personnel costs that did not include any of our supplies or Preston High School's credit recovery or Preston High School staff for credit recovery. So, all of that cost is also going to have to come out of county money for this year. So, I wanted to give you guys that information also. So, every everything else is in your packet that I gave you, but those were a couple of the really big things that I wanted to point out to you. And I just also wanted to say is you guys, I also hear a lot of people saying remember you were to look at the county as a whole, we do have larger schools with larger class sizes do have higher test scores than smaller schools. And how is it fair always to keep all the smaller sizes when you're there to take care of the entire county with all of our students. So we just have to watch over everybody. Thank You

Lucas Tatham: You, Mr. Varner, just hold on to the MIC for a second. So can you fully explain the ramifications for me that if we vote no for Rowlesburg and we keep Rowlesburg, I'm assuming we cannot make any additional personnel cuts for professional or service that we're down to the bare minimum have been, unfortunately for a while. But we have declining enrollment throughout the rest of the county, so that means there's gonna be personnel cuts at other schools. Where would those cuts be absorbed most likely like what types of classes, what types of grades, etcetera. Just keep it general so that we're not pinpointing it.

Ange Varner: So. So, all in our elementaries our set of class sizes. So, if you're in pre-K

Lucas Tatham: Set by who:

Ange Varner: By the state code, so elementary pre-K can have 20 and that is all. If you're in kindergarten, then you can have 20 and we can pay up to three additional to go to 23. If you are in first, second and third, your max is 25 in 4,5 and 6 it is 25 with we can of pay an overage of three more to go to 28. So, I am very set within grade K-6, pre-K 6. Of how many kids can be in every class, so I cannot add any additional kids except for where I mean the state code is. So, where we're going to get hit is going to be in our middle schools and our high schools. So, we are going to have large classes filling from 7th grade through 12th grade and that's where we're going to that's where we're going to take the cuts. It's going to affect larger class sizes and class electives are going to be cut because I'm going to have to say you're all going to be teaching just core classes. I'm going to cut teachers, and the electives will go away because I'm going to only need them to teach the core classes only and they're going to have larger class sizes.

Lucas Tatham: So, when you say electives, what would that be? And then my second part. Of that question is is can the community fundraise to fund elective teachers?

Ange Varner: If they could come. Up with 100 grand per teacher.

Lucas Tatham: But is that allowed?

Kim Croyle: How do you get your money? It is from your state funds first. How does your county get its funds?

Lucas Tatham: OK, so it is possible I'm getting the idea from our treasurer. OK, OK. I'm sorry.

Ange Varner: So, some of the electives would be like up here at the high school, they have yearbook they have AP courses, they have some of the CTE courses, they have foreign languages, they have weightlifting. Those classes like that that are not required will go. They we have to have basic basic math, science, social studies, and english. We also have to have gym, we have to have health and we have to have one fine arts credit. Those are the courses that we are required to have. After that there's a lot of extras that we offer up here at high school that we do not have to have.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. Is there any more questions for Mrs. Varner?

Ange Varner: Thank you.

Cross Kisner: I guess as the board deliberates. I would remind you that the majority decisions in government are not yes or no. They are this or that. When government thinks that the decisions that they're making are yes or no, you end up with questions like should we lower taxes? Well, obviously everybody wants the answer to that to be yes, but the question was should we lower taxes or should we provide better schools for our entire state or more opportunities for our entire state? And you understand the bigger picture of the question we're in a similar situation here. The answer isn't yes or no to whether or not we're going to close Rowlesburg. The answer is where are we going to spend our money for the next school year and we're going to be responsible for those dollars whether they're going to go into Rowlesburg or whether they're going to go across the county to the to the larger set here a little bit is going to be whether or not those dollars go to Fellowshipville, or if they go across the budget for the entire larger set. The decisions we're making here are not easy for anybody who thinks that the easy answer was this proposal. I don't know how we can get there. Nobody wants to close a school but the five of us that are up here. As I speak to each of you as much as the people out here. We ran for this position and we're accountable for our decision. We're accountable for how that dollar is going to be spent next year. We're accountable to make sure that we spend that dollar the best that we can for the entire county as a whole for our students, entirely as a whole. I'm not going to give you the answer to that, but I'm saying that's what we're responsible to do. It's not yes or no to Rowlesburg yes or no to Fellowshipville, though it's how is that dollar going to be spent and how are we going to do the job that we're doing the best that we can.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Kisner. Mr. Zigray, anything you want to say?

Jeff Zigray: We got to make a lot of cuts next year and as Ms. Varner said, our high school is going to get hit and we constantly have larger and larger classes. I can remember one year I had 35 to 40 kids in the class because there was no one else to teach that class and we're going to lose electives. And our smaller elementaries are great, I mean I I agree 100% less problems discipline problems, easier to deal with, talk to kids. But our other elementaries have 25 kids in a class and that's not fair to them either. And you know, I don't know what the answer is, but one the first line here says we have to make 15 professional cuts and 27 service cuts and a couple years ago they wanted to know why the high school is so filthy. Well, it's because we cut five janitors up here and over the years. You know we cut a janitor over at the board office and cut a janitor down at the elementary, in the middle school and you don't get as much cleaning done. That's all

Lucas Tatham: OK. Is there any more discussion amongst the board? OK, just to explain housekeeping here before I call the vote, I'm going to let you know how we do that once I call the vote, Mr. Martin will click a few buttons and it will all pop up on our screen and we can vote Yes/ No/ or abstain. For board members we have to have at least three votes, ok, so that we have a quorum voting. With that, that'd be the first thing second. That votes tallies will roll up here. In addition to that, we're going to do a roll call vote. Where the board? Right. OK. Tell me if I'm wrong. We're going to do a roll call. Vote verbally. That a board member matches their electronic vote. That roll call will start with myself. It'll go to Mr. Kisner as vice president. It'll go to Mr. Zigray. It'll go to Mr. Hovatter. Ms. Miller. OK. For the verbal and the verbal roll call. Will match your electronic vote OK. So, one last call is any more discussion. Everything good Ms. Croyle, OK, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open.

Lucas Tatham: Results in

Brad Martin: results are in.

Lucas Tatham: OK, I said yes. Please use your microphone.

Cross Kisner: I Voted yes.

Jeff Zigray: I voted yes.

Michael Hovatter: I voted no.

Shelley Miller: No.

Brad Martin: Motion passes 3/2.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, board members. OK. Next on the agenda, we have proposed school closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School. OK, this is an action discussion and information item. The Preston County Board of Education respectfully request approval for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and the merger of those students into the South Preston School for the 2025-2026 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed, per policy 6200. This closure merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment once again before we go to a motion and 2nd so we can have discussion. I want to confirm for the record that I've gotten written confirmation from all board members that they have read all of the documents that are available and those are: the closure application, a Fellowsville book, Fellowsville SBA report, Fellowsville photo and layout, South Preston SBA reports, South Preston photo and layout, fiscal appendix items, impact statements and supporting documentation verification, public hearing notification published on October 4<sup>th</sup>, public hearing notification published on October 11<sup>th</sup>, public hearing notification published on October 18<sup>th</sup>, public hearing sign in and delegation list of South Preston, public hearing sign in and delegation list at Fellowsville, submitted written statements from the October 29th 2024 hearing at Fellowsville School, petition submitted by Roberta Gribble on November 12, 2024, Fellowsville LSIC proposal submitted by Roberta Gribble on November 12 2024, mail article from Elizabeth Merriam, communication between Marianne Plum, Brad Martin and Lucas Tatham, comparative enrollment 2023-24 to 2024-25, on 11/15/24 communication from Whitney Wendy Ridenour, letter from Carol Castle on November 17 2024, and an e-mail from Gribble. OK, so we can have discussion amongst the board. Can I get a motion?

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner, is there a second?

Jeff Zigray: Seconded.

Lucas Tatham: Second, by Mr. Zigray. OK, Mr. Martin, I will turn it over to you for opening statements.

Brad Martin: Again, Mr. Tatham, I would just indicate we've received a lot of information that the two public hearings that were scheduled on October 29th with at South Preston Fellowsville. We've certainly heard at those meetings and tonight, many people speak to the positive experiences they've had at Fellowsville. And the, you know, the wonder the, you know, the wonderful education that children receive at Fellowsville Elementary School. I would say that tonight's proposal would call for the movement of all pre-K through 4th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 24 or 25-26 academic. This year, the school closure merger process is detailed within West Virginia Board policy 6204, and tonight's meeting has been convened for the board to publicly deliberate and decide on whether to proceed or reject the proposed action. This this decision is not an easy one, as we've heard all types of comments again of the positive aspects of the education received at Fellowsville Elementary. Just to provide statistics quickly. In looking at this and reviewing the long-term statistics Fellowsville has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over a 10 year span assessed from the 15-16 year to the current 24-25 academic year. This is a total loss of 63 students over that span. It should be noted that during the 21-22 school year, the board did approve the shift to 5th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston. I wanted to make sure to note that. In addition, there are currently,

and this was a question that came up at the last public hearing in assessing with our attendance director, there are 18 students who filed for Inter County Transfer from Fellowsville to South Preston in grades pre-K Through 4, which is the grades that aren't at this time Fellowsville students that aren't already attending South Preston School, so again I wanted to provide that information to the board. The school has lost that they did pick up the the year that the 5th graders removed. Fellowsville actually picked up students, but then we saw decline over the last two years, bringing the loss of 30 students again. Preston County School has seen significant decreases over that same span of 16% decrease 736 students over that 10 year span, this is substantial loss of student enrollment of both the school and district level again, Preston County schools lost 177 students from last year to this year's. Fellowsville lost 16 students from that same span, moving from from 75 students to 59. I believe that since this report was written, they're they're they're a few lower than that, but they're in that general range. When assessing the substantial drop in students that also sees the results in the reduction of funding for both the professional and service personnel positions, as Mrs. Varner alluded to our current loss of students would require 15 professional cuts, 19 service cuts but within in actuality, 27 service cuts based on the fact we are currently 8 over our allocation, we don't have an excess levy we cannot use us ESSERF funds. And again I find it would be very difficult for the school district to get within state aid formula without consideration of the proposed act. Again, I would say that the the lack of action on this matter will result in higher percentages of staff at local schools that will be impacted through the reduction in force and transfer process, which does lead to loss of of of employees through that process and will result in larger classrooms and larger student teacher ratios and other district schools. It will make it difficult for them to maintain instructional blocks and you know, potential additional classes beyond the the the required coursework could be potentially cut as a result. It is ultimately said, again, is is the fact that Preston County schools was taken over in 2009 primarily due to the fact of persistently operating over the state aid formula. So again board members, I I would urge you for consideration to the proposed measure and in fact I don't want to see a repeat of what occurred 2009. The estimated costs and improvements were referenced at Fellowsville total, nearly \$2,000,000 South Preston was a school that was constructed in 20, I believe 2014. So South Preston is a much newer building it does it has the capacity of 629 students. South Preston currently has 308 students. So again, from a capacity standpoint, the South Preston Building is able to accommodate the potential students heading to Fellowsville that would be potentially heading from Fellowsville. The estimated total savings are \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that would equal \$623,932.02. This would result in six professional cuts, 4 1/2 service cuts. That would occur with the closure of Fellowsville and again looking at the per pupil expenditure, the average over the fiscal 18 to fiscal 24 for the entire district was \$11,540 over the same span. The cost to educate students in Fellowsville would be \$15,940.90. That is the difference of \$4400.18 per student. This gap is also widening much like we saw with Rowlesburg. The county average this this coming or this past year was \$13,451.82. While it Fellowsville, it is \$18,741.44 an average of difference of \$5289.62. Fellowsville Elementary is approximately 6 miles away from South Preston, so from the transportation consideration it is a much closer trip comparative to the the school closure process that we considered with Rowlesburg and Aurora. I would also say that you know, again middle school students are already going to Fellowsville and grades. 5 through 8 because South Preston is the receiver school of Fellowsville as those students, once they hit that grade level span. As noted earlier, Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over a number of years, not disputing that Fellowsville has been a high performing school for a number of years, as Rowlesburg has been a high performing school at times. As I indicated, however, Fellowsville and at the grades three third and 4th grade has outperformed South Preston and three out of the four areas when you're talking about math and reading South Preston did exceed Fellowsville as it relates to instruction and math instruction at the 3rd grade level. Fellowsville we said the current feeder school, 5 1/2 miles away, receive students in grades five through 8. 18 students did leave as as a result of Inter county transfer from Fellowsville to Southwest, and our policy does allow for those students to receive transportation services. Overall, the proposed closure again is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment. At Fellowsville in the district at large, obviously this is again board a very difficult decision, but you know, again, I would implore you to consider and approve the proposed measure to close Fellowsville and send students to South Preston for next academic year.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Discussion questions, comments from board members.

Michael Hovatter: I wrote a speech again.

Lucas Tatham: Use the microphone

Michael Hovatter: Like I I said I wrote a speech again. So. First of all, again, Mr. Martin, I want to thank you for all the time and effort we put into this we do appreciate you. Secondly, I just want to say, wow, what a community support that Fellowsville the school has. It's awesome to see so many people come together with such passion for what they believe in. Just today, just to see all the letters of intent from the community members and the businesses that pay for the needed repairs. I don't feel any of these issues related to this potential closure or the result of this of the admin staff or its community. This is a direct result of previous board decisions. Well, this board needs to fix those mistakes and possibly allow this school to be a model school for the county, they can do it, they just need our support from us. If we continue to follow consolidation recommendations, where do we go once the schools are at capacity. Because that's what we're leaning towards, we're trying to fill the schools, what's our next step? The Fellowsville Little Learners Program has the second highest enrollment in the county. I believe without the constant concern of closure, if more people would enroll their children there and up to 2023 when the 5th grade was removed, the enrollment was increasing and possibly if the 5th graders brought back some of those students have siblings that would increase the enrollment. We as a board are tasked with many responsibilities, one being education, another being finances. The education these children are receiving is great. They are in the top three county wide and proficiency in both ELA and mathematics. They do not have any behavior issues and they don't have problems with absenteeism. The the statistics you just told us Mr. Martin show, using real numbers, that it's a \$5000 per student extra expenditure on current enrollment. That math comes out to less than 1/2 of 1% of our schools budget, based on what Ms. Kerstetter told us in a meeting last week. These children's education is worth that extra half of 1%. Now for the financial aspect. Well, we just say it's five professional personnel and four and a half service personnel with the vote we just had. So, it's in my opinion and that and many others that this school has been intentionally neglected in terms of maintenance after the approval of the 2018 levy, many believe and statistics show very little was spent on this school. Why would it though? Because even in the 2018 assessment of this school it states in writing, and I quote expected to close within the next 10 years due to the declining population. If it is voted to close, I truly believe this county will never get another levy passed. Some areas in this county have never experienced the stress and the anxiety of the school closure. Once you take the school from a community, they never forget it. Mr. Jennings spoke at the hearing Fellowsville Elementary School, and he and I quote him saying never after consolidation has a budget went down. There is money to do the maintenance of this facility and keep it a viable part of Preston County's educational system. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Hovatter

Cross Kisner: Mr. Martin or Ms. Kerstetter Barring a massive change by our legislation and the state aid formula, is there any situation, either one of you will ever see that Fellowsville is not on the brink of this situation.

Lucas Tatham: Perhaps Ms. Kerstetter we haven't heard from her yet this evening.

Brad Martin: Sure

Katrina Kerstetter: Because of the

Lucas Tatham: Please introduce yourself and state your title.

Katrina Kerstetter: I'm Katrina Kerstetter, I'm the treasurer for the county. Because the way the state formula works, it looks at all the students, as one big group, it doesn't look at individual schools and as long as that's the case it makes it very hard when we have small schools. That, I mean, that's just a simple fact. So short of changes that may or may not happen. That's just the way we are right now.

Brad Martin: Mr. Kisner, just just to add on, I mean I look at, for example, Randolph County is a very similar county to Preston in terms of enrollment geographically, a lot, lot of similarities they are looking at closure of two very small schools for similar reason or reasoning. That was Mrs. Kerstetter alluded to are currently Pickens and Harman are both being considered foreclosure? They are, you know, both being closed because of very small numbers. And again, as Mrs. Kerstetter alluded to, with this collective pot of money that's that's being that has to be devoted to the education of all the students in the county rather than a line-item allocation per school. I do anticipate that this will be a continued issue if the board chooses not not to approve the the measure to to close Fellowsville, I think the board does need to take up consideration to make an amendment to the CEF. However, because you know again this is a planned measure within this time span over the next five years that this building is potentially a a foreclosure. So to answer your question in a long way. Is yes, I don't anticipate that this is going to change over the next few years unless there's substantial changes at the legislative level.

Cross Kisner: I'm like Mr. Hovatter, I had paragraphs and pages too and I feel them all way because I don't know how to do any justice in this decision. I would say most likely this is going to be the single hardest decision I've ever participated in my life. And the only way I can look each of you in the eye is to tell you that I have spent so much time and deliberation and consideration. And trying to figure out because there's an answer that your heart that my heart wants to go with and there's an answer that the the facts in front of me. I understand you all feel like you have been drugged for decades through this. I've only been in this for two years and that's my excuse, I yes, signed up for this. So, I'm responsible for the decision I have to make tonight. And I also have to be able to look into the eyes of Bruceton and West and Kingwood with 28 and 30 and whatever it is in their, in their classrooms and I have to be accountable for that as I'm making this decision and. I'm I I. I've never been a part of something is going to affect as much as this is. I'm I'm outside of deliberations here a little bit, but thank you for caring. If every parent in this county cared and tried to participate and put in an effort as much as you all have in the past month. We'd be an entirely different county. In a different state.

Jeff Zigray: About eight years, about eight years ago, when I first got on the board I was shocked that we had to vote on sending a kid from Bruceton to Morgantown. We had to vote on that and every year we sent four or five of our kids in that direction. Couldn't believe that the state would allow to take a student from one county and send it to another county. But just like now we have all these charter schools and we're losing all these kids to these charter schools, and we have to pay that money, and we really don't have a choice once again. So, we're losing numbers, and we've got to make some rough decisions. I wish all our schools were small, but we don't have the money for that, and I know it's down to the money thing again with something you said, but, I see more people when I sub down in Morgantown from Preston County that used to work here at every school down in Morgantown because once we cut it from here, they have to go get a job somewhere else and use the closest place in Morgantown. And once again we're going to be cutting a number of professionals and service personnel. And I don't know where our administrators are going to do it. You're going to end up with larger and larger classes to the point that this high school is going to burst because of the amount of kids in one class.

Lucas Tatham: Mrs. Miller, you can have any questions.

Lucas Tatham: I think as everyone else has said to me, it's a difficult decision. I mean, I think we would like all schools to be small and successful like Fellowsville. So, I guess I'll just ask Mrs. Varner and Mr. Martin. Mr. Jennings said that you know, we could just tell you all to figure it. Out, so if we vote No for this, tell me again I mean, because it seems like to me I'm speaking to you, Mrs. Varner as you handle this area. Fellowsville is a well performing school. So if we make a decision to keep that small school, how does this impact the rest of the students? Like, Just, I mean it's basically it's, I'm assuming it's the same thing, but if we decide to keep this school in vote No, how does that tell me again how that impacts other students, so I can weigh it in my head.

Ange Varner: Well, again, if you keep this school open, it's going to have the same impact as I said for Fellowsville we're keeping it open. We're going to have class sizes within all of our middle schools and high schools. We're going to lose classes. I'm going to lose electives across the county. Your other schools have

Terra Alta, Aurora, West, South, Bruceton, all of your other eight schools Central, they're all going to have an impact by keeping this one open. The one other thing that I did not bring up the last time I was up here in the packet I gave you on the very last page that had the graph on there about the overall funds. That one right there, Mrs. Miller. It looks like right now we're great, but when you look at it and you compare where we had the ESSERF and the levy.

Lucas Tatham: Can you say what ESSERF is exactly?

Ange Varner: Answer is the COVID relief funds that we were given by the federal government. When we had both of those combined, we were in great shape. And right now, we're still OK because we still have that extra money from the ESSERF, it just ran out like November. We had to have everything pushed out. So we still have a little bit of it for the beginning of this year to get everything closed out. So, for this year, we couldn't use it for personnel because we can't be paying personnel out of it for this year. But there were a few expenses like our programming, Seesaw, Schoology. I Ready our big programs that we have to have in place are purchased through that this year, but for next year, that's another item that we're going to have to pick up and that's a major expense. Another one of those major costs and we have to be able to have that for all of our students within the county and our federal programs title funds, things like that that be here. You guys mentioned and being able to want to use, not all of our schools are title schools. You have to be able to meet the guidelines in order to meet title schools and not all of our schools are title schools, so they don't all receive title funds, so we can't use those title funds to help offset the cost. For all of those programs, so Bruceton, which is one of our bigger schools, is not a title school. Aurora doesn't receive title funds, the high school doesn't. When we can't use that title money to help support all of our other schools, those schools fall back on to us as the county also. So, there's a lot of funding and things that we have to pick up on our end out of county to support those kids that our not titles, that our other title schools have the extra funds to help support. So, I just wanted to set that up there. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, OK. Any other discussion or question from board members? OK. Not seeing any. So, before I call the vote saying housekeeping, we will. When the vote is called, it will be electronic voting where every member votes yes, no or absent or abstain, I'm sorry. At least three board members are required to vote for a quorum. Once the votes are entered and Mr. Martin tells me the votes are entered, we will do a roll call vote in the same way with myself first then Mr. Kisner, Mr. Zigray, Mr. Hovatter, Ms. Miller. OK, one last call. Any other questions?

Lucas Tatham: I I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Mr. Tatham all votes are inputted

Lucas Tatham: Ok I voted yes.

Cross Kisner: I voted yes

Jeff Zigray: I voted yes.

Michael Hovatter: I voted no.

Shelley Miller:

We can't hear you, Mrs. Miller

Shelley Miller: I voted no.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. The motion passes. Next on the agenda is adjournment. I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Cross Kisner: So moved

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner

Jeff Zigray: Second

Lucas Tatham: Second by Mr. Zigray Is there any discussion.

Brad Martin: Voting is open.

Someone from crowd: Never get no more. Nope your done \$10,000.

Brad Martin: Motion passes 5 -0. Time is 8:24.

Lucas Tatham: Board meeting is adjourned