

Executive Summary

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

Introduction: The Wetzel County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High 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 Wetzel County Board of Education requests approval of the following:

- The closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High 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. A hearing was held for Hundred High School on November 18, 2024, and Valley High School on November 20, 2024. The Wetzel County Board of Education voted to approve these closures at their November 22, 2024 board meeting.

WETZEL COUNTY SCHOOLS

333 Foundry Street
New Martinsville, WV 26155
Telephone (304) 455-2441
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November 22, 2024

The Honorable Michele L. Blatt
Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

Dear Superintendent Blatt:

I am writing this request for the consideration of the closure of Hundred High School (3490 Hornet Highway, Hundred, WV) and its consolidation into Valley High School (44 Lumberjack Lane, Pine Grove, WV)

Wetzel County has completed all steps required for the final closure with the Wetzel County Board of Education voting in favor 3-2 on November 22, 2024 at a special meeting. All required documentation will be uploaded as required.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you are in need of any additional information or clarification, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassandra R. Porter". The script is fluid and cursive.

Cassandra R. Porter
Superintendent,
Wetzel County Schools

IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA

FOR THE

**CLOSURE OF
HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL AND
CONSOLIDATION INTO
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Linda Fonner, President
Brian Castilow, Vice President
Jimmy Glasscock, member
Christine Mitchell, member
Christine Nice, member
Cassandra Porter, Secretary**

Prepared Pursuant to

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

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

Public Hearing Dates:

November 18, 2024 Hundred High School 6:00 PM Alternate November 19, 2024 6:00 PM
November 20, 2024 Valley High School 6:00 PM Alternate November 21, 2024 6:00 PM
County Board Approval Date: November 22, 2024 Alternate November 25, 2024 9:00 AM,
Wetzel County Board of Education Office

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

The Wetzel County Board of Education proposes to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School. **The Valley High School name, mascot and colors will change with board approval.**

Scheduled Dates of Hearings:

November 18, 2024 Hundred High School 6:00 PM Alternate November 19, 2024 6:00 PM

November 20, 2024 Valley High School 6:00 PM Alternate November 21, 2024 6:00 PM

County Board Approval Date: November 22, 2024 Alternate November 25, 2024 9:00 AM,

Wetzel County Board of Education Office

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

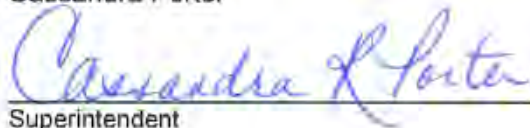
Be delivered in duplicate to the:

☒ 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

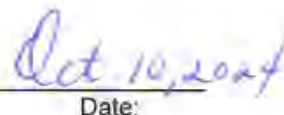
☒ chair of the local school improvement council (LSIC) representing a school that is proposed to be closed or consolidated, and any school that the county designates to receive the students who are relocated as a result of the closure or consolidation.

☒ 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.

Cassandra Porter



Superintendent



Date:

3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

Enrollment 3.2.a. (Starting on Page 7)

Wetzel County has a current estimated population of 13,786. According to USAfacts.org, the population of Wetzel County in 2022 was 14,025, 15.2% down from the 16,537 who lived there in 2010. For comparison, the US population grew 7.7% and West Virginia's population shrank 4.3% during that period. The decline of population in Wetzel County has continued through 2024, decreasing 16.6% since 2010. The student enrollment has decreased by approximately 800 students from 2010 to 2024.

Both Hundred High School and Valley High School serve students in grades 9-12. Both are located in a rural setting in Wetzel County, West Virginia. These two communities make up 1/3 of the total enrollment in Wetzel County when you include their feeder schools. This is true historically and today. Each school has experienced a significant decline in their enrollment over the last ten years. HHS had an enrollment of 109 ten years ago, a high of 113 in the 2016-17 school year, and a low of 79 students in the 2023-24 school year. VHS had an enrollment of 187 ten years ago, which was also their highest number in the last ten years. Their lowest enrollment was 139, both in the 2022-23 and the 2023-24 school years which you will see in the student enrollment tables, later in this section.

After the first month of enrollment in the 2024-25 school year, there is a combined total of 194 students in grades 9-12 between both Hundred High School (67) and Valley High School (127). The trend highlights a significant decrease in student enrollment over the ten-year period, reflecting changes and challenges faced by the schools during these years.

Facilities 3.2.b. (Starting on Page 9)

Valley High School presents a more viable option for long-term educational needs compared to Hundred High School, despite both facilities facing challenges with aging infrastructure and space utilization. While Hundred High requires \$7.8 million in upgrades, including a new HVAC system, cooling tower. Valley High—though it also needs updates like HVAC improvements and cooling tower replacement—offers a larger site and greater potential for modernization. With an estimated \$10.7 million in renovations, Valley High's upgrades would better align with future educational and safety standards. Additionally, Valley High's space and potential for growth make it a more strategic choice for consolidation or investment in long-term educational solutions.

Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page 15)

The proposed closure of Hundred High School and consolidation into Valley High School will lead to cost savings for Wetzel County Schools, ensuring a more efficient allocation of resources. Currently, the annual operational costs for Hundred High School amount to \$2,081,009, while Valley High School's costs are \$2,741,201. Once consolidated into Valley High School, the estimated annual cost will increase to \$4,240,861, largely due to personnel increases to accommodate the combined student body.

Despite this, the county is projected to save \$581,349 annually, with notable savings in utilities (\$114,305), maintenance (\$157,715), and other miscellaneous costs (\$309,329). These savings, along with efficient personnel management, will allow the county to better utilize its resources without compromising student education or services.

In terms of finances, Wetzel County Schools maintains a strong unrestricted general current expense fund, with a steady balance over the past five years. As of 2022-2023, the fund stands at \$19,519,799, representing 45.5% of the county's approved levy estimate, highlighting the county's strong financial position to support this transition. Overall, consolidation offers both financial and operational benefits.

Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page 17)

Notably, there will be no net change in professional or service personnel due to the closure and consolidation. This stability means that the valuable experience and dedication of the current staff will continue to benefit students, providing a seamless transition and maintaining high educational standards. Additionally, no positions will be eliminated by reduction in force, ensuring job security for the dedicated staff who play a crucial role in the educational environment. Overall, the consolidation supports a sustainable staffing model while enhancing the educational experience for all students.

Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page 19)

The proposed closure of Hundred High School and consolidation into Valley High School will result in changes to student transportation times. There will be increases in travel times for some students. No waivers for travel times will be necessary.

Student Educational Program 3.2.f. (Starting on Page 21)

Wetzel County Schools demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring that its educational programs meet the diverse needs of students while complying with federal, state, and local regulations. By adhering to *Policy 2419*, *Policy 2510*, and *Policy 2520*, the district ensures that all students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for future success. The consolidation of Hundred High School into Valley High School is a strategic move that aligns with *Policy 6200* and *Policy 6204*, providing students with enhanced opportunities while ensuring compliance with the necessary standards. Through these actions, Wetzel County Schools upholds its mission of preparing students for success in both their academic and personal lives.

Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page 22)

Hundred High School and Valley High School are an important part of the communities they serve, and strong relationships exist between the schools and their community. Each school serves as the focal point of the community. Each community has a strong working relationship with its school and supports the school, providing activities for its students, that students might otherwise not have available to them. Each school supports community connectedness and a sense of belonging.

The existing relationships between Hundred High School and their community would be affected by a closure in that the connection between students and the community could be lost. With the closure of Hundred High School the building might no longer be available for social gatherings and community events. This could affect the vitality of the community because some see the closing of a school as a sign of a struggling community.

With the closure of Hundred High School and consolidation into Valley High School, the potential for new relationships would be developed. The communities can take what they were

doing well with their schools and expand on their strengths to affect more students. New relationships with more families, a larger community, and more business members can be cultivated. [OBJ]

In summary, consolidation would bring new academic, social, and financial opportunities, enhancing the overall high school experience while uniting the two communities in a positive and forward-looking way.

3.2.a Student Enrollment

Enrollment and Population Table

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

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total	2748	2733	2614	2557	2531	2461	2339	2292	2253	2238

Enrollment Table 1

Trends in student population growth or decline in the attendance area of the school targeted for closure or consolidation for the previous 10 years. (Hundred High School; grades 9-12)

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total	109	108	113	101	110	101	107	96	93	79

Enrollment Table 2

Trends in student population growth or decline in attendance area of the school or schools which the county designates to receive the students affected for the previous 10 years. (Valley High School Building grades 9-12)

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total	187	181	155	151	146	145	150	154	139	139

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.

Below data was taken from DHHR and Bureau for Public Health.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Population	16351	16422	16204	15988	15816	15640	15437	15270	15065	14904
Births	170	165	174	178	179	169	151	173	183	138
Deaths	227	223	221	218	210	196	251	235	221	236

The West Virginia Health Services Vital Statistics office only has this information up to 2020.

Enrollment Table 4

Age Composition

Year	1-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	>85
2011	2788	1872	1625	2063	2562	2434	1806	1087	346
2012	2788	1872	1625	2063	2562	2434	1806	1087	346
2013	2788	1872	1625	2063	2562	2434	1806	1087	346
2014	2788	1872	1625	2063	2562	2434	1806	1087	346
2015	2556	1847	1597	1724	2280	2364	1935	1143	370
2016	2543	1771	1601	1697	2194	2330	1983	1167	354
2017	2516	1750	1589	1646	2126	2318	1907	1197	388
2018	2510	1682	1580	1626	2043	2309	1904	1203	413
2019	2432	1688	1593	1581	1996	2275	1912	1168	420
2020	2473	1640	1595	1545	1954	2230	1895	1157	415

Enrollment Table 5

Projections of enrollment by school in the affected attendance area for the next ten years.

Hundred High School

Year	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
9	19	26	23	17	10	24	16	17	20	21
10	14	19	26	23	17	10	24	16	17	20
11	17	14	19	26	23	17	10	24	16	17
12	18	17	14	19	26	23	17	10	24	16

Enrollment Table 6

Valley High School

Year	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34
9	42	41	25	32	30	36	33	32	47	46
10	25	42	41	25	32	30	36	33	32	47
11	24	25	42	41	25	32	30	36	33	32
12	33	24	25	42	41	25	32	30	36	33

Enrollment Table 7

Enrollment Tables 6 and 7 were derived from data from the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS)

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.

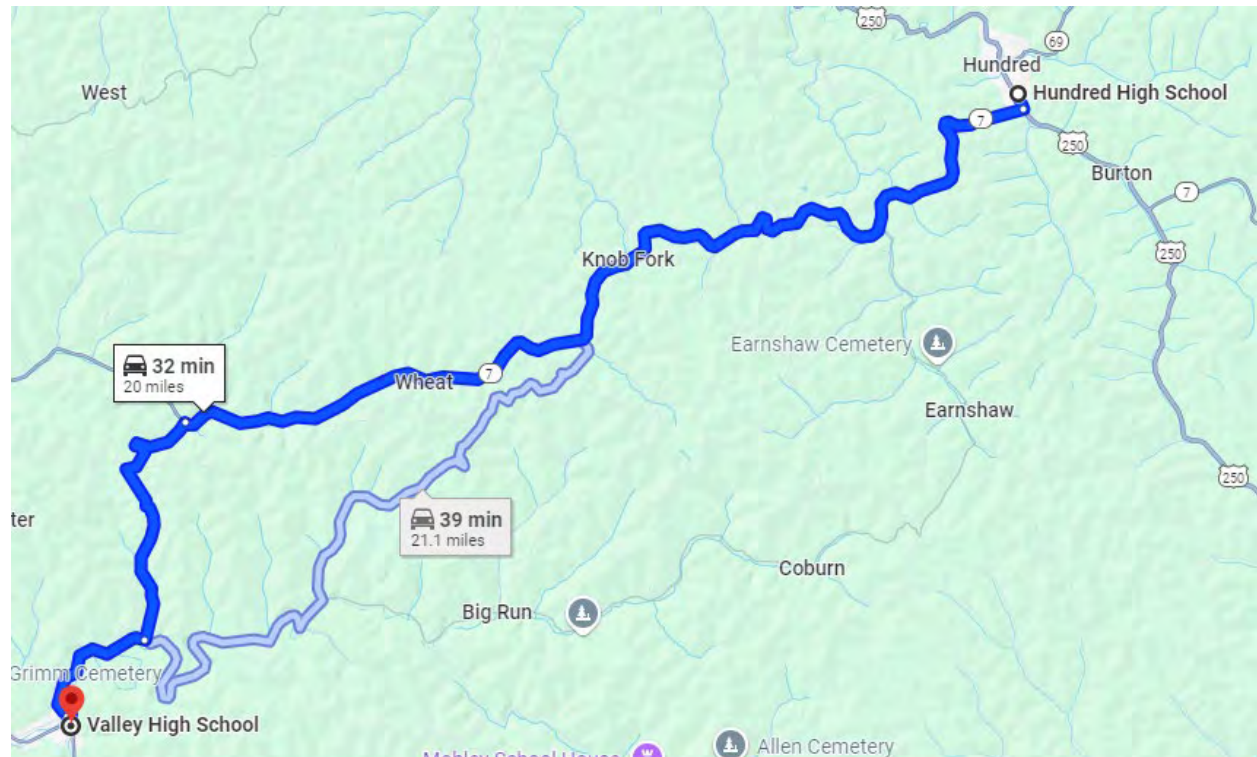
The projection numbers were obtained by looking at the current enrollment numbers in the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS) at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year for both Hundred High School and Valley High School, as well as their feeder schools and assuming students are promoted to the next grade level for each successive year.

3.2.b. Facilities

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	Distance to Hundred High School	Distance to Valley High School
Hundred High School	9-12	Before-67 After-0	Before-15.9% After- 0%	0	20
Valley High School	9-12	Before-127 After-194	Before-27% After-41.5%	20	0

Facilities Table 2

Written Facility Condition Description

Hundred High School

Evaluation of the Existing Facility

The existing Hundred High School multi-story building was built in 1988 and retained the meat lab that was built in 1975.

The high school's ability to meet future educational needs is compromised by inefficient program utilization due to current and projected enrollments. The school's infrastructure includes a water-source heat pump system with a boiler and cooling tower. The electrical system operates on a 277/480v, 1200A service, and the building is heated using gas, with access to public water, a sprinkler system, and public sanitation services.

Valley High School

Evaluation of the Existing Facility

The Valley High School building was built in 1987 and retained a previously built Vo-Ag building.

Valley High School is also equipped with a mantrap at its front entrance for visitor safety.

The facility's infrastructure includes a water-source heat pump system with a boiler and cooling tower. The building's electrical system is rated at 277/480v and 1600A, which is no longer expandable, restricting future growth in technological infrastructure.

The building is heated using gas and has access to public water and sanitary systems.

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.

A consolidated school would offer more courses and be able to offer courses with in-person teachers as opposed to the virtual options being used now. Notably the following courses: Applied Statistics, AP Computer Science, AP Pre-Calculus, Financial Algebra, Transitional Math, Chemistry, and Physics.

A consolidated school would also allow support services to be more concentrated on student needs. Social workers as well as Communities in Schools coordinators would have less ground to cover to interact with students. Countywide services (school psychologists, Special Education Support) would be able to visit more students in less places and make more efficient use of their time to support students in need.

School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations

School	Enrollment	Building Capacity	Utilization %
Hundred High School	67	427	15.9%
Valley High School (Before)	127	464	27%
Valley High School (After Consolidation)	194	464	41.5%

Facilities Table 3

Utilization Calculation Sheet

Hundred High School Appendix Page 29

Valley High School Appendix Page 30

Required Services and Barrier-free Environments

Policy 6200 guidelines will be used in the consolidation of Hundred High School and Valley High School. The latest Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan will be used in planning any facility improvements at the receiving Valley High School.

Policy 6200 guidelines will be used in the consolidation of Hundred High School and Valley High School. The latest Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan will be used in planning any facility improvements at Valley High School.

The consolidation of Hundred High School into Valley High School will strictly adhere to West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Policy 6200: Handbook on Planning School Facilities, with particular attention to the sections addressing the needs of students with disabilities. This section of Policy 6200 ensures that all school facilities are fully accessible and meet the requirements set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other relevant regulations, safeguarding equal access to education for all students.

As part of the consolidation process, the district will carefully assess Valley High School's facilities to ensure they are fully equipped to support students with disabilities. This includes evaluating accessibility features such as ramps, elevators, and specialized classroom equipment, as well as ensuring that services like individualized education programs (IEPs) are fully integrated into the new school setting. Valley High School must meet or exceed the standards for accommodating students with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities, as outlined by Policy 6200.

Moreover, the policy emphasizes that any modifications made to accommodate the students from Hundred High School must consider the needs of students with disabilities, ensuring they have access to the full range of educational opportunities and support services. By adhering to these guidelines, the district will ensure that the consolidation not only complies with legal requirements but also fosters an inclusive environment for all students.

Overall when looking at the accessibility of both schools Valley High School is the more logical choice. The entrance is not a ramp, and the building is easily accessible from the main parking lot.

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

The proposed closure of Hundred High School and the consolidation into Valley High School presents several key benefits for the future of the school system, particularly in terms of grade configuration, educational programs, and facility requirements.

Grade Configuration

The consolidation will maintain the current grade configuration, meaning students in grades 9 through 12 will continue to be served as they are now. This ensures minimal disruption for students and families accustomed to the existing structure. The continuity of the grade configuration allows for a smoother transition, where students can adapt to the new environment without facing changes in the way their education is organized.

Enhanced Educational Programs

One of the most significant advantages of consolidation will be the increased variety of educational programs available to students. By combining the resources and faculty of both Hundred High School and Valley High Schools, a more diverse curriculum will be offered. This would include: Applied Statistics, AP Computer Science, AP Pre-Calculus, Financial Algebra, Transitional Math, Chemistry, and Physics.

More elective options: Students would have access to a broader range of courses in arts, sciences, mathematics and technical & CTE fields.

Expanded Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes: With a larger student population and teaching staff, the school would support more advanced-level courses, better preparing students for college and beyond.

Specialized career and technical programs: The consolidated school would further expand partnerships with the Wetzel County Technical Education Center, enhancing vocational training and career readiness programs in areas like health sciences, engineering, and technology.

The greater variety of academic and vocational options will provide students with more opportunities to tailor their education to their interests and career goals.

Most importantly, Wetzel County will be able to offer in-person classes in place of the current virtual or online classes to our students from both Hundred High School and Valley High School.

The current teaching staffs of the respective schools have to prepare to teach a significant number of different classes and cannot offer electives in the core areas. The combined staffs would have less classes to prepare for and have room in their schedules to teach core electives that currently cannot be offered. The consolidated class sizes would allow for more efficient scheduling allowing room in schedules for a more diverse offering of courses. A bright spot would be combining the two already strong but uniquely different agricultural programs at each school.

Facility Requirements

The Valley High School building is well-suited to accommodate the combined student body and faculty from both schools. Its size and existing infrastructure are adequate to meet the needs of the larger population without requiring new construction or expansion. This means:

Sufficient classroom space. The larger Valley High School facility will comfortably house the combined students, allowing for both traditional classroom settings and specialized learning environments, such as science labs, computer labs, art studios, CTE spaces.

Common areas such as the gymnasium, cafeteria, and library will serve the needs of a larger student population.

Efficient use of resources. By utilizing the Valley building, the school system avoids the cost of immediately constructing new facilities while still meeting the needs of a consolidated student body.

The Valley building is of an appropriate size and has enough classrooms to accommodate the combined student body. There is adequate parking at the facility and the entrance provides a mantrap for student and staff safety.

Summary

The proposed consolidation will not alter the grade configuration, but it will create more opportunities. The current teaching staffs of the respective schools have to prepare to teach a significant number of classes and cannot offer electives in the core area. The combined staffs would have less distinct classes to prepare for and have room in their schedules to teach core electives that currently cannot be offered for students by expanding curriculum offerings and educational programs. The former Valley High School building provides a solid foundation for the combined school, ensuring that the facility is well-equipped to meet future needs. This plan supports the long-term vision of a stronger, more diverse, and resource-efficient educational system.

Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action

No construction required.

The Future of Closed Facilities

Hundred High School

The Board will explore all legal actions to sell/donate the facility to a community organization.

School Building Authority of WV (SBA)

This consolidation will not require SBA funding.

Closures Contingent Upon SBA Funding

This closure/consolidation is not contingent on SBA funding.

SBA Facility Condition Documentation

Hundred High School Page 38

Valley High School Page 49

Supporting Photographs and other Documentation

Hundred High School Page 31

Valley High School Page 35

3.2.c. Finance

Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings

Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost

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

Hundred High School

Item	Amount
Utilities	114,305
Personnel	1,327,685
Maintenance	157,715
Transportation	127,518
Other	353,786
Total	2,081,009

Finance Table 1

Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost

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

Valley High School

Item	Amount
Utilities	98,054
Personnel	1,909,920
Maintenance	196,342
Transportation	241,342
Other	295,543
Total	2,741,201

Finance Table 2

Anticipated Annual Cost after Action

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

Valley High School

Item	Amount
Utilities	98,054
Personnel*	3,237,605
Maintenance	196,342
Transportation	368,860
Other	340,000
Total	4,240,861

*Personnel figure is the combined cost of staff at Hundred High School and Valley High Schools

Finance Table 3

Net Cost or Savings

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:

Valley High School (Consolidated)

Item	Cost or Savings	Amount
Utilities	Savings	114,305
Personnel*		0
Maintenance	Savings	157,715
Transportation		0
Other	Savings	309,329
Total	Savings	581,349

Finance Table 4

* All personnel from HHS are expected to be retained. Even with this Wetzel County Schools expects to realize a savings of \$581,349 with the consolidation.

Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

No anticipated construction costs.

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
2022-2023	19,519,799	42,876,570	45.5%
2021-2022	19,306,493	44,553,974	43.3%
2020-2021	14,720,007	45,232,861	32.5%
2019-2020	11,456,222	42,968,580	26.7%
2018-2019	9,924,048	39,277,165	25.3%

Finance Table 5

3.2.d. Personnel

Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes

Hundred High School – Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselors	Nurses
number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	½	13	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries
number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	0	1	2	1

Personnel Table 1

Valley High School – Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselors	Nurses
number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	1	18	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries
number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);	0	4	3	1

Personnel Table 2

Current Affected Schools Total – Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselors	Nurses
total number of professional personnel currently employed at all affected schools;	1.5	31	2	2
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries
total number of service personnel currently employed at all affected schools;	0	5	5	2

Personnel Table 3

Valley High School Total – Anticipated After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselors	Nurses
total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;	1.5	31	2	2
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries
total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;	0	5	5	2

Personnel Table 4

Valley High School – Anticipated Net Change After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselors	Nurses
the anticipated net change in professional personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation	0	0	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries
the anticipated net change in service personnel due to the proposed closure or consolidation	0	0	0	0

Personnel Table 5

Valley High School – Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselors	Nurses
decrease that will occur through attrition	0	0	0	0
decrease that will occur through a reduction in force	0	0	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries
decrease that will occur through attrition	0	0	0	0
decrease that will occur through reduction in force	0	0	0	0

Personnel Table 6

While Wetzel County Schools will follow RIF and Transfer code, it is expected that all positions will be retained through this consolidation process.

3.2.e. Student Transportation

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

Hundred High School

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Bus 19-6	Hundred	40	80	40
Bus 16-2	Hundred	47	90	43
Bus 15-4	Hundred	53	95	42
Bus 19-1	Hundred	36	78	42
Bus 22-1	Hundred	37	79	41

Transportation Table 1

Valley High School

Route	Community	Current Travel Time (VHS/SLS)	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Bus 21-3 North Fork	Valley	1 hr. 2 min./1 hr. 12 min.	1 hr. 2 min./1 hr. 12 min.	0
Bus 18-4 Mobley	Valley	1 hr. 6 min./1 hr. 6 min.	1 hr. 6 min./1 hr. 6 min.	0
Bus 21-2 Trader/Stout/Archies Fork	Valley	1 hr. 3 min./1 hr. 13 min.	1 hr. 3 min./1 hr. 13 min.	0
Bus 25-9 Pic-n-paw/Mannington Rd.	Valley	25 min./35 min	25 min./35 min	0
Bus 19-4 Rt. 20	Valley	55 min/1 hr. 5 min.	55 min/1 hr. 5 min.	0
Bus 15-2 Upper Run/Buffalo/Richwood	Valley	1 hr. 8 min./58 min.	1 hr. 8 min./58 min.	0
Bus 22-3 Chiselfinger/Fluharty Run	Valley	55 min/45 min.	55 min/45 min.	0
Bus 19-5 8-mile/Crows Run	Valley	36 min./26 min.	36 min./26 min.	0

Bus 23-1 Smithfield/New Martinsville	Valley	30 min./N/A	30 min./N/A	0
Bus 17-3 Smithfield/Reader	Valley	30 min./42 min.	30 min./42 min.	0
Bus 15-1 Piney/Money Run	Valley	55 min./35 min.	55 min./35 min.	0

SLS is Short Line School, the elementary school in the Valley attendance area.
Transportation Table 2

Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

No anticipated new routes are required. No waivers are required.

Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

School	Neighboring School, County	Distance	Route	Travel Time
Hundred	Clay-Battelle (Monongalia County)	17	WV 7	23 Minutes
Hundred	Cameron (Marshall County)	21	US 250	36 Minutes
Hundred	North Marion (Marion County)	17	US 250	25 Minutes
Hundred	Lincoln (Harrison County)	31	US 250	49 Minutes
Valley	Clay-Battelle (Monongalia County)	36	WV 7	53 Minutes
Valley	Cameron (Marshall County)	34	WV 7/US 250	57 Minutes
Valley	North Marion (Marion County)	29	WV 20	29 Minutes
Valley	Lincoln (Harrison County)	33	WV-20	47 Minutes

Transportation Table 3

All distances and times taken directly from Google Maps

3.2.f. Student Educational Program

Analysis and Assurance of Consideration Hundred High School and Valley High School

Mission and Vision

Wetzel County Schools is dedicated to fostering an engaging educational environment centered on teaching and learning, with a mission to provide all students with a quality education that prepares them for success. The district's vision, developed in partnership with families, focuses on cultivating students who will become productive, knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens, actively engaged in their communities. The district emphasizes the importance of rigorous learning to help students develop strong communication and collaboration skills, along with proficiency in literacy and mathematics, across all curricular offerings. This approach aligns with *W. Va. 126CSR42, Policy 2510: Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs*, which sets the framework for ensuring that all educational programs meet state standards and provide a comprehensive curriculum for student success.

Compliance with Educational Standards

Wetzel County Schools addresses not only the academic but also the social, emotional, and technological needs of students, aiming to meet their diverse learning requirements through a system of curriculum and instruction structured to comply with *W. Va. 126CSR16, Policy 2419: Regulations for the Education of Students with Exceptionalities*. This policy outlines the necessary provisions to ensure that students with exceptionalities receive a free and appropriate public education, in alignment with federal and state regulations. The district is committed to providing equitable opportunities for all students by adhering to both *Policy 2419* and *W. Va. 126CSR44 et al., Policy 2520: Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools*, ensuring that students meet all state academic standards across various subjects.

Consolidation of Hundred High School and Valley High School

The decision to close Hundred High School and consolidate its students with Valley High School is a strategic move aimed at expanding educational opportunities for all students, which supports the district's mission of providing equitable access to a rigorous curriculum. Due to the smaller enrollment at Hundred High School and Valley High School, students there do not have access to the same range of courses and extracurricular activities as students at larger schools. By consolidating, students will benefit from an expanded curriculum and broader opportunities, aligning with the standards set forth in *W. Va. 126CSR42, Policy 2510*.

Additionally, the consolidation process complies with *W. Va. 126CSR172, Policy 6200: Handbook on Planning School Facilities*, which provides guidance on ensuring that school facilities support educational programming effectively. The closure of Valley High School and the consolidation plan follow *Policy 6204: School Closings or Consolidations*, ensuring that the decision aligns with both state regulations and community needs.

Conclusion

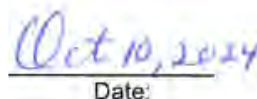
Wetzel County Schools demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring that its educational programs meet the diverse needs of students while complying with federal, state, and local

regulations. By adhering to *Policy 2419*, *Policy 2510*, and *Policy 2520*, the district ensures that all students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for future success. The consolidation of Hundred High School into Valley High School is a strategic move that aligns with *Policy 6200* and *Policy 6204*, providing students with enhanced opportunities while ensuring compliance with the necessary standards. Through these actions, Wetzel County Schools upholds its mission of preparing students for success in both their academic and personal lives.

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


Superintendent


Date:

3.2.g. Community

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

Valley High School and Hundred High School share a close relationship, with students from each school sometimes crossing attendance boundaries to attend the other. Additionally, many students from both Valley and Hundred High Schools already attend the Wetzel County Technical Education Center together, fostering connections and learning experiences in specialized fields. While the communities are close geographically, interaction between the two communities are likely minimal as both are closer to two different larger population towns. Geographically, the two schools are only 20 miles apart

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

A school consolidation between Valley High School and Hundred High School would bring numerous positive changes for students and their communities. Students are already familiar with each other from attending the Wetzel County Technical Education Center together would benefit from even more integrated experiences, fostering stronger bonds and creating a larger, more vibrant student community.

The schools' proximity, 20 miles apart, makes the transition more convenient, helping to ease any potential logistical concerns.

Consolidation would allow students to benefit from a greater pool of resources, including more diverse extracurricular activities and advanced educational programs. By combining the strengths of both schools, students would enjoy new experiences, form lasting friendships, and build a strong sense of unity.

The closure of Hundred High School would likely impact any community organizations that use the school unless the school is purchased or donated to a community group to maintain. The loss of students attending school and extra-curricular activities would likely impact local businesses.

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

1. Enhanced Extracurricular Programs

A larger student body would allow for more robust extracurricular programs, including expanded athletic teams, academic clubs, and arts programs. Students would participate in new activities, and programs like theater productions, would grow in scale and quality. Programs that struggle with numbers at both individual schools would have the opportunity to flourish.

2. Increased Social Connections

The consolidation of two school communities would give students the chance to form new friendships and social connections. This larger, more diverse student body would lead to a richer, more inclusive social experience, allowing students to interact with a wider range of peers.

3. Stronger Community Ties

Bringing together the two communities would foster a stronger sense of unity and shared purpose. Pine Grove and Hundred residents already have many common touchpoints, and a consolidated school would further strengthen these relationships, encouraging community events and collaborations.

4. Greater School Spirit

A unified school would create a larger, more energized student body that rallies around shared sports teams, academic achievements, and community events. This new school identity would inspire a sense of pride, fostering a culture of school spirit and tradition that blends the best of both former schools. Activity buses will be provided as needed for students to be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

In summary, consolidation would bring new academic, social, and financial opportunities, enhancing the overall high school experience while uniting the two communities in a positive and forward-looking way.

3.3. & 3.4. Public Notices and Hearings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL AND CONSOLIDATION INTO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wetzel County Board of Education will hold two public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

- LOCATION: Hundred High School, 3490 Hornet Highway, Hundred, WV
DATE AND TIME: November 18, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- LOCATION: Valley High School, 44 Lumberjack Lane, Pine Grove, WV
DATE AND TIME: November 20, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

If, at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all who desire to attend, the hearing will be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location will be posted at the original meeting location.

If a public hearing is not completed by 11 p.m., it will be recessed, to be continued on a date and at a time designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded. The public hearings, as well as any reconvened session of the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing's business or at 11 p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES

If, due to inclement weather or other cause, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing or meeting will be held at the same location as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- for the hearing at Hundred High School, on November 19, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m.
- for the hearing at Valley High School, on November 21, 2023, beginning at 6 p.m.

If for any reason a hearing cannot be conducted on the alternate date or time, the Board will determine a date or time.

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may and are encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials concerning the proposals. Each hearing will begin with an oral summary by a representative of Wetzel County Schools of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action by the Board. Speakers will then be recognized in the order in which they registered.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with 6 copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, before 12:00 p.m. on November 11, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Hundred High School and Valley High School.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendent's recommendations in the form of an Impact Statement and Supporting Data are available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on week days between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at its meeting at the Board of Education Office, 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on November 22, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If, due to inclement weather or other cause, the Board meeting cannot be held on the scheduled date, the meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on November 25, 2024.

Cassandra R. Porter,
Superintendent
Wetzel County Board of Education

First Run: October 30, 2024
Second Run: November 6, 2024
Third Run: November 13, 2024

Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice

To be added after published

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

To be added after action

3.6. County Board Actions

County Board Vote(s)

To be included after action is taken

Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)

The most recent CEFP does not include the closure of Hundred High School and consolidation into Valley High School. Wetzel County will request to amend the CEFP.

School Building Authority of WV

Not contingent on SBA funding.

Closures Contingent Upon SBA Funding

Not dependent on SBA funding.

3.6. Superintendent Verification of Board Actions

To be inserted after action is taken

Appendix of Supporting Data

SBA Usage Report Hundred High School	29
SBA Usage Report Valley High School	30
Hundred High School Photographs	31-34
Valley High School Photographs	35-37
SBA Facilities Report Hundred High School	38-48
SBA Facilities Report Valley High School	49-59
Most Recent Certified October 1 Enrollment	60

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

LEA ID:	092501	Assessment Date:	4/3/99
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	55,200
Facility Name:	Hundred High School	Original Year of Construction:	1988

Individual School Utilization Analysis							
	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)	
Lowest Grade Level:	9	9 - 12	36	3	55,200	0	Hundred, WV
Highest Grade Level:	12						
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
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
General Purpose Classroom			8		25		200
Computer Lab	n/a				25		0
Art Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Music Classroom	n/a		2		25		50
Special Ed Pull-out					0		0
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)					6		0
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
Technical Education/Voc Ag	n/a		2		20		40
Physical Education	n/a		1		50		50
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Business Education	n/a				25		0
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a		1		25		25
Totals	0	0	18				427
							Utilization Calculation
							Current Enrollment
							100
							Total Program Capacity
							427
							Utilization Calculation
							23%
							Desirable Utilization
							85%
							Difference
							-62%

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

LEA ID:	020507	Assessment Date:	43799
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	75400
Facility Name:	Valley High School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

Individual School Utilization Analysis							
	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)	
Lowest Grade Level:	9	9 - 12	37	75,400	0	Pine Grove, WV	
Highest Grade Level:	12						
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
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
General Purpose Classroom			9		25		225
Computer Lab	n/a				25		0
Art Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Music Classroom	n/a		1		25		25
Special Ed Pull-out					0		0
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)					6		0
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			4		6		24
Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a		2		20		40
Physical Education	n/a		1		50		50
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Business Education	n/a		1		25		25
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a		1		25		25
Totals	0	0	21				464
							Utilization Calculation
							Current Enrollment
							127
							Total Program Capacity
							464
							Utilization Calculation
							27%
							Desirable Utilization
							85%
							Difference
							-58%

Hundred High School









Valley High School







Wetzel County | Hundred High School/Valley High School

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

Full AE Firm Name
County Name
Campus Name
Campus Type
LEA ID

McIntire Architecture and Engineering
West of
Hundred High School
High School
092521

Original Construction Yr.
Assessment Date
Current Enrollment

1988
11/30/15
379

School Photo



Pavements						
System	Material	Year Installed If different from Building	Condition	GF	Notes	Message
Pedestrian Pavements	Concrete		1 - Average	5,000		
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt		1 - Average	22000		

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. Bsm)	Message	Evaluation Status
1	Hundred High School	Classroom	Y	1988	No	53,500	N	3		29 of 29 systems have been evaluate
2	Meat Lab Addition	Classroom	Y	1975	No	1,700	N	1		29 of 29 systems have been evaluate
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
20	Total GSF:					55,200				

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

Overview of Findings	
Failures in concrete at loading dock and stair access.	
Issues with elevator and chairlift, both need replaced. Chairlift is max rated load 750lbs and used to move more than people.	
No BAS Controls at school and difficult for central control and monitoring.	
HVAC equipment and hydronic piping needs evaluation for Replacement. Equipment is nearing end of useful life.	
No cooling in Gymnasium. Ventilation an issue.	
Fire alarm panel and devices end of life and issues.	
Camera system upgrades to IP desired.	
Exterior lighting needs upgraded and increased in quantity.	
Upper windows need replaced, lower windows and doors replaced in security project.	
Athletic Facilities not part of evaluation need improvements.	
Multiple areas of masonry cracking require further review and corrections.	
Meat lab annex requires students to leave secure area of school and traverse outside to access.	
Meat lab Annex lacks a controllable HVAC providing required outside air.	

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 124 Data Collection Form
Building Information Sheet

Building	Hundred High School	Year Built	1988	
Gross Square Feet	53,500	Basement (Y/N)	N	# Floors (incl. Basement)
				3

System	Material	Cost	Year Installed or Replaced	Condition	Notes	28 of 28 systems have been evaluated	Messages
Carrying Systems	Elevator (2) Stops		1	2- Below Average	Staff reported numerous issues with operation of Elevator. Also a chairlift that needs replaced.		
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3- Average			
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent			1- Average	New LED in Gymnasium		
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				2- Below Average	Some Exit signs not lit. No evidence of battery backup on exit signs.		
Electrical - Service and Distribution				4- Above Average	Appears to be new electrical panels throughout the building.		
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			1- Average			
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal		2019	4- Above Average			
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3- Average			
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Double Pane, Wood, All frame		2019	3- Average	Only first floor windows and gymnasium were replaced.		
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				4- Average	No Strobes in Toilets but areas are open to the corridor.		
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				2- Below Average	Sprinkler heads need replaced with built state heads.		
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				Not Assessed	Heat pumps above ceilings.		If Terminal & Package Units are present, Cooling & Heat Generating Systems are present.
HVAC - Distribution System				2- Below Average	Two classrooms on 11 unit.		
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				2- Below Average	Original Boiler feed heat pumps through the building. New boiler could be more efficient.		
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				3- Average	Cooling tower feeds heat pumps throughout the building.		
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				1- Inadequate	1 thermostat monitors 2 classrooms. No central system.		
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Hardwood Core Wood			3- Average			
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3- Average			
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile			1- Average	Actual product installed in acoustical ceiling panel, some limited areas of acoustical tile present.		
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Resilient			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	Membrane			3- Average			
Security System				4- Above Average			
Technology Infrastructure				4- Above Average			

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

Building	Meat Lab Addition	Year Built	1975	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	1,700	Basement (Y/N)	N	(incl. Basement)	1

System	Material	Count	Year installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes	29 of 29 systems have been evaluated	Messages
Conveying Systems				Not Present	None		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average			
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent			3 - Average			
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				3 - Average			
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average	Separate electrical service than High School		
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			4 - Above Average	meat processing		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal		2015	4 - Above Average			
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes				Not Present	Predominate Finish vinyl siding		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows				Not Present	Vinyl window		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				1 - Inadequate	Gas fired Unit Heater		
HVAC - Distribution System				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Steel		2005	3 - Average	Date of install estimate only		
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework			2005	3 - Average	Date of install estimate only		
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Painted Hard Surfaces			2 - Below Average	Painted plywood not FSC compliant		
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Finished Concrete			2 - Below Average	exposed concrete and base not FSC compliant		
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes				Not Present	Wall finish is FRP		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				3 - Average			
Plumbing - Fixtures				Not Present	No toilet fixtures		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				3 - Average	Gutters and downspouts		
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				3 - Average			
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Fiberglass Shingles			2 - Below Average	3 tab fiberglass asphaltic shingles near end of life		
Security System				4 - Above Average			
Technology Infrastructure				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.

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

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	092501	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	55,200
Facility Name:	Hundred High School	Original Year of Construction:	1988

Energy Indexes

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

Source (Units)	Consumption per Year	Conversion (BTU/Unit)	Total BTU
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	454,567	3,412	1,551,046,243
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--	1,282	1,037,000	1,329,434,000
Natural Gas (Decoثرms)		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:			2,880,480,243
Energy Utilization Index (EUI):			52,183

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

LEA ID:	092501	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	55,200
Facility Name:	Hundred High School	Original Year of Construction:	1988

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet**Site**

City or Rural:	City
Actual Acres:	1.9
Useable Acres:	1.9
Site adequate for expansion:	No
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	0%

Site Remarks:

Overall Site Condition:

3-Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:

Overall Drainage Condition:

3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:

Yes

Adequacy of Parking:

2-Below 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:

3-Average

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

2-Below Average

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:
Adequacy of Playcourts:

1-Inadequate
1-Inadequate

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

1-Inadequate

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:

3

Voltage:

480/277

Amps:

1200

Electric Utility Company:

Mon Power

Main Service Feed into Building:

Underground

Electrical Service Remarks:

Overall Electrical Service Condition:

4-Above Average

Fuel Sources:

Natural Gas:

Yes

Coal:

Fuel Oils:

Propane:

Other (Specify):

Fuel Line Size (inches):

Fuel Utility Company:

Peoples Gas

Fuel Sources Remarks:

Overall Fuel Sources Condition:

5-Excellent

Water Sources:

Public:

Yes

Well:

Water Line Size (inches):

6

Water Utility Company:

City of Hundred

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall Water Sources Condition:

3-Average

Sewage Systems:

Public:

Yes

Septic:

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

City of Hundred

Sewage System Remarks:

Overall Sewage System Condition:

3-Average

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

LEA ID:	092501	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	55,200
Facility Name:	Hundred High School	Original Year of Construction:	1988

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet**Building Structures:**

Type:

Load Bearing Masonry

Steel Frame

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition:

3-Average

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

16,500

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

38,500

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

3-Average

Roof:

Roof Structure:

Steel Joists

Precast Concrete

Roof Structures Remarks:

Overall Roof Condition:

Wood Trusses on Meat Lab & Classroom Addition

3-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

Presence

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Condition

4-Above Average

3-Average

3-Average

2-Below Average

Other (specify):	
Deficiencies:	
Technology Remarks:	
Overall Technology Infrastructure Condition:	2-Below Average

Technology Assessment:

Teacher Training:	4-Above Average
Software Use:	4-Above Average
Purchasing Practices:	4-Above Average
Network Administration:	4-Above Average
Inventory Records:	2-Below Average
Other (specify):	
Deficiencies:	
Technology Remarks:	
Overall Technology Condition:	3-Average

School Access Safety Audit:

Planning:	5-Excellent
Deterrence:	4-Above Average
Detection:	5-Excellent
Delay:	5-Excellent
Communication:	4-Above Average
Evacuation:	5-Excellent
Safety Remarks:	
Overall Access Safety Condition:	5-Excellent

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

LEA ID:	092501	Assessment Date:	43799
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	55200
Facility Name:	Hundred High School	Original Year of Construction:	1988

Individual School Utilization Details							
	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)	
Lowest Grade Level:	9	9 - 12	36	55,200	0	Hundred, WV	
Highest Grade Level:	12						
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
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
General Purpose Classroom			8		25		200
Computer Lab	n/a				25		0
Art Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Music Classroom	n/a		2		25		50
Special Ed Pull-out					0		0
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)					6		0
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
Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a		2		20		40
Physical Education	n/a		1		50		50
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Business Education	n/a				25		0
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a		1		25		25
Totals	0	0	18				427
							Utilization Calculation
							Current Enrollment
							100
							Total Program Capacity
							427
							Utilization Calculation
							23%
							Desirable Utilization
							85%
							Difference
							-62%

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

LEA ID:	092501	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	55200
Facility Name:	Hundred High School	Original Year of Construction:	1988
Design Capacity Enrollment:	427		

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	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
1. Site Work					
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT			\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT			\$ -	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Parking	SQ FT			\$ -	
Bus Loading	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT			\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				\$ -	

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
2. Renovations, Exterior					
Wall Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Floor Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT	1	\$ 29,789.00	\$ 29,789.00	
Windows	EACH			\$ -	
Doors/Frames	EACH			\$ -	
Roofing	SQ FT	1	\$ 206,040.00	\$ 206,040.00	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT			\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				\$ 235,829.00	

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
3. Renovations, Interior					
Floor Covering	SQ FT	1	\$ 413,590.00	\$ 413,590.00	
Patch & Painting	SQ FT	1	\$ 317,405.00	\$ 317,405.00	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT	1	\$ 664,147.00	\$ 664,147.00	
Plumbing	SQ FT	1	\$ 614,194.00	\$ 614,194.00	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT	1	#####	\$ 1,984,050.00	
Air Conditioning	SQ FT			\$ -	
Lighting	SQ FT	1	\$ 747,717.00	\$ 747,717.00	
Wiring	SQ FT	1	\$ 570,724.00	\$ 570,724.00	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT	1	\$ 295,320.00	\$ 295,320.00	
Communication System	SQ FT			\$ -	
Technology		1	\$ 231,120.00	\$ 231,120.00	
Interior Doors	EACH	1	\$ 257,011.00	\$ 257,011.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 119,232.00	\$ 119,232.00	Security system
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 189,712.00	\$ 189,712.00	Institutional equipment
Sub-Total				\$ 6,404,222.00	

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment					
Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	

Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 121,352.00	\$ 121,352.00	Specialties and casework
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Circulation	30%			\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 121,352.00</u>	

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH	1	\$ 77,554.00	\$ 77,554.00	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	1	\$ 334,354.00	\$ 334,354.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL			\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 411,908.00</u>	

6. Other Special Costs	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
Sub-Total			<u>\$ -</u>	

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction			\$ -	
Renovations	6%	7,173,311	\$ 430,398.66	
Sub-Total			<u>\$ 430,398.66</u>	

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				<u>\$ -</u>	

9. Contingencies	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction			\$ -	
Renovation	3%	7,173,311	\$ 215,199.33	
Sub-Total			<u>\$ 215,199.33</u>	

Grand Total Project Cost	<u>\$ 7,818,908.99</u>			
---------------------------------	------------------------	--	--	--

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	52,183
Current Enrollment:	100
Program Capacity:	427
Utilization Calculation:	23%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form
Campus Information SheetFull AB Form Name
County Name
Campus Name
Campus Type
LEA IDSecondary Architecture and Engineering
Wetzel
Valley High School
School
020507Original Construction Yr
Assessment Date
Current Enrollment1981
11/30/19
343

School Photo



Insert Photo Here

Pavements					
System	Material	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	SF	Notes
Pedestrian Pavements	Concrete	4 - Average		9,000	
City Pavements - Parking	Asphalt	3 - Average		38,000	

Permanent Buildings									
Record	Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Include building in Assessment	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement (Y/N)	# Floors (incl. Bsm't)	Message
1	Valley High School	Classroom	Y	1987	Yes, Completely	68,600	N	2	29 of 29 systems have been evaluated
2	Voag Bldg	Classroom	Y	1955	Yes, Completely	6,800	N	1	28 of 29 systems have been evaluated
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
Total GSF:						75,400			

Portable Buildings			
Record	Building Name	Year Installed	GSF
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Total GSF:			-

Overview of Findings	
Exterior lighting needs upgraded and increased in quantity.	
2nd floor windows need replaced.	
Camera system upgrades to IP desired.	
Elevator needs replaced.	
Typical masonry issues for construction type prevalent throughout. Multiple areas of masonry cracking require further review and corrections.	
Typical vibration issues associated with span and floor joist construction prevalent on 2nd floor.	
Typical SOD cracking and translating through floor finishes observed.	
Bleacher systems need replaced.	
Not part of assessment, but athletic facilities inadequate.	
Cooling tower, Controls, Boiler and hydronic piping issues reported. No BAS Controls at school and difficult for central control and monitoring. HVAC equipment and hydronic piping needs evaluation for replacement. Equipment is nearing end of useful life. Gymnasium conditioning desired for ventilation and cooling.	
Preferred Entrance Security Vestibule with direct egress access not present.	
Upgrades or replacement of voter spaces in flood plain.	

School Building Authority of West Virginia
SBA Form 234 Data Collection Form
Building Information Sheet

Building	Valley High School	Year Built	1987	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	88,400 (Y/N)		N	(incl. Basement)	2

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes	Message
Conveying Systems	Elevator (2) Stops	2	2013	2 - Below 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	Medical Commercial			3 - Average		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal		2013	4 - Above Average		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3 - Average	Some masonry corrections require structural evaluation.	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Double Hung, Fixed, All Frame			4 - Above Average	2nd floor windows are operable and need replaced.	
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				3 - Average		
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				2 - Below Average	Sprinkler heads need replaced with dual style heads.	
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				Not Present		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Distribution System				2 - Below Average	Hydronic lines feeding heat pumps beginning to fail.	
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				2 - Below Average	Modular boilers feeding heat pumps are old and inefficient.	
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				3 - Average		
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				1 - Inadequate	No central DDC system.	
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			3 - Average		
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average		
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile			3 - Average	Acoustic Acoustic Panel	
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Grind Composition Tile			3 - Average		
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				4 - Above Average		
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU			3 - Average	Some masonry corrections required, but not related to finishes.	
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				3 - Average	New water heaters, has water softener.	
Plumbing - Fixtures	Marble			3 - Average	Water coolers and lavatories are not ADA compliant.	
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				1 - Inadequate	Building is in a flood plain.	
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				3 - Average		
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Membrane, Dimple Dimple		2013	4 - Above Average	Estimated date.	
Security System				2 - Below Average	No entry "monitor"	
Technology Infrastructure				4 - Above Average		

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

Building	Voag Bldg	Year Built	1955	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	6,800	Basement (Y/N)	N	(Incl. Bsm't)	1

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes	26 of 29 systems have been evaluated	Messages
Conveying Systems				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average			
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent			4 - Above Average	New fixtures in Meat lab		
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				2 - Average	New fixtures in Meat lab		
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average	Panels lack spares but overall system is adequate for current needs		
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			4 - Above Average	Some new equipment, some areas being renovated for new equip.		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal			4 - Above Average			
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			2 - Below Average	Appears to be single wythe cmu.		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Double Pane, Fixed, All frame			4 - Above Average			
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				3 - Average	Tied to main School System		
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				2 - Below Average	In attic and not easily accessible.		If Terminal & Package Units are present, Cooling & Heat Generating Systems cannot be present.
HVAC - Distribution System				2 - Below Average	A lot of lengthy flexible ductwork to diffusers		
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				Not Present			Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				2 - Below Average			
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				2 - Below Average	No building system monitoring		
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Steel			2 - Below Average	Corrections required for accessibility and general wear.		
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework							
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile			4 - Above Average			
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Finished Concrete						
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes							
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU			3 - Average			
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				3 - Average			
Plumbing - Fixtures				3 - Average			Please select a material.
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				1 - Inadequate	Building in Flood Plain		
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				3 - Average			
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Membrane, Direct Glue			4 - Above Average			
Security System				2 - Below Average	Door locks only.		
Technology Infrastructure				3 - Average			

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

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	020507	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	75,400
Facility Name:	Valley High School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

Energy Indexes

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

Source (Units)	Consumption per Year	Conversion (BTU/Unit)	Total BTU
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	447,728	3,412	1,527,710,618
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--	1,635	1,037,000	1,695,495,000
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:			3,223,205,618
Energy Utilization Index (EUI):			42,748

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

LEA ID:	020507	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	75,400
Facility Name:	Valley High School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet**Site**

City or Rural:	City
Actual Acres:	3.6
Useable Acres:	3.6
Site adequate for expansion:	No
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	0%
% site in flood plain:	100%

Site Remarks:
Overall Site Condition:

2-Below Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:
Overall Drainage Condition:

2-Below Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:
Adequacy of Parking:

Yes
4-Above 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:

3-Average
3-Average

Access Roads Remarks:
Overall Access Road Condition:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

1-Inadequate

Adequacy of Playcourts:

1-Inadequate

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

1-Inadequate

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:

3

Voltage:

480/277

Amps:

1600

Electric Utility Company:

Mon Power

Main Service Feed into Building:

Underground

Electrical Service Remarks:

Overall Electrical Service Condition:

3-Average

Fuel Sources:

Natural Gas:

Yes

Coal:

Fuel Oils:

Propane:

Other (Specify):

Fuel Line Size (inches):

4

Fuel Utility Company:

Dominion Energy

Fuel Sources Remarks:

Overall Fuel Sources Condition:

4-Above Average

Water Sources:

Public:

Yes

Well:

Water Line Size (inches):

4

Water Utility Company:

Pine Grove

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall Water Sources Condition:

4-Above Average

Sewage Systems:

Public:

Yes

Septic:

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

Pine Grove

Sewage System Remarks:

Overall Sewage System Condition:

4-Above Average

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

LEA ID:	020507	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	75,400
Facility Name:	Valley High School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet**Building Structures:**

Type:

Load Bearing Masonry

Steel Fram

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition:

3-Average

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

14,900

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

10,600

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

39,600

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

3-Average

Roof:

Roof Structure:

Steel Joists

Roof Structures Remarks:

Overall Roof Condition:

Wood Trusses on Addition

3-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

Presence

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Condition

3-Average

3-Average

2-Below Average

2-Below Average

Other (specify):	
Deficiencies:	
Technology Remarks:	
Overall Technology Infrastructure Condition:	2-Below Average
Technology Assessment:	
Teacher Training:	4-Above Average
Software Use:	4-Above Average
Purchasing Practices:	4-Above Average
Network Administration:	4-Above Average
Inventory Records	
Other (specify):	
Deficiencies:	
Technology Remarks:	
Overall Technology Condition:	2-Below Average
School Access Safety Audit:	
Planning:	5-Excellent
Deterrence:	5-Excellent
Detection:	5-Excellent
Delay:	5-Excellent
Communication:	5-Excellent
Evacuation:	5-Excellent
Safety Remarks:	
Overall Access Safety Condition:	4-Above Average

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

LEA ID:	020507	Assessment Date:	43799
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	75400
Facility Name:	Valley High School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

Individual School Utilization Analysis							
	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)	
Lowest Grade Level:	9	9 - 12	37	75,400	0	Pine Grove, WV	
Highest Grade Level:	12						
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
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0
General Purpose Classroom		9			25		225
Computer Lab	n/a				25		0
Art Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Music Classroom	n/a		1		25		25
Special Ed Pull-out					0		0
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)					6		0
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			4		6		24
Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a		2		20		40
Physical Education	n/a		1		50		50
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a		1		25		25
Business Education	n/a		1		25		25
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a		1		25		25
Totals	0	0	21				464

Utilization Calculation
Current Enrollment
127
Total Program Capacity
464
Utilization Calculation
27%
Desirable Utilization
85%
Difference
-58%

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

LEA ID:	020507	Assessment Date:	11/30/19
County:	Wetzel	Total Gross Square Feet:	75400
Facility Name:	Valley High School	Original Year of Construction:	1987
Design Capacity Enrollment:	464		

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	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
1. Site Work					
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT			\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT			\$ -	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Parking	SQ FT			\$ -	
Bus Loading	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT			\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				\$ -	

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
2. Renovations, Exterior					
Wall Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Floor Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT	1	\$ 41,982.00	\$ 41,982.00	
Windows	EACH			\$ -	
Doors/Frames	EACH			\$ -	
Roofing	SQ FT	1	\$ 74,746.00	\$ 74,746.00	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT			\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				\$ 116,728.00	

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
3. Renovations, Interior					
Floor Covering	SQ FT	1	\$ 491,021.00	\$ 491,021.00	
Patch & Painting	SQ FT	1	\$ 447,333.00	\$ 447,333.00	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT	1	\$ 927,963.00	\$ 927,963.00	
Plumbing	SQ FT	1	\$ 934,742.00	\$ 934,742.00	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT	1	#####	\$ 1,748,881.00	
Air Conditioning	SQ FT	1	#####	\$ 1,152,480.00	
Lighting	SQ FT	1	#####	\$ 1,021,338.00	
Wiring	SQ FT	1	\$ 779,576.00	\$ 779,576.00	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT	1	\$ 416,208.00	\$ 416,208.00	
Communication System	SQ FT	1	\$ 162,864.00	\$ 162,864.00	
Technology	SQ FT	1	\$ 325,728.00	\$ 325,728.00	
Interior Doors	EACH	1	\$ 351,063.00	\$ 351,063.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 165,759.00	\$ 165,759.00	specialties and casework
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 24,480.00	\$ 24,480.00	service and distribution
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 259,134.00	\$ 259,134.00	
Sub-Total				\$ 9,208,570.00	

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment					
Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	

Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Circulation	30%			\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ -

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH	1	\$ 77,710.00	\$ 77,710.00	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	1	\$ 471,220.00	\$ 471,220.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL			\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 548,930.00

6. Other Special Costs	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ -

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction			\$ -	
Renovations	6%	9,874,228	\$ 592,453.68	

Sub-Total \$ 592,453.68

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			\$ -	
Renovation	3%	9,874,228	\$ 296,226.84	

Sub-Total \$ 296,226.84

Grand Total Project Cost #####

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	42,748
Current Enrollment:	143
Program Capacity:	464
Utilization Calculation:	31%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	2

Enrollment	2206												
FTE	2168.82												
Excluded	28												
Special Education	0												
English Learners	0												
Low SES	0												
Title I Low SES	0												
Homeless	0												
Unenrolled	182												

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Totals
Services Wetzel											
Wetzel County Schools											
Long Drain School	18	11	16	20	22	20					181
New Martinsville School	76	76	71	78	75	62					812
Paden City Elementary School	18	21	18	22							166
Short Line School	36	29	30	28	40	37					367
Hundred High School							12	19	20	27	78
Magnolia High School							56	83	74	90	303
Paden City High School					27	25	17	29	29	33	160
Valley High School							32	27	35	45	139
Wetzel County Technical Education Center											
Totals	148	137	135	148	164	144	117	158	158	195	2206

WETZEL COUNTY SCHOOLS

333 Foundry Street
New Martinsville, WV 26155
Telephone (304) 455-2441
Fax (304) 455-3446



November 22, 2024

The Honorable Michele L. Blatt
Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

Dear Superintendent Blatt:

Let this letter serve as proof that impact statements were delivered to:

Long Drain School
Hundred High School
New Martinsville School
Magnolia High School
Paden City Elementary School
Paden City High School
Short Line School
Valley High School
Wetzel County Technical Education Center
Wetzel County Bus Garage
Wetzel County Maintenance Facility
Wetzel County Board Office
Dan Wilson, Principal, Hundred High School
Stacey Walton, Principal, New Martinsville School
Melonie Miller, Principal, Magnolia High School
Elliott Kendle, Principal, Paden City High School
Janie Beckett, Principal, Valley High School
Courtney Cecil, LSIC Chair, Hundred High School
Brooke Albright, LSIC Chair, New Martinsville School
Roger Clegg, LSIC Chair, Magnolia High School
William Bell, LSIC Chair, Paden City High School
Lori Dallison, LSIC Chair, Valley High School

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cassandra R. Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cassandra R. Porter
Superintendent,
Wetzel County Schools

WETZEL CHRONICLE

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Pennsylvania, County of Lancaster, ss:

Hannah Ward, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That (s)he is a duly authorized signatory of Column Software, PBC, duly authorized agent of Wetzel Chronicle, a newspaper printed and published in the City of New Martinsville, County of Wetzel, State of West Virginia, and that this affidavit is Page 1 of 2 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and the hereto attached:

PUBLICATION DATES:

Oct. 23, 2024

Oct. 30, 2024

Nov. 6, 2024

NOTICE ID: NJI9eNfaw4skCYLyEZij

PUBLISHER ID: LC0550

NOTICE NAME: Proposed Closure of Hundred High School

Publication Fee: 199.96

(Signed) Hannah Ward

VERIFICATION

State of Pennsylvania
County of Lancaster

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Nicole Burkholder, Notary Public
Lancaster County
My commission expires March 30, 2027
Commission Number 1342120

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me on this: 11/07/2024

Nicole Burkholder

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL AND CONSOLIDATION INTO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wetzel County Board of Education will hold two public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

•**LOCATION:** Hundred High School, 3490 Hornet Highway, Hundred, WV

DATE AND TIME: November 18, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Valley High School, 44 Lumberjack Lane, Pine Grove, WV

DATE AND TIME: November 20, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

If, at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all who desire to attend, the hearing will be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting Location will be posted at the original meeting location.

If a public hearing is not completed by 11 p.m., it will be recessed, to be continued on a date and at a time designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded. The public hearings, as well as any reconvened session of the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing's business or at 11 p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES

If, due to inclement weather or other cause, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing or meeting will be held at the same location as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

* for the hearing at Hundred High School, on November 19, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m.

*for the hearing at Valley High School, on November 21, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m.

If for any reason a hearing cannot be conducted on the alternate date or time, the Board will determine a date or time.

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may and are encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials concerning the proposals. Each hearing will begin with an oral summary by a representative of Wetzel County Schools of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action by the Board. Speakers will then be recognized in the order in which they registered.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with 6 copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, before 12:00 p.m. on November 7, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Hundred High School and Valley High School.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendent's recommendations in the form of an Impact Statement and Supporting Data are available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on week days between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at its meeting at the Board of Education Office, 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on November 22, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If, due to inclement weather or other cause, the Board meeting cannot be held on the scheduled date, the meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on November 25, 2024.

Cassandra R. Porter,
Superintendent
Wetzel County Board of
Education

WC 10/23, 10/30, 11/6 #####

Classified MARKETPLACE

Wetzel Chronicle

To place an ad call: (304) 455-3300 • Fax: (304) 455-1275

Hours:

8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday • Fax: 24 hours a day/7 days a week



Classified Deadlines

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Display Ads: Noon Fri. prior to Wed. publication

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AIR QUALITY PERMIT NOTICE

Notice of Open Comment Period

On September 23, 2024, EQT Production Company applied to the WV Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality (DAQ) for a permit to Modify and operate the Winters Natural Gas Compressor Station located at 2361 Schuppach Ridge Road, New Martinsville in Wetzel County, WV at latitude 39.651183 and longitude -80.811883. A preliminary evaluation has determined that all State and Federal air quality requirements will be met by the proposed modification. The DAQ is providing notice to the public of an open comment period for permit application R13-3060B.

The following potential emissions will be authorized by this permit action: Particulate Matter less than 10 microns, 0.98 tons per year (TPY); Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns, 0.94 TPY; Sulfur Dioxide, 1.31 TPY; Oxides of Nitrogen, 21.87 TPY; Carbon Monoxide, 8.35 TPY; Volatile Organic Compounds, 55.79 TPY; Total Hazardous Air Pollutants, 6.21 TPY. Written comments or requests for a public meeting must be received by the DAQ before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024. A public meeting may be held if the Director of the DAQ determines that significant public interest has been expressed, in writing, or when the Director deems it appropriate. The purpose of the DAQ's permitting process is to make a preliminary determination if the proposed modification will meet all state and federal air quality requirements. The purpose of the public review process is to accept public comments on air quality issues relevant to this determination. Only written comments received at the address noted below within the specified time frame, or comments presented orally at a scheduled public meeting, will be considered prior to final action on the permit. All such comments will become part of the public record.

Roy F. Kees, P.E.
WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Air Quality
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Telephone: 304/926-0499, ext. 41269
Email: Roy.F.Kees@wv.gov

Additional information, including copies of the draft permit, application and all other supporting materials relevant to the permit decision may be obtained by contacting the engineer listed above. The draft permit and engineering evaluation can be downloaded at: <https://dep.wv.gov/daq/permitting/Pages/NSR-Permit-Applications.aspx>

16126

I have before me for settlement the following account:

Waiver of Final Settlement for the Estate of Mary Evelyn Pyles,

Given under my hand this 9th day of October, 2024, Philip J. Bowser, Esquire, Fiduciary Commissioner, County of Wetzel.

Philip J. Bowser
Fiduciary Commissioner,
Wetzel County

16121

I have before me for settlement the following account:

Waiver of Final Settlement for the Estate of Evelyn D. Poling,

Given under my hand this 9th day of October, 2024, Philip J. Bowser, Esquire, Fiduciary Commissioner, County of Wetzel.

Philip J. Bowser
Fiduciary Commissioner,
Wetzel County

16123

New Martinsville Water & Sanitary Sewer Board

Public Service Announcement

As part of our regular maintenance program, the New Martinsville Water & Sewer Department will be flushing fire hydrants in the Steelton area of New Martinsville north of Williams Run beginning Monday October 21, 2024 through Friday November 1, 2024. Flushing of the middle and south end of New Martinsville south of Williams Run will begin Monday November 4, 2024 through Friday November 15, 2024.

During this time, customers may experience discolored water. If this occurs, open your cold water taps and let the until the water runs clear.

Please take care with laundry as staining may occur if the water is discolored. If you have any questions, call 455-9130 or 455-9100 after hours.

Sincerely,
William Midcap
Superintendent

16125

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL AND CONSOLIDATION INTO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Wetzel County Board of Education will hold two public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

LOCATION: Hundred High School, 3490 Hornet Highway, Hundred, WV

DATE AND TIME:
November 18, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Valley High School, 44 Lumberjack Lane, Pine Grove, WV
DATE AND TIME:
November 20, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30p.m. and 6 p.m.

If, at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend, the hearing will be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location will be posted at the original meeting location.

If a public hearing is not completed by 11 p.m., it will be recessed, to be continued on a date and at a time designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded. The public hearings, as well as any reconvened session of the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing's business or at 11p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES

If, due to inclement weather or other cause, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing or meeting will be held at the same location as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

* for the hearing at Hundred High School, on November 19, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m.

*for the hearing at Valley High School, on November 21, 2024, beginning at 6 p.m.

If for any reason a hearing cannot be conducted on the alternate date or time, the Board will determine a date or time.

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may and are encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials concerning the proposals. Each hearing will begin with an oral summary by a representative of Wetzel County Schools of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action by the Board. Speakers will then be recognized in the order in which they registered.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with 6 copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the

Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, before 12:00 p.m. on November 7, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Hundred High School and Valley High School.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendent's recommendations in the form of an Impact Statement and Supporting Data are available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on week days between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Hundred High School and consolidate into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at its meeting at the Board of Education Office, 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on November 22, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If, due to inclement weather or other cause, the Board meeting cannot be held on the scheduled date, the meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on November 25, 2024.

Cassandra R. Porter,
Superintendent
Wetzel County Board of Education

16129

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PADEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL AND CONSOLIDATION INTO MAGNOLIA HIGH SCHOOL AND NEW MARTINSVILLE SCHOOL

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wetzel County Board of Education will hold three public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Paden City High School and consolidate into Magnolia High School and New Martinsville at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

* LOCATION: Magnolia High School, 601 Maple Avenue,
DATE AND TIME:
November 13, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

* LOCATION: New Martinsville School, 20 East Benjamin Drive, New Martinsville, WV
DATE AND TIME:
November 14, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
* LOCATION: Paden City High School, 201 North Fourth Avenue, Paden City, WV
DATE AND TIME:
November 15, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Sign in to speak between

5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

If, at the time a hearing is called to order, the Board determines that the location is of insufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend, the hearing will be recessed and moved to a new location of sufficient size to accommodate all those who desire to attend. If that happens, the new meeting location will be posted at the original meeting location.

If a public hearing is not completed by 11 p.m., it will be recessed, to be continued on a date and at a time designated and announced by the Board just prior to the hearing recess, to be continued day-to-day until concluded. The public hearings, as well as any reconvened session of the public hearings, shall end at the conclusion of each hearing's business or at 11 p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES

If, due to inclement weather or other cause, any hearing cannot be held on the scheduled date, the hearing or meeting will be held at the same location as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

* for the hearing at Magnolia High School, on November 14, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m.

* for the hearing at New Martinsville School, on November 15, 2024, beginning at 9 a.m.

* for the hearing at Paden City High School, on November 16, 2024, beginning at 1 p.m.

If for any reason a hearing cannot be conducted on the alternate date or time, the Board will determine date and time.

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may and are encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials concerning the proposals. Each hearing will begin with an oral summary by a representative of Wetzel County Schools of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action by the Board. Speakers will then be recognized in the order in which they registered.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with 6 copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, before 12:00 p.m. on November 7, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school

improvement councils representing Magnolia High School and Paden City High School.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendent's recommendations in the form of an Impact Statement and Supporting Data are available for public inspection in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, On week days between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Paden City High School and consolidate into Magnolia High School and New Martinsville School, at its meeting at the Board of Education Office, 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia, on November 22, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If, due to inclement weather or other cause, the Board meeting cannot be held on the scheduled date, the meeting will be held at the same location and time as originally scheduled, but on November 25, 2024.

Cassandra R. Porter,
Superintendent
Wetzel County Board of Education

16131

PUBLICATION FOR PROPOSED WV CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT - 2024 GENERAL

Class and Publication Info: Class I legal advertisement, must be placed in a newspaper in every WV county as soon as possible. There is 1 proposed Amendment, details below.

Information to be published, verbatim:

PUBLIC NOTICE: Proposed Amendment to the WV Constitution to be on the November 5, 2024, General Election Ballot.

Title of Amendment: Amendment No. 1: Protection of persons against medically assisted suicide

Summary of Purpose: "The purpose of this amendment is to protect West Virginians against medically assisted suicide."

Full Text of the Amendment: 13-23. Protection against medically assisted suicide. No person, physician, or health care provider in the State of West Virginia shall participate in the practice of medically assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of a person. Nothing in this section prohibits the administration or prescription of medication for the purpose of alleviating pain or discomfort while the patient's condition follows its natural course; nor does anything in

WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Hearing Held on Nov. 18, 2024 at Hundred High School

DELEGATION – PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

All delegations shall hold their presentations to not more than five (5) minutes. Delegations may not discuss matters that involve student privacy, confidentiality, or matters related to specific employees. The Board president has the authority to restrict any presentation which becomes personal, abusive, or inappropriate. – WCS Policy: BDDH

Please print clearly

~~Gabby Wade~~
~~Tyler Steeth~~
~~Jessica Wright~~
~~Austin Hayes~~
~~Kaylee Wright~~
~~Julian Conaway~~
~~Emily Prendergast~~
~~Ariel Hall~~
~~Lizzie Robb~~
~~Tatiana Adams~~
~~Korbyn Moore~~
~~Raegan Reynolds~~
~~Sharon Wright~~
~~Emel Stevens~~
~~Dr. Jerra Moore~~
~~Jason Steeth~~

~~Teresa Steeth~~ ^{7:42} ~~BREK~~ ^{7:48}
~~Michelle Reynolds~~
~~Bill Reynolds~~
~~Sharon Snider~~
~~Courtney Dennis~~
~~Karine Watson~~ ^{for}
~~Karen Watson~~
~~Renee Wade~~
~~Cardyn Hostette~~
~~Scott Zimly~~
~~Michael Howard~~ ^{Michael Howard}
~~Donald Smith~~
~~Shannon Delaney~~
~~Rebecca Thomas~~
~~Johanna Lemasters~~
~~Beverly Venzky~~
~~Alan Bragg~~

~~Chandra Merkle~~
~~Rebecca Goff~~
~~Emma Store King~~
~~Amanda Lippencott~~
~~Nick Kirby~~
~~Scott McGlumphy~~
~~Clinton Vost~~
~~Annalise Vost~~
~~Rachel Amos~~
~~Travis Robb~~

~~Shawna Cogger~~
~~Jessica Mace~~ Did Not Speak

~~Karen Longwell~~

~~John Hayes~~

~~Kermit Junior Wamsley~~
~~Carrie Hill~~

~~Jay Taylor~~

11-19-24 ~~Stephanie Peradito~~

11-19-24 ~~Deborah Henderson~~ X TUES

11-19-24 ~~Hannah Henderson~~ X TUES

~~Miko Turner~~

~~Lina Holtebaugh~~ Did Not Speak

11-19-24 ~~Tim K MURPHY~~ X TUES

~~Chip Goff~~

11-19-24 ~~Carol Roberts~~ X TUES

11-19-24 ~~Eric Vost~~ X

11-19-24 ~~Felicia Kimble~~

~~Brittany Moore~~

11-19 ~~Megan Gorby~~

~~Rona Gorby~~

↑
Rona Gorby
Spoke last.

?-Racheal Kathryn Hutton? Hutton

She spoke Stephanie Peradito

After Megan Gorby - Linda allowed

Brittany Moore
Rona Gorby - she scratched her name but then was able to come to speak.

She was last "Speaker"

✓ Brittany Moore

1 WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2
3
4 PUBLIC HEARING

5 RE: CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL
6 AND ITS CONSOLIDATION INTO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
7
8
9

10
11 The following proceedings were stenographically
12 recorded by and before Tammie Trigg, RPR and Notary
13 Public in and for the State of West Virginia, at Hundred
14 High School, 3490 Hornet Highway, Hundred, West Virginia
15 26575, commencing at 6:03 p.m.
16
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25

APPEARANCES

Cassandra Porter, Superintendent
Ben McPherson, Chief Personnel Officer
Paul Huston, Secondary Education Director
Jeff Lancaster, Treasurer
Todd Barcus, Attendance/Student Services Director
Teena Bates, County Coordinator/Secretary

Wetzel County Board of Education Members:
Linda Fonner, President (via telephone)
Brian Castilow, Vice President
Jimmy Glasscock, Member
Christine Nice, Member
Christine Mitchell, Member

* * *

P R O C E E D I N G S

* * *

MR. CASTILOW: We'd like to call the meeting to order. Because we are over capacity, we will be transferring the meeting to the gymnasium.

* * *

(A brief break was taken and the meeting reconvened at 6:23 p.m.)

* * *

MR. CASTILOW: We'd like to reconvene the meeting at this point. We'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Nice and then a moment of silence.

* * *

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.)

* * *

MR. CASTILOW: Take a seat.

Tonight's meeting and hearing is on the closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School. Please let the record note that four board members are present in the gymnasium. Mrs. Fonner, who is ill, is joining us by mobile phone.

AUDIENCE: Can you turn it up? Can't hear

1 you.

2 MR. CASTILOW: Testing 1, 2. Check, check,
3 check. Check, check. In accordance with West Virginia
4 Policy 6204 and Wetzel County Schools Policy BDDH, each
5 speaker will be allotted a maximum of five minutes to
6 present their remarks. This policy ensures that all
7 individuals have an equal opportunity to address the
8 board in a fair and timely manner.

9 During the five-minute speaking period, any
10 questions or clarifications raised by the speaker will
11 not be addressed immediately. Instead, in accordance
12 with Policy 62043.4.A.8, all questions will be answered
13 at the conclusion of the speaker's allotted time. This
14 structure helps maintain order and ensures that each
15 speaker has the full opportunity to present their views
16 without interruption and that they are able to use the
17 entire five minutes they are entitled to.

18 We ask that all participants respect this time
19 limitation to facilitate an orderly and efficient
20 meeting. Mrs. Porter has a statement.

21 MS. PORTER: Good evening. Wetzel County
22 is experiencing significant demographic shifts that are
23 having a direct impact on its educational system. The
24 county's population has steadily declined by 15.2
25 percent since 2010 from 16,537 residents to an estimated

1 13,786 residents in 2024, continuing a trend seen in
2 much of rural West Virginia.

3 Student enrollment has similarly dropped by
4 nearly 800 students during the same time period.
5 Reflecting these broader demographic changes, this trend
6 is evident in the declines of both Hundred High School
7 and Valley High School.

8 Hundred High School, which had enrollment of
9 109 students a decade ago, currently has an enrollment
10 of 64 students for the school year today. Similarly,
11 Valley High School, once serving 187 students, has seen
12 its enrollment dip to 139 students in recent years. In
13 total for the '24-'25 school year, these two schools are
14 projected to have just 194 students combined, a clear
15 signal that the current configuration is no longer
16 sustainable.

17 These declining enrollments point to the need
18 for strategic realignment of resources and facilities to
19 continue providing the high-quality education for all of
20 Wetzel County students.

21 The facilities at both Hundred High School and
22 Valley High School are aging and each school could
23 require investments to meet modern educational
24 standards. Hundred High School, according to the state,
25 would need approximately \$7.8 million in renovations,

1 including major upgrades to its HVAC system. While
2 Valley High School will require approximately \$10.7
3 million to address similar issues and modernize its
4 larger campus. Despite the necessary upgrades to both
5 schools, Valley High School is the more viable,
6 long-term option.

7 From a financial standpoint, the proposed
8 consolidation of Hundred High School into Valley High
9 School is a strategic move that will yield savings.
10 Currently, Hundred High School's annual operating costs
11 total over \$2 million, while Valley High School's are
12 about \$2.7 million.

13 After consolidation, the estimated total
14 operational costs will rise to \$4.2 million, primarily
15 due to the need to hire additional staff to accommodate
16 the increased student body. However, Wetzel County
17 Schools expects to save approximately \$581,000 annually
18 with notable reductions in utilities, maintenance and
19 miscellaneous expenses.

20 One of the key benefits of this consolidation
21 is that there will be no net loss of professional or
22 service personnel. All current positions at Hundred
23 High School and Valley High School will be retained,
24 ensuring that experience and dedication of the staff
25 will continue to serve the students.

1 This stability is critical in maintaining a
2 seamless transition and upholding the high standards of
3 education that Wetzel County Schools is known for.

4 Additionally, the consolidation will allow for
5 more efficient scheduling, creating additional
6 opportunities for students to access a wider range of
7 academics and extra-curricular offerings.

8 Transportation will see some adjustments
9 following the consolidation. While travel times will
10 increase for some students, particularly those from the
11 Hundred area, no waivers for time travel are required.

12 The consolidation of Hundred High School into
13 Valley High School is an opportunity to enhance
14 educational offerings for all students. Wetzel County
15 Schools is committed to ensuring that all students have
16 access to high quality education that aligns with
17 federal, state and local regulations.

18 The consolidation will adhere to policies such
19 as 2419, 2510 and 2520, ensuring that students' academic
20 development needs are met. With this move, students
21 will benefit from a broader array of elective courses
22 and improved resources.

23 The community served by Hundred High School
24 and Valley High School both have strong, longstanding
25 relationships with their schools. Each school has been

1 a central hub for social and community activities.

2 Consolidating Hundred High School into Valley
3 High School also offers a potential to forge new
4 relationships and expand opportunities for the
5 communities. By combining the strengths of both
6 schools, the district can offer more programs,
7 resources, activities, creating a larger, more connected
8 community that benefits all of the students and families
9 in Wetzel County.

10 In summary, the proposed consolidation of
11 Hundred High School into Valley High School represents a
12 thoughtful and necessary response to a declining
13 enrollment and aging infrastructure. While there will
14 be challenges, particularly in terms of transportation
15 and community connections, the long-term benefits, both
16 academically and financially, are significant.

17 This move will ensure that Wetzel County
18 Schools remains a strong, sustainable educational system
19 capable of meeting the needs of its students and
20 preparing them for future success. Thank you.

21 MR. CASTILOW: We will now move on to
22 delegations and public comment. Before I announce the
23 first delegate, delegations may not discuss matters that
24 involve student privacy, confidentiality or matters
25 related to specific employees. The board president has

1 the authority to restrict any presentation which becomes
2 personal, abusive or inappropriate. We ask everybody to
3 be respectful to everybody else that's speaking and is
4 in attendance.

5 The first speaker that we have is Gabby Wade.

6 GABBY WADE: I'm sorry, I'm a little bit
7 nervous right now. While as you hear, I am Gabby Wade.
8 I'm a Hundred High School student, and this is why I
9 think we should stay open. It's pretty -- I'm sorry
10 about this.

11 I want to talk about something that makes me
12 really upset that people -- that the board of education
13 wants to close our school, Hundred High School. That's
14 not fair. Don't they know how much we love our school?
15 This is where we learn, play and make friends. And our
16 teachers help us, too. And we feel safe here. If they
17 shut down our school, they take something that is
18 special from us.

19 It feels like they don't care about what we
20 need or how much this place means to us. Why should we
21 have to leave our school? Why should we lose the people
22 and places that we love because they decide so?

23 The board of education should listen to us.
24 We are the ones who came -- come every day, and we are
25 the ones who hurt -- would be hurt if you close our

1 school. So I'm asking them to think about us, the kids,
2 and not just their pride.

3 Here at Hundred High School, I have been
4 accepted as a cheerleader. Would I get accepted at
5 Valley? I don't think so. Save Hundred High School
6 because it matters to us. Thank you.

7 MR. CASTILOW: Next speaker would be Tyler
8 Sleeth.

9 TYLER SLEETH: Hi. My name is Tyler
10 Sleeth, and I'm a junior here at Hundred High School.
11 I'm here to say that there is no reason to move Hundred
12 to Valley High School. I've been going to Hundred since
13 pre-K, and all my family members have graduated from
14 Hundred High School.

15 Just imagine what you're doing to the town of
16 Hundred. That school is the heart and soul of the
17 community. Imagine if you took that away from us. My
18 grandpa, Myron Seese, was a teacher, coach and athletic
19 director here for most of his life. However, he is no
20 longer with us. I know that he is looking down and
21 seeing that this is the wrong thing to do, and it
22 doesn't make sense at all.

23 My dad is the head football coach and baseball
24 coach at Hundred High School and he loves the town.
25 Personally, I don't want to graduate anywhere else

1 except for Hundred High School and forcing us to go to
2 other schools isn't right.

3 Why wouldn't you build a new school, wait
4 until it's finished, then move the kids to the new
5 school where they can start fresh? It honestly doesn't
6 make any sense to force kids to merge into other schools
7 until the school is built.

8 I will definitely not go to Valley High School
9 and many other students wouldn't either. Most of us
10 will go to Clay-Battelle. So what is Wetzel County
11 gaining, since all the students are going to another
12 county?

13 I also want to make it known that I don't want
14 to go to Clay-Battelle, but that would be my only choice
15 if you force me out of my hometown.

16 You have witnessed many accomplishments at
17 Hundred High School and you've seen already how small
18 our school is. We might be small, but we are happy
19 where we are. We have tons of pride. Why would you
20 want to close multiple schools? You're completely
21 erasing the legacies that have been built here.

22 Honestly, I never would have thought that the
23 board of education was capable of making such poor
24 decisions. This is the worst decision that I've ever
25 witnessed in my 16 years of living. The board needs to

1 open their eyes and realize what they're doing to my
2 hometown. I think that all the board of education cares
3 about is making decisions that benefit themselves.

4 Think about the towns of Hundred and Paden
5 City. You think that we are happy that our schools are
6 being taken away from us? No. The schools are the
7 pride and soul of our communities and without them it
8 would be a huge disappointment to everyone. Imagine if
9 your school was taken from you your senior year. I
10 don't think you would like that. I'm telling you, God
11 has big plans for our Hundred High School, you just
12 don't realize it yet.

13 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
14 Jessica Wright.

15 JESSICA WRIGHT: Hello, everyone. My name
16 is Jessica Wright. I am in the fourth grade at Long
17 Drain School. I'm not just here for myself, but for all
18 of the students that have been affected by this, and
19 today I want to talk to you about something that's
20 really sad to me and my family. You see, my family has
21 a tradition of going to Hundred High School. Everyone
22 in my family has graduated from HHS: My mom and dad, my
23 aunt, my uncle, cousins, and, hopefully, my older
24 sister.

25 It is a special place where we learn. It's

1 a special place where people have learned a lot and made
2 lots of memories, but now there is a big problem. The
3 school I'm talking about might have to close, and I'm
4 really upset about it, that I'm not going to be able to
5 go there. Even though my sister is in high school now,
6 she might not be able to graduate from there -- from
7 there next year.

8 As promised by you guys, we all dreamed of
9 going to the same school and being a part of the same
10 tradition. It was something we were all looking forward
11 to, but now that might not happen. I know the board of
12 education says they need to close it because they want
13 the power or because they -- the school isn't needed
14 anymore, but to me the school is more than just a
15 building. It's part of my family's story. It's where
16 we all learned to make friends and felt like we were
17 part of something bigger.

18 I hope the people in charge can see how much
19 this means to families like mine. I hope they
20 understand that schools are more than just places to
21 learn. They're places where we build our futures, where
22 we grow up and where we make memories that last forever.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
25 Austin Hayes.

1 AUSTIN HAYES: Hello, board members. My
2 name is Austin Hayes, and I'm a freshman at Hundred High
3 School. I wish I didn't have to stand here today to
4 fight for something that should never even be
5 questioned, our school. Right now I should be at
6 basketball practice, working hard with my teammates, but
7 instead, I'm standing in front of you because this
8 school, the place I call home, is at risk.

9 I've only been in high school for a few
10 months, and I was so excited to start this journey. I
11 walked into these schools -- or these halls as a high
12 schooler for the first time, full of nerves, excitement,
13 wondering what the next four years would look like, but
14 now, instead of thinking about my excitement to be a
15 part of HHS, all the fun things I'll do, I'm left
16 standing here wondering if I'll even get to finish this
17 year.

18 Closing HHS won't just shut the doors, it will
19 shatter opportunities, uproot friendships and destroy
20 bonds that make this more than a school. It will tear
21 apart the family we've built here.

22 Let me ask you: Where else can you find a
23 place where everyone knows your name? Where teachers
24 see you not just as another student, but as a person
25 with dreams, struggles and untapped potential? Where

1 else can you find a school as tightly knit as ours? I
2 know every single kid in the school by name. They're
3 not just classmates, they're my family. If Hundred High
4 School closes, where could we go to find that again?

5 I'm just beginning to write my high school
6 story, and I want the chance to finish it here. I want
7 to play on these fields, learn in these classrooms and
8 celebrate my senior year with the friends I've grown up
9 with since elementary school. And if you close Hundred
10 High School, that future disappears. My classmates and
11 I will scatter, forced into schools where we're
12 strangers, just faces in the crowd. Imagine losing a
13 place where you feel safe, where you feel seen and where
14 you feel at home. For me, that's Hundred High School.

15 It's not just the students who lose something,
16 it's everyone. The teachers who pour their hearts into
17 every lesson. The parents who watch their kids thrive
18 here. The community members who fill the bleachers at
19 our games to cheer our kids on, no matter what. What
20 happens to all of that? What happens when you take away
21 the one place that ties us together?

22 Something I'm concerned with is safety. My
23 main concern when it comes to safety is the major
24 extraction plan within the 10 mile blast radius of
25 Valley High School. If a mistake were to occur, it

1 could kill every student in the building.

2 When Ms. Porter attended our school on
3 Wednesday, November 13th, to answer questions from the
4 students about the possible closure, multiple students
5 were very concerned with this. When asked about it, our
6 superintendent simply stated that there are a lot of
7 plans around safety. This did not ease the students'
8 minds.

9 The bus rides are also a safety concern. Car
10 accidents are the second leading cause of accidental
11 deaths in the U.S. With a few hours on a bus for some
12 kids per day, the risk exponentially increases.

13 And let's talk about opportunity for a minute.
14 HHS has proved that small numbers does not mean small
15 success. We excel in programs like TSA, FFA and
16 multiple academic and sports competitions. This year I
17 had the privilege of being on the culinary team that won
18 first place in the state. That trip wasn't just fun, it
19 was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. In a bigger
20 school, I probably wouldn't have got the chance to
21 participate.

22 When there are more students competing for the
23 same limited spots, how can there be more opportunity?
24 If only a limited number of kids can go on a team or
25 take part in a program, what happens to everyone else?

1 At Hundred High School, every student has the chance to
2 shine.

3 Again, on Wednesday, November 13th, Ms. Porter
4 came to our school to answer questions about the
5 closure. When asked what opportunities we would gain by
6 moving to Valley, she couldn't name a single one. Not
7 one. That says everything, doesn't it? So I stand here
8 tonight asking you not to just think about the numbers
9 or the logistics, but to think about the people, the
10 students, the teachers, the parents and this entire
11 community.

12 If you close Hundred High School, you're not
13 just shutting down a building, you're breaking apart a
14 family, a community and robbing us of opportunities we
15 will never get back. Thank you.

16 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
17 Kaylee Wright.

18 KAYLEE WRIGHT: I don't have a speech, but
19 I do have a song.

20 The following was sung by Ms. Wright:

21 In the hearts of the hills where the river
22 flows, Hundred High School where we learned and grow.
23 Friends by my side through laughter and tears, memories
24 made to last all the years.

25 Old Hundred High will carry your name through

1 the trials and triumph we'll never be the same. From
2 the classroom to the field where we gave it our all, in
3 the spirit of the mountains, we'll forever stand tall.

4 Friday night lights, the crowd wore its pride
5 cheering our team with hearts open wide. Teachers who
6 care they got our way, in this small town we all find
7 our place to stay.

8 Old Hundred High will carry your name through
9 the trials and triumph we'll never be the same. From
10 the classroom to the field where we gave it our all, in
11 the spirit of the mountains, we'll forever stand tall.

12 Now, moving on but we'll never forget, the
13 friendships that we forged and the dreams that we set,
14 from the hills of West Virginia, we'll spread our wings,
15 but in our hearts this song we'll all sing.

16 Old Hundred High will carry your name, through
17 the trials and triumphs we'll never be the same. From
18 the classroom to the field where we gave it our all, in
19 the spirit of the mountains we'll forever stand tall.

20 Old Hundred High School will carry your name,
21 through the trials and triumphs we'll never be the same.
22 From the classroom to the field where we gave it our all
23 in the spirit of the mountains we'll forever stand tall.

24 So here's to the moments that made us who we
25 are. Hundred High School, you'll always be our star.

1 With every step forward, we'll look back and smile.

2 Thank you for the memories, we'll cherish them a while.

3 I hope y'all are ready for a breakdown.

4 Ready? Clap it up, guys.

5 (A cheer was recited.)

6 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be

7 Julian Conaway.

8 JULIAN CONAWAY: Good evening. We're all
9 here this evening for two reasons: One, to recognize
10 the Wetzel County board for these difficult choices
11 you've decided were necessary to make this year.

12 THE REPORTER: Wait a minute, you need to
13 slow down a little bit.

14 JULIAN CONAWAY: Oh, sorry. And two, to
15 speak on behalf of community members who cannot
16 represent themselves, and students who will ultimately
17 fall through the cracks if these changes are
18 implemented, with the lack of current transparency and
19 non accountability our county is being plagued with.

20 I'm Julian Conaway, and the current HHS
21 student government treasurer, HHS FFA chapter president,
22 West Virginia TSA state treasurer, in which I'm a
23 multiple time national competitor, and a member of the
24 football team, baseball team, choir, basketball
25 statistician and most recently a member of the winning

1 Seismic Sting Squad in the state culineering challenge,
2 beating every team in our region, including the
3 delegation from the Wetzel County Technical Center.

4 In case you need to be reminded after that
5 extensive list, I am Julian Conaway, and my success
6 would not be possible without the opportunity-rich
7 environment Hundred High School has provided me with.

8 In many ways, the experiences I have been
9 enabled with from Hundred High School and the community
10 itself have aided me in forming my identity. I'm of
11 complete certainty that I would not be as accomplished
12 and as well-rounded of an individual if it weren't for
13 my educational experience and the educational
14 professionals who I have been fortunate enough to
15 receive guidance from.

16 The sense of belonging in our small
17 communities is like no other. In a larger school and in
18 a larger community, the sense of unity, family and
19 well-being will undoubtedly falter by feelings of
20 intimidation and depersonalization, from an educational,
21 social and emotional perspective.

22 Mrs. Porter, while you may be of the belief
23 that a good community does not need a school to be
24 successful, if you look around you, it is inherently
25 obvious that those schools need communities. So schools

1 are the hearts of communities, another immeasurable
2 factor that you will be choosing to get rid of if you
3 choose to close our school.

4 I have personally felt the reciprocity of this
5 relationship between my community and my prosperousness
6 as a student in multiple capacities.

7 In my eighth grade year, I underwent one of
8 the greatest losses an individual can undergo at a
9 younger age. Then an event I never would have imagined.
10 My community, my teammates, my teachers and my peers
11 showed up for me in ways that helped me heal and return
12 to school more comfortably than I would have in a
13 larger, impersonal environment I would face in
14 consolidation. For this reason alone, I will forever be
15 prideful to have grown up as student of HHS.

16 As a member of the football team, I felt
17 gratitude to the owners of our local businesses, as the
18 work to ensure that we are fed before every game without
19 being asked to, because this is what a community, what a
20 family does for each other.

21 In response to the community of Pine Grove's
22 recent water crisis and the ending of remote classes as
23 promptly as possible, Mrs. Porter, you are quoted in
24 stating: Our No. 1 goal is taking care of the students
25 and also taking care of the community, as well. So now

1 I ask: Why is the well-being of the community of
2 Hundred any less important? Isn't the entire purpose of
3 consolidation is to create equal and heightened
4 opportunities countywide? Moving our communities will
5 have opposite and disastrous effects.

6 At the beginning of this speech, I mentioned
7 the lack of key principles of accountability and
8 transparency. These principles are qualities that
9 anyone in a position of leadership tasked with making
10 decisions that genuinely reflect the best interests of
11 our schools should possess.

12 Correct me if I'm wrong, but to me,
13 transparency and ethical leadership is to be open and
14 honest with those you represent about information,
15 decision-making and by maintaining accountability.
16 Transparency is necessary for any entity, but especially
17 school systems to establish trust, and strengthen an
18 organization to drive success.

19 When thinking about these qualities, I'm
20 reminded of a conversation I took in part in at the end
21 of last school year. Within our superintendent advisory
22 council, obviously worried about the prospect of our
23 future education, I represented my classmates' worries
24 in asking you, Mrs. Porter, directly if the class of
25 2026 would graduate from HHS?

1 My question was immediately met with you
2 promising that I, as well as the students of the Class
3 of 2027, would, in fact, graduate as Hundred Hornets, as
4 finalized consolidation logistics were still years away.
5 Besides, this is not a process that can be compromised
6 (sic) in just a few short weeks.

7 Now, an agenda is being rapidly and
8 negligently pushed to consolidate next year. Does this
9 sound like accountability and transparency to anyone
10 else?

11 I know, Mrs. Porter, this is not the first
12 time you have been reminded of this promise you have
13 made and maybe you will think that our argument about
14 the lack of transparency is tired based on only -- based
15 on only a need for a familiarity in complacent minds,
16 accountability and transparency are key aspects of an
17 individual's integrity. And integrity is the single
18 most important thing an individual can possess, it is
19 unwavering.

20 Mrs. Porter, I do admire your strength and
21 tenacity to this matter of what you believe is best for
22 Wetzel County students, but after hearing the
23 testimonies given tonight and the citizens of Paden
24 City, this misalignment of our beliefs, unfortunately
25 makes me call into question the stance of your

1 integrity.

2 With that being said, it leads me to my final
3 questions: How do you define how accountability and
4 transparency, Mrs. Porter?

5 MS. PORTER: How do I define -- can you
6 define accountability and transparency?

7 JULIAN CONAWAY: Yes.

8 MS. PORTER: Accountability is doing what
9 you say you're going to do. And I do remember talking
10 to you about that graduation date. Unfortunately, the
11 status of our school systems changed rapidly with the
12 decline of teachers coming into the profession. We have
13 talked about that before.

14 As far as transparency, I have said that I
15 will be as transparent as I possibly can, and I feel
16 like, with all these open meetings that we're having, we
17 are having the talks to make sure we move forward.

18 JULIAN CONAWAY: I also asked why the
19 well-being of the community of Hundred is any less
20 important from Valley.

21 MS. PORTER: That's not a relevant question
22 tonight. You're not less important. This is about the
23 education of students in Wetzel County, the entire
24 County.

25 JULIAN CONAWAY: Thank you.

1 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
2 Emily Prendergast.

3 EMILY PRENDERGAST: I have something for
4 you-all.

5 Hello, my name is Emily Prendergast, and I'm a
6 senior at Hundred High School. What you see before you
7 is a petition that I made for the students of Hundred
8 High School and 8th grade of LDS. It is to go against
9 the closure of Hundred High School. As you can see,
10 there is 51 signatures in there. They all signed it to
11 save our school, our family and our home.

12 This school has meant so much, not just to
13 students, but to the alumni, the teachers and everybody
14 else that's in this crowd tonight. As you can tell, a
15 lot of people care about this school. This school has
16 been a safe space for students and teachers. Sorry.

17 If anything bad or sad would happen in your
18 life, everybody would come together and help. I'm
19 speaking from experience. The teachers and this family
20 has helped me so much. If they were not here today, I
21 would not be here, either. If this school would have
22 closed five years ago, I would have not been here and I
23 would have been gone. And without the love and the care
24 from this family and these teachers, I would not be
25 here.

1 With the consolidations, the teachers and
2 everybody, all staff members, wouldn't know you. They
3 would not know you in that big of a school, but my
4 teachers and my staff know me very well. They know when
5 my mood changes. They know everything about me. They
6 notice the little things and they care. They notice
7 when anything is wrong. And, of course, it's a small
8 school, so everybody knows so they come together and
9 support you.

10 What Julian has said before is that he went
11 through a hard time and everybody come to support him.
12 It happens with everybody. If anything bad happens in
13 this school to a particular student, they all come
14 together and they become a family. But at Valley I do
15 not think that's going to happen.

16 The students at Valley will think that we're
17 outcasts. They will think that we are different. They
18 will not treat us the same.

19 Why do you want this for the students? Why do
20 you want this for everybody else? Do you not care? Do
21 you not care about the kids' mental health? Do you not
22 notice the care and the love from these teachers and the
23 students? If we did not care, we would not fill up an
24 entire section. Showing you here (indicating), they
25 would not fill up an entire section if they cared (sic).

1 But we're here and we're still fighting and we will
2 fight. Thank you.

3 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
4 Ariel Hall.

5 ARIEL HALL: Hi. I'm Ariel Hall. And I
6 don't agree with the school's consolidation. I see
7 more, let's just say, downsides to upsides. There's a
8 lot of things wrong if we go to Valley.

9 Like Ms. Porter said Wednesday, we can't build
10 on a flood zone, but she said we have to build on the
11 flood zone. If we flood and we need those building
12 fixes that she keeps talking about, how are we going to
13 fix it? How are we?

14 How are we going to survive a bus ride that's
15 95 minutes? Some kids can't do that every day.
16 Everyone has a different schedule. And a lot of kids,
17 like everyone has said, we'd have to go to Clay-Battelle
18 or somewhere else. And I'm not going to lie,
19 Clay-Battell is horrible. I was there once.

20 So if you want everyone to leave, you only
21 have ten students going to Valley, practically, and the
22 rest of us either leaving the county, going to a better
23 school or virtual. And nobody wants that. Everyone has
24 a right to be here. Everyone has come here to show you
25 that this school matters. If this school can't matter,

1 no one would be here.

2 When asked on Wednesday about the sports
3 problem, Ms. Porter said that we would have to take a
4 bus back. Well, some of us need family time, too, for
5 our mental health. If we have to find a bus ride back
6 home and we arrive back home at, like, maybe 6, 7 -- and
7 some of us actually go to bedtime at 8, Ms. Porter --
8 then we wouldn't have any time for our family.

9 We wouldn't have great mental health. We
10 couldn't get our homework -- we wouldn't get our
11 homework done. And how would we all get even accepted
12 in sports teams because there is going to be more kids.
13 It's going to be harder for us to get in. And who is to
14 say all the Valley coaches aren't just going to pick all
15 the Valley kids?

16 This right here is a beautiful school. Coming
17 from someone who just came here four years ago, I
18 thought this place was nothing and then I met all of
19 those students right there (indicating). And we could
20 do anything. I mean, we beat all the other schools in
21 culinary. We are great florists. We work great in the
22 greenhouse. We're great bakers. We're running the
23 shop. And we have more opportunities than we would have
24 out here than Valley.

25 As previously stated, Ms. Porter, you never

1 told us what the new opportunities are over there. And
2 if there were new opportunities, then we wouldn't have
3 to bring this up. But you said that there is only a
4 greenhouse over there. So we'd be losing our florist
5 shop, our baking, maybe even our shop. Thank you.

6 MR. CASTILOW: I'd please ask the speakers
7 to not make any personal remarks, please.

8 The next speaker is Lizzie Robb.

9 LIZZIE ROBB: Because I'm not that short
10 (indicating). Good evening, board members, parents,
11 student and community members. My name is Elizabeth,
12 but everyone knows me as Lizzie and I am a senior here
13 at Hundred High School and I feel in my heart Hundred
14 should not close.

15 Most of you know that I'm not originally from
16 Hundred. I was born and raised in West Virginia until I
17 moved to Texas at the age of 8 and didn't come back
18 until -- didn't come back to West Virginia until two
19 years ago, after my dad had passed away in May of that
20 year.

21 When my mom told me that we were moving back
22 to West Virginia, I told her I wanted to go back to
23 school and get my diploma. See, I didn't expect -- I
24 didn't know what to expect when I was enrolled at
25 Hundred High School because -- let's just say it, I

1 don't regret it.

2 I went from going to a big school that had
3 over 2000, to just 97 students when I was enrolled in
4 January of 2023 in tenth grade. It was a shock to me,
5 really, in just how small the school really was, but I
6 thrived better than I ever did at any of the schools I
7 went to in Texas.

8 I just wasn't a number. I wasn't another kid
9 that could be forgotten. Here at Hundred I was seen and
10 heard, and I could actually understand what I was being
11 taught. I was given a second chance at getting my
12 diploma, and that's not easy to do at the age of 17,
13 when you're already supposed to be in high school as a
14 senior.

15 These teachers don't just treat you like
16 another student. They treat you like an actual human
17 being because they know you. They know your background.
18 They understand you. A lot of teachers in different
19 states, they don't care about you. They don't care
20 about your family life. They don't even care what's
21 going on with you personally. I've seen it, and I've
22 been through it. But here, at Hundred, these teachers,
23 like Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Kelch, Mr. Snedden, Mr. Spicher,
24 Mrs. Minor, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Wright, every
25 one of these teachers care about every single one of us.

1 They care what's going on with our lives and they're
2 invested. Certain kids will miss certain teachers
3 because they form deep bonds.

4 What you're trying to do is rip a community, a
5 home, a family, that I got lucky to be a part of it, a
6 part. You're trying to put us with a school we don't
7 like. They are our rivals. The bullying will be up the
8 roof. Everyone's mental health will decline because of
9 the bullying and being separated from their friends.

10 You're taking away the friendships, their
11 comfort zone because who do we go to besides our family
12 or our teachers? We go to our best friends or our
13 friends that we have grown up with. You're taking that
14 away if you send these kids to Valley.

15 I have formed friendships since being here and
16 bonds that may last a lifetime. Even years. It doesn't
17 matter to me. I met these people because I came to
18 Hundred.

19 And also, another thing, I was able to do the
20 one thing I've wanted to do my entire life, being in
21 cheer, because I got the opportunity to do it. Because
22 let's just face it, being in Texas, you couldn't do
23 anything. And I know it's irrelevant, but you had to
24 try out. Well, here, Mrs. Hayes, she accepted me and
25 she helped me grow into a really good cheerleader.

1 You're not understanding the pain you're
2 causing to this community. My nieces and nephew will be
3 affected by this. Because that was the biggest reason
4 we came here, was because of the time it took to get to
5 the grade school, which is just a five minute drive from
6 my house, and a ten minute drive from my house to the
7 high school. And it's just five minutes down the road
8 to the high school from the grade school.

9 No matter the reasons you're deciding to close
10 this school, you can't do it. A lot of kids are going
11 to different schools next year because of your decision.
12 Thank you thank you for hearing my speech.

13 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
14 Tatianna Adams.

15 TATIANNA ADAMS: Hi. My name is Tatianna
16 Adams. I'm a senior here at Hundred High School.

17 AUDIENCE: Wait until you have their
18 attention. Restart her time.

19 TATIANNA ADAMS: Oh, yeah, restart my time,
20 please.

21 MS. PORTER: I'm sorry, we have a board
22 member on the phone, please.

23 AUDIENCE: Reset her timing.

24 MR. CASTILOW: Reset that to five minutes,
25 please. Thank you. We're just trying to make sure that

1 the other board is participating in the meeting. Thank
2 you.

3 TATIANNA ADAMS: Hi. My name is Tatianna
4 Adams. I'm a senior here at Hundred High School. Thank
5 you for giving us the chance to address what seems to be
6 your decision to close Hundred High School, despite the
7 clear, deep impact it would have on all of us. We're
8 here because we believe the school is worth fighting
9 for, even if that may be apparent from a distant
10 administrative perspective.

11 Our school is more than just a building that
12 can be closed and forgotten about. It's a home where
13 students feel connected, supported and valued. The
14 teachers here know our stories, our strengths and our
15 struggles. The idea of uprooting us to different
16 schools with teachers and peers who won't know us the
17 way they do here is unsettling. It's clear that for
18 those who make the decisions, these connections might
19 seem minor, but to us they are essential.

20 Beyond just affecting the students, shutting
21 down our high school will impact families, teachers and
22 our entire community. Parents will now have to scramble
23 for new school arrangements and small businesses that
24 they rely on our school community will be left to fend
25 for themselves. We're sure that these are all

1 sacrifices you've considered worth making, but for the
2 people here, the consequences go much deeper.

3 When it comes to a decision like this, we
4 understand that there may be challenges you face that we
5 don't know about, but it's disappointing to see that the
6 proposed solution is simply to close down what's been,
7 for so many of us, a safe, familiar and trusted place.
8 There are other ways to handle these challenges that
9 won't disrupt the lives of students, that may require
10 more efforts and creativity, but wouldn't simply erase
11 an entire school and community.

12 In closing, we sincerely hope you reconsider
13 this choice. We believe that the students from families
14 and teachers at Hundred High School are worth more than
15 just a quick fix that shuts down an institution so many
16 of us rely on. We want to keep our school open, and we
17 hope that, despite everything, you recognize why that
18 matters. Thank you.

19 MR. CASTILOW: Next speaker will be Korbyn
20 Mace.

21 KORBYN MACE: Good evening. My name is a
22 Korbyn Mace. I'm in the sixth grade at Long Drain. My
23 mom said it was important for you to hear from students,
24 and I told her I'd speak. I think consolidation is best
25 because we could have more sports options. We could

1 make friends with kids who don't live here and we have
2 better class choices.

3 Consolidation could help us be more successful
4 by giving us more competition in our classes and more
5 options for TSA. It could also help get us better
6 prepared for college by offering harder classes than
7 maybe what we have now. And my mom, Jessica Mace, is at
8 Valley and while HHS could be great, I know my mom is
9 the best counselor and I want to be there. Thank you
10 for your time.

11 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
12 Raegan Reynolds.

13 RAEGAN REYNOLDS: Dear members of the board
14 of education, hello. My name is Raegan Reynolds, and
15 I'm in seventh grade. I am writing today as a concerned
16 student asking you to reconsider the decision to
17 consolidate Hundred High School. While I know you want
18 to do what is your best for our education, this plan has
19 serious problems that could hurt us as students more
20 than help us. I want to explain why.

21 The first problem is the unsafe road
22 conditions. The road to Valley High School is
23 dangerous. There is a hill on Route 20 on the way to
24 Valley High School named Slim Chance, for the slim
25 chance of survival if you happen to wreck. This isn't

1 just a normal trip. This is one that is dangerous,
2 especially when weather is bad. Our safety should be
3 top priority. Barker Run Road is also labeled not
4 suitable for large vehicles. Why should we have to
5 travel this every day?

6 To add to the problems, there is extended
7 travel time. The bus ride to Valley High School will
8 take more than an hour one way. That's two hours a day
9 sitting on a bus. This will leave us with little time
10 for sports, homework, study time and quality family
11 time. We would already be tired by the time we get to
12 school and it will be harder to focus and do our best,
13 not to mention hungry for breakfast and dinner.

14 Another bonus of school is being able to
15 participate in sports and extra-curricular activities.
16 Students that are already local to the Valley High
17 School would have an unfair advantage because of their
18 close distance to Valley High School. Extra-curricular
19 activities such as band, TSA, FFA, bakery and sports, as
20 examples, would be taken away from most students'
21 instruction.

22 My last concern to you is the loss of school
23 identity in our community. Our school is the heart of
24 our community. It's where we belong and where we take
25 pride in being part of something special. If our school

1 closes, we will lose our connection. We will feel
2 disconnected from where we live and our sense of
3 belonging.

4 In addition to these concerns, please consider
5 giving our community a chance to find our nations's
6 resources and other needs to keep our school up and
7 going. Thank you for allowing me to speak and please
8 consider how these changes will affect students like me.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
11 Sharon Wright.

12 SHARON WRIGHT: As most of you know me
13 here, I am Sharon Wright. Thank you for taking the time
14 to listen because this issue is just not about closing
15 the school, it's about closing the doors for many
16 students that need the doors open.

17 Today I stand here just as myself, but for the
18 students who feel like their voice doesn't matter.
19 Every young person who struggles in this area needs
20 these doors open today. I am here for the students who
21 need this school because it's more than just a place to
22 learn. It is a community, a lifeline, and sometimes a
23 second home.

24 Our school is very important. It is not
25 perfect, but it is ours. And every student who walks

1 through these doors has a story, a hope, a future that
2 will work -- that we will work with them. So some of
3 these students do not have a support system at home.
4 They only have our support. It is a place where
5 teachers, guidance counselors and friends help them with
6 their dreams. It is a place where they feel like they
7 belong.

8 By closing the doors of this school, we are
9 just moving the kids -- we're not just moving the kids
10 to a different building, we're stripping their safety
11 away. Our students in this area need our support. We
12 are taking -- you are taking away what their security
13 is. They will see new faces, new rules, new challenges,
14 which will be hard for them.

15 I hope you understand and hear every student
16 that has spoke before me. This school is their
17 security, their leadership. This building is their
18 dream.

19 I understand you think that it's right to
20 close our school. To me, it isn't. There are students
21 in this school that will fall through the cracks, that
22 you don't understand, every day that I work with. They
23 need this school to be open. So, Cassie Porter, if you
24 could answer one question for me: What would you do
25 with those students who fall through the cracks?

1 MS. PORTER: It is always the No. 1
2 priority in any school system you are in, in school
3 building you are in, to do the best you could possibly
4 do for your kids and work with the families to make sure
5 we don't have students that fall through the cracks.
6 The consolidation of Valley and Hundred will still
7 result in a very small family environment. Thank you.

8 SHARON WRIGHT: I'm glad you see that, but
9 the students I work with every day that have to travel
10 on that bus 95 minutes, struggle to get here in 15.
11 It's going to be hard. And those are the students
12 you're going to lose. And those are the students I'm
13 fighting for because they have nobody else to fight for
14 them. Thank you.

15 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
16 Earl Stevens.

17 EARL STEVENS: I want to express my
18 appreciation to the board members and administration for
19 being here today. I don't envy your position and I
20 don't envy the weight you're carrying on your shoulders.
21 I understand there is a lot of emotion tied to the
22 things that are taking place right now. But my concern
23 is the No. 1 concern I have for the students at Hundred
24 High School, and that's their safety.

25 In Pine Grove, West Virginia, there are two

1 industries, MarkWest is the name of one, and the
2 Berkshire Hathaway Energy Gas Transportation System,
3 abbreviated as BHE-GT&S. It is an entity that has the
4 capacity to process 180,000 cubic feet of gas a day.
5 That's not a pad, folks. That's not a well pad. It has
6 the capacity to process 12,000 barrels a day of mixed
7 liquids, natural gas liquids. Okay? We're talking
8 12,000 barrels. Do you know how many gallons in a
9 barrel? If you don't, look it up.

10 This one industry, this one industry markets
11 over 100 million gallons of product every year. You
12 know what they make. They produce commercial grade
13 purity propane. They produce commercial grade purity
14 butane. They produce natural gasoline, and they produce
15 ISO butane.

16 Now most of you are familiar with gasoline.
17 They have a tank above the Hastings plant that holds a
18 million gallons of it. And if it starts to leak and
19 comes off of that hill -- and, by the way, I'm only a
20 country boy, but I know how liquid runs. It goes
21 downhill. If it hits that creek -- you understand
22 that's an interesting thing, if you go on their website,
23 they have these little videos. And one of them is from
24 a -- well, a flood that happened in another town. And
25 the trailer court -- it flooded the trailers, floated

1 into the river, ruptured a gasoline tank. And you ought
2 to hear the description of what that was like.

3 Gasoline leads to one concern, but there is
4 another leak, and that's a vapor cloud caused by these
5 other gasolines. You see if you go down to Galmish,
6 which is just a couple miles down the road, you'll see
7 three orbs sitting there by some railroad cars. And
8 those three orbs hold 250,000 gallons each. And you
9 know what's in them? It's the direct liquids that are
10 collected out of the line that aren't processed. So it
11 has all that stuff in it. It has propane in it. It has
12 butane in it. It has ISO butane in it.

13 So here's where we're at. There is no odor in
14 it. It's colorless. It's odorless. It's one and a
15 half times heavier than air, which means it goes to the
16 ground. It expands at the rate of 270 to 1, which means
17 that if there is a vapor cloud over there out of one of
18 those three tanks, you're not going to see it. You're
19 not going to smell it, but it will kill you.

20 Now, the only way you can detect it is with a
21 gas detector. I find it kind of interesting that
22 whenever we look at all of this, what's the risk of a
23 derailment in Hundred, West Virginia? Zero. Valley
24 High School sits across the parking lot on Route 20 and
25 what's right on the other side of that guardrail? And

1 you know they run those rail cars up through there every
2 day? You know what a derailment will do? Well, maybe
3 you remember East Palestine, Ohio. I have friends that
4 live ten miles from that. The last time I visited them,
5 they still couldn't drink their water.

6 Those kids -- what's the chance of a gasoline
7 leak in Hundred, West Virginia? Zero. What's the
8 chance of a propane leak in Hundred, West Virginia?
9 Zero. Now I know there is federal laws and state laws
10 and everybody says safety, safety, safety, safety. But
11 do you realize that just a little over a year ago at
12 Ben's Run, that gasoline tank down there did what? Did
13 you see the flames? Did you see what happened when that
14 one blew? If you're going to think about the safety of
15 those kids, you would be doing the kids in Valley a
16 favor bringing them over here and putting them at
17 Hundred.

18 MR. CASTILOW: I apologize, for not being
19 able to read the last name of the next speaker, Doctor
20 Terra...

21 AUDIENCE: Mauro.

22 MR. CASTILOW: Mauro. Sorry, thank you.

23 TERRA MAURO: That's okay. Thank you very
24 much. My name is Doctor Terra Mauro. I am a 1974
25 graduate of Hundred High School. Following high school,

1 I pursued higher education. I accumulated a bachelor's
2 degree, two master's degrees, also a Ph.D. in counselor
3 education and supervision. So I currently own my own
4 counseling practice.

5 I credit Hundred High School and the community
6 for giving me the support and the base that I needed in
7 order to pursue my academic achievements. In addition
8 to that, we were involved in many extra-curricular
9 activities. I was a cheerleader in this gym, and I
10 think that that helped to balance out the academic by
11 giving me extra-curriculars to develop other skills and
12 have a balance.

13 My family has a strong history of being
14 involved in education in Wetzel County. My sister,
15 brother-in-law, two nephews and my niece, as well as
16 myself, we are all graduates of Hundred High School. My
17 sister spent her entire teaching career here in Wetzel
18 County at Long Drain. And my niece currently teaches at
19 Hundred High School.

20 My father started this legacy when he came to
21 HHS in 1958 as a teacher and coach and later became
22 assistant superintendent and then went on to become
23 superintendent of schools in Wetzel County. So he
24 impressed upon us the value of education and,
25 particularly, in rural areas.

1 So I wanted to point to an article I found.
2 It was published January 27th, 2023, by the National
3 Educational Association, which is out of Washington D.C.
4 It was on NEA today. And this article spoke to how some
5 school closures were reversed in Oakland and Denver, and
6 as a result of different thinking. It spoke to how
7 closing schools is a simplistic and destructive response
8 to low enrollment.

9 It also stated that when neighborhood schools
10 closed, whether urban or rural, students are forced to
11 attend schools farther from their homes. The new
12 distance, plus the trauma of displacement, can affect
13 student attendance and performance, and I will also say
14 anxiety. Because I have had on my caseload adolescents
15 who have gone from smaller schools to bigger schools and
16 the anxiety became crippling.

17 A base college professor and researcher of
18 rural schools, Mara Casey Tieken, points to studies that
19 show how student test scores and GPA averages in several
20 places fell in the year prior to and immediately after
21 the closures. It may also curtail a parents'
22 opportunity to volunteer in their child's school
23 activities, and they may not be able to participate in
24 the extra-curriculars that I found so valuable in my own
25 life.

1 So instead of closing Hundred High School, I
2 say let's invest in Hundred High School and let's give
3 students the support they truly need, a strong community
4 to support them in a place where they live. So I'm
5 asking you to please reconsider the closure of Hundred
6 High School. Thank you.

7 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will Jason
8 Sleeth.

9 JASON SLEETH: Good evening. My name is
10 Jason Sleeth, and I'm a graduate of Hundred High School
11 class of 1995. I currently serve as Hundred High
12 School's head football coach and also the head baseball
13 coach. And I'm also a 45-year resident of the community
14 of Hundred.

15 But let me begin to say on what this high
16 school means to this town. It means everything.
17 Everything from our community events, to our Fourth of
18 July celebrations, our sporting events, our local
19 restaurants, our small businesses. Hundred High School
20 is what keeps this town and this community together, and
21 it has for a long time.

22 And even though that we're few in numbers,
23 Hundred High School is all about heart. It's all about
24 pride. And I don't know if any of you may have heard
25 about the huge victory that we had the other night, but

1 it was pretty memorable. And it was amazing to see that
2 we could defeat a team that was triple our size. And it
3 was all because of those kids right there (indicating).

4 Hundred High School is tucked away in the
5 corner of the county. Hundred is three miles away from
6 Marion County, Monongalia County, Marshall County and
7 the PA line. And Hundred has always been on the losing
8 end of the county when it comes to county support and
9 county leadership.

10 See, I'm a guy that likes to have a plan and
11 execute a plan. And the plan that I see, that I read
12 about, that I see on TV is not a plan. It's a Hail Mary
13 to serve a purpose to those that have control on the
14 forefront of their agendas.

15 So let me ask you a question: How many kids
16 do you think that will actually attend Valley High
17 School? Have you taken a poll to see on how many kids
18 feel like it's a great idea to attend Valley? Do you
19 know where the kids' heads are at when pitching this
20 agenda? And I'm pretty sure that you'll hear or you've
21 already heard on how these students feel about attending
22 Valley.

23 Now, I've been part of this group of these
24 young men for a long time, and I've been coaching them
25 for over seven years. And we've had our successes, to

1 say the least, but I will tell you that this is not
2 sitting well with any of the kids. And all the talk
3 about mergers is weighing very, very heavy on their
4 minds. And my son Tyler is a junior. And this is the
5 last thing that a young, bright student athlete should
6 be worried about, is where I'm going to go to school
7 next year, Dad.

8 I'm here to tell you that although you may
9 think that this is a good plan and the kids will happily
10 drive to Valley or jump on a bus and be on a bus for
11 over an hour and travel over mountains and hills and bad
12 roads, you're sadly mistaken. I think if you actually
13 take a poll and see on who would actually travel to
14 Valley or not, you'll find that probably less of them
15 will go to Valley. And 50 percent is actually being
16 conservative. I think it would be, like, 20 or 25
17 percent of the students would actually travel to Valley.

18 So with numbers so low, one would think: How
19 is this a good idea? Do we really have the students in
20 mind when making these life-changing decisions that will
21 affect so many? And this is all that I've heard from
22 the superintendent, publicly saying they have to think
23 about the kids and think about the well-being of the
24 students. When, in my mind, I absolutely see no benefit
25 of merging Hundred students with Valley students

1 whatsoever.

2 Our kids' mental health, as you've heard
3 tonight, their mental health will take a toll. I can
4 see it. I can sense it. And it's not good to see kids
5 struggling with something that they shouldn't be
6 struggling with. So you have to ask yourself: What
7 agenda are you pushing for? If only a handful of kids
8 will, in fact, go to Valley from Hundred, who are you
9 helping? I can tell you, board of education, you're
10 looking at this from a 30,000 foot level, deciding on
11 what's actually best for our school and our kids and
12 community. You need to dive deeper and you really need
13 to get a handle on how the kids feel and what impact
14 that you're making in this small town.

15 I can think of a handful of kids right off the
16 top of my head, that they have limited resources that
17 probably won't graduate because the commute to Valley is
18 so far. Some of these kids have a hard enough time
19 making it to Hundred on time, let alone traveling over
20 an hour and a half on a bus. So who are you helping?
21 Do you have the kids' best interests in mind or not?

22 So let me ask you, Board of Education, are you
23 okay with the kids from Hundred High School not
24 graduating? Are you okay with the kids being on a bus
25 for over an hour in a high-risk travel zone? Are you

1 okay only with having a handful of kids attending Valley
2 High School from Hundred? And if your answer is yes,
3 Lord help us, because you truly don't have the best
4 interest of our students in mind.

5 Now I'm not saying that a countywide
6 consolidation is a bad idea, but you have to have a
7 plan. You have to have an agenda. You have to have
8 property to make this work. And, to my know knowledge,
9 you guys have none of that.

10 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Theresa
11 Sleeth.

12 TERESA SLEETH: Hello. My name is, like
13 you said, Teresa Sleeth, and this is a continuation of
14 what my husband, Jason, just read. I am a 1994 graduate
15 of Hundred High School, and I'm also the daughter of the
16 late Myron Seese, who taught here for 36 years, was a
17 coach and the athletic director here.

18 Our board of education is made up of some
19 pretty smart and well-educated people. I respect all of
20 you and your positions, but, for the life of me, I don't
21 understand where this makes any sense at all, combining
22 Hundred with Valley. What are you gaining by merging
23 these schools? How many kids will be at risk to not
24 graduate? How long will some of the kids be traveling
25 on the bus? And how many kids are going to be lost and

1 forgotten about by making such a quick and rash
2 decision?

3 Again, I ask you, Board of Education, have you
4 thought about all of that? Have you taken polls or
5 surveys with students to see whether or not they will be
6 attending Valley High School? Because I think if you
7 did, you would be shocked at what the results may be.

8 Let me tell you what I know. Over half of
9 the kids and students will travel to other county
10 schools. Are you truly thinking about what's best for
11 these kids, or do you have your own personal agendas in
12 mind?

13 I would love to see the board of education
14 take the bus trip on what some of these kids will be
15 traveling. Let's see how you would feel about riding
16 over an hour on a bus on bad roads, then spending over
17 eight hours doing your job. I bet you wouldn't like it.
18 But yet, do you think it's a good idea for our kids to
19 do it?

20 I'm a very practical thinker, and I always
21 make decisions on what makes practical sense and
22 business sense, and I can't think of one good reason why
23 this is good for any of our students.

24 Hundred is the nicest school in the county.
25 Hundred High is fully staffed. And Hundred now offers

1 the students the curriculum that they need to be
2 prepared for college or a technical school. And Hundred
3 High is what makes our community that.

4 Over the last few weeks, I have not heard
5 anything but negatives about Valley High School. They
6 are in a flood zone. They have water issues. They have
7 sewer issues. They have teacher issues. And the list
8 can go on and on.

9 Again, Board of Education, do you have the
10 best interests in mind for the students at Hundred High
11 School? I urge you to take your time, build a plan that
12 suits all of the students of Wetzel County. Let's not
13 go down the path of more court hearings and unwarranted
14 legal costs that will come with the poor decision to
15 merge these schools. And surely Wetzel County doesn't
16 want to waste taxpayer money to go to court over issues
17 that don't make sense.

18 Build a plan to benefit all students and all
19 teachers and administrators that can be fantastic for
20 everyone. This could happen with the right
21 decision-makers in place and with the right agenda in
22 mind. Vote no in a couple of days to merge these
23 schools. The negatives far outweigh the rewards.

24 Think about the kids that will be lost, the
25 kids that you will lose to other counties and the kids

1 that simply won't make it. Think about the travel time
2 for some. Think about what Hundred High School means to
3 our community. Keep Hundred High School open and
4 formulate a plan that makes sense, not what is easy.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. CASTILOW: At this time we'd like to
7 take a five-minute break. It's 7:41. We'll start back
8 at 7:46, 7:47.

9 * * *

10 (Brief break)

11 * * *

12 MR. CASTILOW: We'll go ahead and get on
13 with the next set of speakers, please. The next speaker
14 is Michelle Reynolds.

15 MICHELLE REYNOLDS: Good evening, members
16 of the board, parents, teachers and community members.
17 My name is Michelle Reynolds, and I stand before you
18 today as a current member of our community, a very proud
19 alumni of Hundred High School, and currently a parent of
20 three daughters at Long Drain Elementary School. And
21 I'm here to urge you to not close our school, and what a
22 beautiful school we're in tonight. How many of you have
23 even been around our building? You can see that not
24 many repairs are needed and certainly 3 million less
25 than what you stated.

1 I spoke to you at the September 10th board
2 meeting in the hopes of rezoning Wetzel County and at
3 least keeping your two farthest schools geographically
4 apart so that would eliminate the longer bus rides for
5 my students. Given that Valley is central to both New
6 Martinsville and Hundred and could be split to go in
7 either direction with less travel time for most
8 students.

9 I would also like to hear again why the choice
10 was made for Hundred to merge and consolidate to Valley
11 and what was the pros of Valley coming to Hundred?

12 My husband, who is an alumni of North Marion
13 High School, and myself both chose to keep our children
14 here due to the personalized approach of a smaller
15 school. We both work in Morgantown and could have
16 easily relocated, but as most parents do, we weighed the
17 pros and cons and remained here for in the smaller class
18 sizes.

19 My husband came from a consolidated high
20 school, where it was so large that you were lost in a
21 sea of students, and unless you were the ambitious
22 student, you did not always succeed and you were lost.
23 I understand that the entire state is looking at
24 consolidation right now and in many counties, but also
25 that there is just as many on the deconsolidation side

1 that make strong and valid arguments.

2 According to the state Department of
3 Education, there were 24,000 home school students and
4 13,000 private school students in West Virginia. The
5 state board of ed. talked recently about the reason for
6 consolidation is decreasing student population, which
7 from last year versus 2014, was roughly 40,000 students.
8 Home school and private school is the largest
9 contributing factor, not population decline. Maybe the
10 real issue is why are these students choosing to leave
11 the public school system?

12 It seems from all perspectives that the state
13 board of education and government level have both said
14 that the funding formula is flawed and government
15 elected officials should be instead looking to fix the
16 formula. If the large majority of the decline is from
17 the larger consolidation schools to home school or
18 private school, that would be interesting to know. How
19 does the funding formula account for that? Maybe it
20 would be better for all if Wetzel County pauses on
21 consolidation while it's being worked through, since
22 it's under a spotlight now at the state level.

23 Then on to the travel aspect. What studies
24 has been done on the travel impact and safety for our
25 students? Barker Run Road, which is the fastest way to

1 Valley, albeit the most dangerous, clearly has a sign
2 that states not suitable for large vehicles. No amount
3 of restructuring that road will make it safe to pass
4 daily on a bus. Then to subject children to the travel
5 time that it will take for them to get to and from
6 school is just unfathomable. Would any one of you want
7 to ride a bus daily for over an hour and a half or more
8 one way?

9 And at what point does the state make enough
10 consolidations this year to make the funding formula
11 work? Wouldn't it be more advantageous for Wetzel
12 County to look at the other consolidated schools that
13 have been approved and see if even more is necessary
14 this year?

15 Unfortunately, most students in our area will
16 be forced to seek transfer to one of our other
17 neighboring counties. I would be one of them if the
18 schools moved, as most parents in our area work in
19 Morgantown, Fairmont and Clarksburg. How will that
20 affect the funding formula, when the student population
21 is on a decline from transfer out of the county? And I
22 can imagine that Paden City is having the same type of
23 situation in looking where to transfer.

24 One member of the board voted against the
25 consolidation plan even though he has been through all

1 the meetings regarding this. I would like to know why
2 he voted against the consolidation.

3 Our side of Wetzel is growing rapidly in both
4 oil, gas and coal. We generate a large share of the
5 revenue for the county from this side. And I've also
6 been concerned from the beginning that Hundred and Paden
7 City is not being represented on the school board, and I
8 don't feel like our voices are truly being heard.

9 In closing, I urge you to think not only about
10 the numbers, but also about these students that so
11 passionately spoke this evening. Please consider maybe
12 rezoning Wetzel County instead, and keeping the two high
13 schools on each separate end of the county open, and
14 providing more resources to these schools, or maybe
15 account for the funding formula being flawed, and now is
16 not the right time to consolidate. It seems to me that
17 everyone has been on board with going down to one school
18 in the future, but not on a run and gun haphazard-made
19 plan.

20 My last question is: Why are we having
21 special meetings to vote on a day and time when most of
22 the public cannot attend?

23 MS. PORTER: Okay. Let's see here.

24 The student funding formula, that's government
25 run. We don't have any -- I mean, we do, I guess, have

1 the voice to vote for people that make those funding
2 formulas, but we don't have that. As far as losing
3 students, we don't currently get any money from the
4 state for our students. We don't want to lose our
5 students, of course not.

6 Rezoning the county, it's probably a question
7 for the commission. And we have special meetings
8 normally at 9 a.m. There is no delegations at those.
9 So, historically, we've done those at 9 a.m.

10 As far as driving over Barker, was that
11 another one of your questions?

12 MICHELLE REYNOLDS: Yes.

13 MS. PORTER: I did drive that road today.
14 We did pass a --

15 AUDIENCE: In January?

16 MR. CASTILOW: Please let the
17 superintendent respond, please.

18 MS. PORTER: We did drive that road today.
19 And if we do end up having to use Barker, we will have
20 to work with the State Department of Highways and also
21 the oil and gas. I did pass one tanker truck on my way
22 at the very end of the road. And I was not traveling
23 during operative times for buses, but I did take that
24 trip again today. So we have a lot of roads that our
25 buses do travel on that are, I would say, less

1 travelable than Barker, but we have considered that and
2 are working on that.

3 MICHELLE REYNOLDS: My other question was,
4 in your own words, why was Hundred made -- or the
5 decision made to merge Hundred into Valley and not
6 Valley into Hundred? And what pros was Valley coming to
7 Hundred that wasn't discussed?

8 MS. PORTER: So we worked on the impact
9 statement. I'm not sure if you had a chance to look at
10 that or not. All of our data is in that impact
11 statement. A lot of factors did go into that. I know
12 that any time you consolidate schools, it's not a
13 popular thing. This has not been easy for any of us as
14 it has not been easy for you, but our goal is to make
15 the best choices for all of the students in Wetzel
16 county.

17 MICHELLE REYNOLDS: And my last question
18 was that one of your board members voted no for the
19 consolidation. I would just like to know what his
20 reasoning was.

21 MS. PORTER: We can't talk about that
22 tonight. He is not allowed to answer any questions
23 during this open hearing.

24 MICHELLE REYNOLDS: Can you summarize?

25 MS. PORTER: I will not speak for him, no.

1 MICHELLE REYNOLDS: All right. That's all.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
4 Bill Reynolds.

5 BILL REYNOLDS: Hello. Well, this has been
6 an interesting evening and there's been a lot of great
7 points made. My goodness, Reverend Stevens, Mr. Sleeth,
8 my wife and others made a lot of points. Obviously,
9 you've heard it from the side of the heartfelt hurt it's
10 caused. We've talked about the economy sides of this.
11 This is a business. You're talking millions of dollars.

12 I've heard you say 2.7 versus 2, 7.8, or
13 whatever the numbers were, and I didn't get them exact,
14 versus 10 million to revitalize Valley. I've heard
15 about a new school in four to five years being a hundred
16 million dollar project. I've heard that tonight. It
17 may be a rumor. I don't know what the case is, but I
18 know this is big business, and it's money when you're
19 talking millions versus the hearts and souls of this
20 town and these students. So you weigh out both. I get
21 that.

22 Some things I look at from -- as my wife just
23 stated and she just spoke, that was Michelle. I went to
24 North Marion. I lived in a region called Joetown. That
25 is in the middle of nowhere. To make the trip from

1 Joetown across the hill called Whetstone, which I will
2 rival to Barker any day of the week, we missed a ton of
3 school. There were snow days. There was different
4 times we couldn't get there. I had an aging father, and
5 I had no ability to get there. I dropped out my junior
6 year. Couldn't get there. Fought my whole life to get
7 back.

8 I love this town. As I stand here, I look at
9 some of the things I see. Kids are going to be removed.
10 I know these children. I coach the girls basketball
11 team. I see on their faces, I see it daily, doubt,
12 frustration, uncertainty. I hate that. I don't have
13 the answers for them. All I can do is love them,
14 support them and try to tell them the best way to go
15 with their education life, especially my juniors.
16 They've got one more year. All they want to do is walk
17 across that stage as Hornets. I get that. That's a
18 beautiful thing.

19 You know, I look at it from the perspective of
20 my daughters will have to get up in a couple years.
21 Raegan is in the seventh grade. She spoke eloquently
22 earlier. So proud of her. She is going to have to get
23 up between 5:30 and 6 every morning to get ready. Hour,
24 hour and 15, hour and 20 on the bus ride, depending on
25 January. Because, no offense, Ms. Porter, but I drove

1 Barker every day to the Hastings plant, that's no fun in
2 the winter. It is a treacherous road, but all of
3 them -- you make a very good statement. There is some
4 bad roads in Wetzel County. She is going to get an
5 hour, hour and a half on the bus.

6 Now we're going to do the other side of that
7 flip. She wants to do FFA, TSA, whatever it is that she
8 wants to do. We're on practice schedule right now, 4 to
9 6, 6 to 8. You know, if you're on that 6 to 8 schedule,
10 all right, she gets out of school 3, 3:30. She's got to
11 drive an hour and something back to Hundred. Right? Or
12 just sit in Valley for two, two and a half hours of her
13 day. Maybe she can get homework done. It's not ideal.
14 Maybe she can. Practice 6 to 8. She gets out. Has she
15 ate yet? Who knows? Now another hour and a half home.
16 Now it's 10. I love my kids. I'd like to see them.
17 Does she have homework? Does she have any other dreams
18 and ambitions in her life? Where does she have the
19 time?

20 I lived that life. I dropped out of school
21 because I couldn't handle it. I didn't have the support
22 system. These kids do. This whole town loves them. I
23 love them.

24 I would ask you to at least look past even if
25 it's the emotion that you've heard from so many of these

1 students to the economic side of things. You know the
2 point I've written down here is not everybody lives in a
3 perfect home, in a perfect situation. We have gas
4 prices, the economy prices, let's take the average
5 student, ones that go to Valley. That's 35, 40 minutes
6 in the winter, even worse on bad roads. You get to
7 school. You get home. Now you're just trying to live a
8 normal high school life like these kids are. You got to
9 get back. Parents have got 45, 50 extra minutes of
10 running to and from, an hour and a half of extra travel
11 versus this end of the county, as my wife said rezoning.

12 The opportunities at Valley, and I'm not pro
13 Valley, pro Hundred. I'm pro Wetzel County student.
14 They have their school. We have ours. You have Paden
15 City. You have Magnolia. There is a thing my dad used
16 to say me to growing up, and I remember: Fail to plan,
17 plan to fail. Change is inevitable, but it's how we
18 change, when we change, where we change and the process
19 we change that will matter the most. I thank you-all
20 for your time. Have a good evening.

21 MR. CASTILOW: Next speaker will be Sharon
22 Snider.

23 SHARON SNIDER: Good evening. My name is
24 Sharon Snider. I'm originally from South Jersey, but I
25 got to West Virginia as fast as I could. When I first

1 came to Wetzel County about 15 years ago, I subbed in
2 almost every school but found my home at Long Drain
3 School.

4 I quickly learned that Long Drain and Hundred
5 High School is a family. We may fight amongst
6 ourselves, but, at the end of the day, we fight as a
7 force against those that oppose us or try to hold us
8 down.

9 You have listened to students and staff
10 members and parents this evening. I would like to
11 address some questions that concern me, if -- big if,
12 capital letter if -- hey, this consolidation should go
13 through. Because, like it or not, it will also impact
14 the students of Long Drain.

15 No. 1, it has been rumored that a potential
16 location for the consolidated school would be located on
17 Route 7. It is rumored that they want \$3 million for
18 this land. Even though this may be more than market
19 value, why not pay it, since it is centrally located and
20 will be an investment for all Wetzel County students.
21 It would also create trust that a new building will
22 actually be built. Because, let's face it, folks, there
23 is not too many people sitting behind me that feel that
24 that one school will ever come about.

25 No. 2. On Page 17 of the Impact Statement it

1 states that Hundred High School has a guidance counselor
2 and, therefore, next year Valley will have two guidance
3 counselors. In reality, Hundred High School shares a
4 guidance counselor with Long Drain. Does that mean that
5 Long Drain will lose their guidance counselor, or will
6 Long Drain keep that guidance counselor and Valley will
7 have one?

8 No. 3. On Page 19 of the Impact Statement it
9 states that five buses currently serve Hundred High
10 School, and that next year those bus times will increase
11 by at least 40 minutes. According to West Virginia Code
12 18-5-43, Instructional minutes are broken down as
13 follows: Pre-K-5, 315 minutes. 6-8, 330 minutes.
14 9-12, 345 minutes. Part A, will Pre-K-12 share the same
15 buses at the same time as they currently do, therefore,
16 causing Pre-K-8 to also have an increase in bus times?
17 Part B, if Pre-K-8's bus time is not going to change,
18 then will extra buses and drivers be utilized? If so,
19 will the LDS instructional day, 8 to 3:15, still be the
20 guide, despite being over the 315 minutes for Pre-K-5
21 and 330 minutes for 6-8? Part C, if Pre-K-8's bus time
22 is not going to change and extra bus drivers will not be
23 utilized, then that would leave our current bus drivers
24 running their route twice. What would the Long Drain
25 instructional day look like, starting times and ending

1 times?

2 No. 4. If you consolidate, how will high
3 school students be able to participate from the Hundred
4 area? Will an activity bus be provided to transport
5 them home? Will snacks and/or a meal be provided if
6 they stay at that other school? Will parents/guardians
7 be expected to travel to Valley after an away game, or
8 will an activity bus bring them back to Hundred?

9 And No. 5. On Page 20 of the Impact
10 Statement, under travel time to neighboring county
11 public schools, four counties are listed that Hundred
12 High School students could attend if they choose not to
13 go over to Valley. I am left to wonder if that was
14 included to encourage those students to go elsewhere. I
15 say that because... I say that because I have not heard
16 anything that remotely sounds like, Oh, no, what can we
17 do to change their minds? Why are you -- what are you
18 doing to encourage Hundred High School students to stay
19 in this county? Thank you.

20 MR. MCPHERSON: Okay.

21 You're stuck with me, Sharon. I'll answer a
22 couple easy ones. The times of neighboring schools are
23 included because the Department of Education requires
24 them to be in the Impact Statement. It's in the code,
25 so we had to put it in there.

1 Rumored location, that's just it. There is a
2 lot of rumored locations. I'll confess we've looked at
3 several places and I'm still convinced that we will
4 build a single school. I think it's going to happen. I
5 want to see it happen. And I understand, it's okay to
6 be...

7 SHARON SNIDER: Doubtful.

8 MR. MCPHERSON: Doubtful. I get that. But
9 we've been several places and looked. Nothing official,
10 but we certainly started to look to what happens next.
11 We can't involve the people on the other end of the
12 table of what happens next until the actual time is
13 there.

14 Counselorwise, we will not leave any school
15 without a counselor. There was a time in Wetzell, you
16 were probably here for some of that, whenever we had
17 counselors split in three different schools. I don't
18 think anybody wants to get back to that time. I think
19 that when we look at students, in general, and their
20 needs, that it would be malpractice to not have a
21 counselor at every school. I think we've done our best
22 to keep that. I couldn't support not keeping a
23 counselor at every school. So I don't see that
24 happening. It would be a bad idea.

25 Sorry. I'm trying to read my own shorthand

1 here. As far as time at school, all of our Pre-K -- all
2 of our kids go for the amount of time that the high
3 school kids have to go already. And we actually -- the
4 last time we did a time study, we -- and this is helpful
5 because the Department of Education allows us with the
6 calendar to do a few things because of this. If you
7 bank at least 20 minutes of instructional time a day,
8 you can then -- that's how PD days are allowed and the
9 inclement weather days, where we don't have to make
10 those first five days to make. So we already are over
11 by 20 minutes. So, you know, we do have some buffer in
12 there, if that's what you're asking.

13 SHARON SNIDER: I think it was more along
14 the lines of with the buses, like, how are you going to
15 handle the busing situation, with the Long Drain Pre-K-8
16 students and the Hundred or are those kids going to get
17 on that bus at the same exact time?

18 MR. MCPHERSON: So a couple things: Keep
19 in mind in the Impact Statement we had to put in the
20 absolute worst it could be. Okay? Because if we didn't
21 and then that's what we ended up with, we would not have
22 made that point. So, you know, there may be some
23 counties do run bus runs twice. I don't know if that's
24 effective in a county of our size. You know, there is a
25 couple other counties who do that, and, you know, I

1 don't think that works. I think that we'll have to --
2 we do not have it up and running as well as we had
3 hoped, the system that tracks the buses, so we can look
4 at where we can be more efficient with what we do. So
5 that is something we will have to apply that.

6 SHARON SNIDER: And my recommendation to
7 the board is if you are looking at this next year, you
8 are almost halfway through this one. That really does
9 not give you a whole lot of time to let these folks
10 behind know, you know, is their young child going to be
11 getting up prior to the crack of dawn to ride a bus? Or
12 how that's going to work for them, as well. That's
13 definitely going to need to be something that is looked
14 at, I believe, in the very, very near future, if, big
15 if, this should be the case.

16 MR. McPHERSON: And I agree with your
17 point, that we would have to go quickly because we have
18 to let people know.

19 SHARON SNIDER: What about an activity bus
20 for --

21 MR. McPHERSON: I think we've discussed
22 that a couple times, and I'll stick my neck out and say
23 that I don't know why we wouldn't run an activity bus.
24 I think that that would be important. And I think we'd
25 have to explore the idea of running -- I'd just say

1 where we are coming from with post-game activities,
2 whether we change how -- what a bus route is considered
3 when it starts in one place to go to a game, that we
4 consider the fact that the end game might not be the
5 first school. Does that make sense? It might have to
6 be something that's considered. You know, and I know
7 that I've been on the band director side of that and
8 waited for people to come and get picked up and it's
9 tough. I understand that.

10 SHARON SNIDER: Okay. Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE: She asked about meals.

12 SHARON SNIDER: Yes, clarifying --

13 MR. MCPHERSON: So I know child nutrition
14 can offer things after school and has in the past. So I
15 think when you look at what would happen in that
16 situation, that that would have to be supported. That
17 happened just at Valley when I was there. The football
18 coach had worked with folks to make sure there was food
19 around before football practice started. So it would
20 not be -- that's something that wouldn't be hard to do.

21 SHARON SNIDER: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. MCPHERSON: Thank you.

23 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
24 Courtney Dennis.

25 COURTNEY DENNIS: Hello. I know this isn't

1 the Dennis that signed up to speak originally, but this
2 is the Dennis you're going to hear from. My heart was
3 really calling me to come down here and speak, so my dad
4 was kind enough to give his time to me.

5 So my name is Courtney Dennis, and I'm a proud
6 graduate of Hundred High Schooling, class of 1999. My
7 time at Hundred was full of opportunities. That's what
8 comes along with being part of a small school community,
9 where you form close bonds and relationships with your
10 classmates and faculty and staff and your school.

11 I had the opportunity to cheer. I played
12 basketball. I was editor of our school newspaper and
13 the yearbook. I had the opportunity to attend the
14 governor's academy for arts and sciences as a junior. I
15 participated in FFA and got to go to a national FFA
16 competition as the president of our parliamentary
17 procedure team. Why did I have all of those
18 opportunities? Because I came from a small environment,
19 there was less competition and I had such good
20 relationships with my teachers that I felt comfortable
21 joining their teams and working with them side by side
22 to achieve these great things and represent Hundred High
23 School well.

24 And I'm afraid that if we move forward with
25 this plan, that our kids are going to be missing out on

1 opportunities and not gaining them. I graduated as
2 salutatorian of my class. I went on to get an
3 undergraduate degree in history. I graduated magna cum
4 laude -- or summa cum laude, sorry. I got the highest
5 award in the history department that can be achieved by
6 a college student at Bethany College. I went on and got
7 my master's degree at IUP. Not bad from a kid that went
8 to a small country school.

9 I currently serve as the middle school social
10 studies teacher at Long Drain. I've only been there for
11 a few years. My path to the education field was a long
12 and winding one. When I graduated, I worked in several
13 different career fields. I worked in the private sector
14 for a research firm. I worked in the government sector.
15 I worked in higher education.

16 Both of my parents are retired Wetzel County
17 educators. They worked here in this county for over 40
18 years. So I come from a long line of people who care
19 about students. And during my time at Waynesburg
20 University, I realized that the students I had the
21 opportunity to work with, that was the most inspiring
22 part of my job, and I thought, Well, maybe I missed my
23 calling. You know, I didn't want to do what my parents
24 did. I wanted to make my own path, pave my own way, do
25 something different. But then I thought, Well, maybe

1 this is in my blood, and I got to thinking about it. Do
2 I want to teach because I want to teach, or do I want to
3 teach because my heart is calling me back to my
4 community?

5 I live in Waynesburg, PA. I was born and
6 raised here, went to school here, but I'm willing to
7 make the drive out here because this is home. This is
8 my community. I want to give to these students the same
9 opportunities that I had. I want to pay it forward. I
10 want to be there for those kids the way that my teachers
11 were there for me.

12 We've talked a lot about how the teachers at
13 this school and at Long Drain are there for our kids.
14 You know, we're not just their teachers. We're their
15 coaches. We're their support system. We're the
16 shoulder that they need to cry on when they're having a
17 rough day. We're the vending machine when they're
18 hungry. You know, we need to meet their basic needs
19 before we think about academics. They're not just test
20 scores.

21 So it's not just that we are there for these
22 kids. These kids are there for us, too. Every kid over
23 there, I've either been their substitute teacher, their
24 high school teacher or their middle school social
25 studies teacher.

1 And last year I went through one of the
2 toughest times of my life. I battled breast cancer at a
3 very young age, and those kids were there for me. They
4 sent me cards. They sent me flowers. They created
5 posters for me. They were always letting me know that
6 they were thinking about me. And this is the special
7 relationship that you're going to take away from this
8 community by doing this.

9 Every time I walk into this building, I'm
10 excited because I know I'm going to see these kids.
11 Even though I'm not working in this building, I know
12 these kids. I formed relationships with these kids. We
13 stay in touch. They're only five minutes down the road.
14 If you move forward with this, they're going to be
15 scattered. How am I going to keep up with kids that are
16 at seven different places? When they graduate as eighth
17 graders, our relationship doesn't stop. It continues.
18 How am I going to go to all of their games? How am I
19 going to go to their competitions? How am I going to
20 know that they're okay? So I really urge you to
21 consider the impact that you're going to have on the
22 community by moving forward with this. Thank you.

23 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
24 Jeanine Watson, speaking for Nancy Watson.

25 JEANINE WATSON: My mother wrote this, but

1 she thought she wouldn't get through it in her five
2 minutes, and I told her, "I can do this," so...

3 I wrote this letter as a letter to the editor
4 and was told it was too long to publish. I thought I
5 had submitted it to all the board members, but only
6 Mr. Castilow replied. I guess it didn't go through.
7 Thank you, Mr. Castilow, for your response.

8 I know teachers are aware of this, but the
9 community may not be, insofar as low test scores in
10 smaller county schools. The reason being, for example,
11 we might have 20 students in a class and three are in
12 special education. When the results are calculated,
13 these students' scores are included, therefore, bringing
14 down the total scores. I understand special needs. We
15 have a granddaughter that qualifies.

16 Our small Hundred High School has done an
17 exemplary job of educating our students over the years.
18 Our six children and six of our grandchildren attended.
19 Starting with the healthcare field, we have had four
20 medical doctors, including an associate professor at
21 Duke University in North Carolina. One practicing in
22 Akron, Ohio. The youngest one posted last week, and I
23 quote, they obviously don't understand the advantages of
24 small schools.

25 So many have become nurses, including the

1 current director of the adult critical care unit at Ruby
2 Memorial Hospital. Some mental health workers and
3 social workers, one now employed in our county. There
4 have been at least two pharmacist graduates. Our
5 daughter is now working in a hospital in Ohio. Our
6 youngest granddaughter graduated in 2017 with \$90,000 in
7 scholarships, the most scholarship money any graduate
8 had received, and is now clinical research coordinator
9 at the Eye Institute at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

10 There have been some appointees to the Naval
11 Academy. One became a nuclear physicist and others who
12 have enlisted serving their careers. We have had some
13 enlist in the Air Force, including our two sons. One of
14 whom served in Desert Storm. The Marines can claim
15 their fair share of our graduates. One serving in
16 Desert Storm. And our grandson, who in just four years
17 achieved the rank of Master Sergeant, which usually
18 takes ten years to do. Many enlisted in the Army, all
19 serving our country with pride.

20 In industry, we have had a supervisor of
21 compliance at Dominion Energy in Hastings, West
22 Virginia, and the current supervisor of compliance at
23 what is now Berkshire Hathaway. Many working at
24 chemical plants in the Ohio Valley, including our son
25 and grandson. Some work as coal miners. Brave men, in

1 my opinion. One of my grandsons working for a surveying
2 company. Another in the oil and gas fields to provide
3 for families. There has been an engineer and an
4 architect that I can recall. Our daughter became a
5 grocery store manager and some are working for the FBI.

6 As to public service, our sheriff, deputies
7 and assessor now serving our county are Hundred High
8 School graduates. A former police detective and SWAT
9 leader in Mansfield, Texas. I am very thankful for
10 those men who serve our country.

11 Our schools FFA program has excelled both at
12 the state and national level many times over. I know of
13 least five who have become vocational education teachers
14 in West Virginia. What is more important than teaching
15 our students how to raise vegetable gardens and meat for
16 their own use and profit?

17 As for all the things listed in your outline
18 as improvements, sports, arts, et cetera, that would be
19 at Valley High School, this will not happen because many
20 of the better students, for lack of a better word, will
21 go to Clay-Battelle, North Marion or be home schooled
22 online. And again, those students without that option
23 will have no choice but to go where you require them.
24 Many will not have a grade point average to participate
25 in these activities. Their parents may not have the

1 means to transport them, as well.

2 And speaking of Valley, three of our grandsons
3 graduated from Valley and all went to WVU, getting
4 degrees in engineering. One works at WVU, one in
5 Maryland and our youngest got two degrees in four a half
6 years and is now employed at NASA. I'm sure Valley can
7 speak for its own.

8 These accomplishments would not have happened
9 without our dedicated teachers, many of whom have
10 returned to their home county and taught, including many
11 overtime hours that they are not compensated for in
12 their early years. Our daughter has taught here for 23
13 years, formerly teaching in Logan County, West Virginia.

14 Am I proud of our Hundred High School? You
15 bet I am. Most of all, I'm so very proud of the
16 graduates who have succeeded in their lives. Talk about
17 those who have succeeded, our grandson Tyrell, a 2011
18 graduate of Hundred High School, just accepted close to
19 a quarter of a million dollar contract with Microsoft.
20 Our small schools have earned the right to brag of their
21 achievements.

22 What it takes to succeed in life is not new
23 buildings, sports and other school activities. It is
24 simply dedicated teachers and students with the desire
25 to learn. These are all from my memories. If I had

1 asked my children, they may have been able to add some
2 of those success stories, but I'm old enough to do what
3 I want and I'm not senile yet.

4 I did not graduate from Hundred High School,
5 but I did get a GED later in life with the intention of
6 becoming a nurse. I took the entrance exam and passed,
7 but decided being a stay-at-home mom was more important.
8 And this was from my mother. Sitting there. Thank you.

9 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
10 Renee Wade.

11 RENEE WADE: Hello. Many of the ladies and
12 gentlemen behind me know me as "Joey's mom." I'm just
13 going to get straight to the point. I have a son that
14 is a junior in high school here. My son has been in
15 Long Drain, Hundred since he has been old enough to
16 attend school. The bond that these kids share is
17 something special. The kids he has grew up with are a
18 family. They have each other's backs, playing baseball,
19 football, and will tell each other that they're doing a
20 great job when they are doing stuff together.

21 You're just not closing a school, but you're
22 separating a community and a family. If you close
23 Hundred High School, you're separating most of these
24 kids from the best part of their days, which is seeing
25 and learning with not their friends but their families.

1 I have never seen in any other school the
2 love, commitment and support these kids have for each
3 other than I have at Long Drain and Hundred. But not
4 only for our school, it needs to stay open, because it
5 is safe for our kids to learn with certified teachers
6 and staff, with running water, and it's not located in a
7 flood zone.

8 I know that consolidation is inevitable, but,
9 in my opinion, I think you would be saving funding in
10 the long run if you just wait and buy the property,
11 build a big enough school for all four of the high
12 schools and put it into one and leave things the way
13 they are just for now.

14 And as for the safety of the bus rides, I
15 lived on Hoyt Ridge. I was told by the board of
16 education that if I wanted my son to attend school, to
17 get the socialization he needs for being an only child,
18 I was to drive off that road and back on it every day
19 for him to attend school to catch a bus. So how is it
20 safe for our busses to travel that road, when I thought
21 it was too dangerous for me to drive up and down that
22 road just with my son? Thank you.

23 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
24 Carolyn Hostetler.

25 CAROLYN HOSTETLER: Good evening, board

1 members. My name is Carolyn Hostetler, and I am a 1973
2 graduate of Hundred High School. In the Impact
3 Statement, it states that -- there is a section called
4 "Personnel." I'd like to speak on that for a moment.

5 The information states there will be no net
6 change in professional or service personnel and no
7 positions will be eliminated. This statement cannot be
8 proven as true, based on the fact that no formal inquiry
9 has ever been done to determine the loss in the number
10 of employees and students in HHS that will not
11 transition to Valley High School. So how can you say
12 that there will be no positions eliminated?

13 And, furthermore, the lost retention of
14 students and teachers will determine the need for
15 professional and service personnel. Maintaining the
16 student and personnel population should be of utmost
17 importance to Wetzel County Schools' future. This
18 section places little to no guarantee of retaining
19 personnel. None.

20 HHS sits at a crossroads of multiple
21 communities. Our central location isn't just a benefit
22 for staff, it is essential for the families the school
23 serves. While some may not favor where we're situated,
24 many others see it as a strength. Our location is
25 centralized, making it accessible to educators from

1 various regions.

2 Hundred already attracts employees from
3 several communities that are within the 30 to 60 mile
4 radius, with the better travel commute due to the
5 terrain and condition of the roadways. Why not further
6 attract teachers and staff with a more competitive wage
7 increase, a much better use of your money resources than
8 rerouting our county school system?

9 We further realize that the loss of students
10 and staff in Wetzel County will be increased by closing
11 Hundred High School. We do not want to see this happen.
12 And when students leave, parents leave and our community
13 and population is further decreased. We should be
14 attempting to retain every student in Wetzel County, not
15 close the school and suggest other counties are an
16 option, which has been done. Thank you.

17 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
18 Scott Lemley.

19 SCOTT LEMLEY: Good evening. Thank you for
20 this opportunity to speak before the board of education.
21 As stated, my name is Scott Lemley, and I want to start
22 off by saying Hundred High School should not close. I
23 do not believe an impact study or study exists that will
24 support or provide credible results, the position that
25 students from low income families or those affected by a

1 bad home life will receive a better education with the
2 closure of Hundred High School.

3 Student learning should be available and
4 accessible to all students. Longer bus rides, less time
5 with family and an unfamiliarity with classmates are all
6 factors that will lead to worse outcomes, not better.

7 With the potential closure of Hundred High
8 School, we will have students left behind. I believe
9 this to be a factual statement. With the extended or
10 longer bus routes, we will have students who will miss
11 school because of a lack of guidance from parents or
12 just a lack of motivation. And as a result, we will
13 have students left behind.

14 Some students attending Hundred High School
15 believe they do not matter, they will not fit in the new
16 school and these students will likely drop out of
17 school. A quality education is important to these
18 students, as well.

19 I truly believe the Wetzel County board of
20 education members care about student learning. Some of
21 the board members I consider friends, and I believe,
22 without any doubt, these members care about student
23 learning.

24 I do not need an answer to these questions at
25 this point. Most likely, these answers will be made

1 available during the discovery process. I'm not certain
2 if Title 126, Legislative Rule, Board of Education
3 Series 16, regulations for education of students with
4 exceptionalities 2419, or better titled 126 CSR 16, is
5 being followed if the closure of Hundred High School
6 becomes a reality.

7 Also, similar language can be found in West
8 Virginia Code 18-20-1. I have concerns with several
9 areas of West Virginia law and West Virginia
10 regulations. Some of our students attending Hundred
11 High School will not receive quality education with
12 potential closure of Hundred High School.

13 We have students in our is school system who
14 do not have a voice. Some of these students have been
15 beaten down and none of these circumstances or all of
16 the situations can be blamed on these students or
17 adolescents. These students already have the deck
18 stacked against them.

19 We have the available resources to make sure
20 all students receive the best possible education.
21 Wetzel County Schools have more tax dollars today than
22 at any point in history. Given the availability of
23 funds and resources in Wetzel County, educational needs
24 and opportunities should be met for all students.

25 I would like to recognize that we have some

1 legislative members in the audience. Senator Taylor,
2 Senator Rose, Delegate Sheedy and Delegate Statler. I
3 hope I didn't miss anyone. I'm glad they are here. I
4 also want to give a shout out to Mr. Wilkins, whose
5 birthday is today. And as a Hundred High School
6 graduate involved and involved with Long Drain school, I
7 want to thank the opportunities that I've been afforded.
8 Thank you to Ms. Roberts and Mr. Wilkins for the ability
9 to be a public speaker. I hope I made you proud
10 tonight.

11 Again, I do not want Hundred High School to
12 close. I do not think it should close for the reasons I
13 have stated. I appreciate your time and attention and
14 respect. Have a great evening. Thank you.

15 MR. CASTILOW: I'm unable to read the last
16 name of the next speaker, Michael and it starts with an
17 H.

18 AUDIENCE: Howard.

19 MICHAEL HOWARD: Thank you, Board of
20 Education, for everything for tonight.

21 THE REPORTER: I can't hear you.

22 MICHAEL HOWARD: Thank you, Board of
23 Education, for letting us speak here tonight. I want to
24 say I've been on that bus route in New Martinsville
25 because I graduated from Magnolia. I was ornery in high

1 school and I got the service of Mr. Houston, the cooking
2 classes when I was in Mrs. Huggins and Ms. Walker and
3 them, we all had special education. Got to do the
4 cooking and it's been like a big family here. And, you
5 know, I hate to see my kids starting in school and --
6 well, they're in, but they're in sports now. They're
7 building up. And my little girl joined the softball
8 team with Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Reynolds. They've
9 achieved so well along with the other team. And if you
10 got to take that away, this is the first year of the
11 last year that the team went to state.

12 And, you know, you guys said about the bus
13 trip, I rode that bus to New Martinsville every day. I
14 got up 4:30 in the morning. I had to get to New
15 Martinsville by 8:00. Depending on traffic, snow
16 condition, there was times that that road was awful in
17 the wintertime. And I can't see this consolidation
18 because all the bullying in between everything.

19 You know, four years ago my boy got his
20 glasses broke on the bus. I called the board of
21 education. I had -- I know everybody said, Set up the
22 meeting. I didn't get nothing. And, you know, he
23 didn't want to go to school because of this. And, you
24 know, when he got into Esports with Mr. Mills, that
25 cheered him up and that changed his mind. And he's

1 picking up a little bit better each day, even though
2 he's in special classes and hard of hearing, but he
3 really enjoyed his class, made some stuff. And you guys
4 take that away, I don't know what he's going to do.

5 And, you know, I got the privilege riding the
6 bus with Mr. Stevens' boy and, you know, it was amazing
7 to an extent. But, like I said, that road in the
8 wintertime is awful. And the state road have a hard
9 time keeping up with the roads, and you guys are going
10 to consolidate and make that even worse. How you going
11 to protect the kids on the bus when the bullying is
12 going on? Are you going to put sheriffs on the bus, you
13 know, that keep the kids safe? I mean, I don't
14 understand that. But that's the end of my speech.

15 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
16 Donald Smith.

17 DONALD SMITH: Well, everybody behind me
18 knows me from school and stuff like that. And I play
19 football in school and stuff like that. And I graduated
20 here, and there is a bunch of things that I want to
21 mention is if I was in school -- was still in school, I
22 would have quit school if it would have meant that I
23 would have had to go to Valley and graduated and stuff
24 like that. And the bus rides. And I wouldn't know what
25 I know today if it wasn't for Hundred. And if there was

1 a way to make it easier on the kids or make it easier on
2 the parents and stuff like that and the special ed kids,
3 just leave the school the way it was when my whole
4 family was graduated from.

5 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Shannon
6 Delaney.

7 SHANNON DELANEY: Good evening, staff. I'm
8 attending this meeting as a community member, as a proud
9 graduate of Hundred High School. I'm addressing the
10 relationship of the community with the school and with
11 Paden City.

12 The financial losses to the students if
13 Hundred closes, as well as the broader view of the
14 support that will be lost when the closure goes through.
15 The heart of our small town meets in the school. But
16 the heart is about to be ripped out and thrown away. I
17 have researched how much the community of Hundred and
18 the surrounding areas support these students. I was in
19 awe of what I discovered. The amount of time, money and
20 emotional support our community does for Hundred High
21 School is unbelievable, and for vice versa, as well.

22 Closing this school will have serious
23 financial impact on our students, both in the immediate
24 future and in the long term. Short term, it's the
25 scholarships from the alumni and the other sources that

1 set up and have individual scholarships awarded to the
2 students that apply.

3 Last year alone, there was 16 students, and
4 our numbers are small for graduating classes, was
5 \$825,770 awarded for higher learning. Alone, the alumni
6 awarded \$11,300. My daughter benefited from those
7 scholarships when she graduated from Hundred two years
8 ago. And as well, the work experience she has worked in
9 the Funky Florist, the FFA greenhouse, as well as the
10 FFA meat processing.

11 These kids put in the hard work and receive
12 guidance from this school to achieve their dreams of
13 furthering their education. But on the flip side, you
14 have young students and adults that do not want to go to
15 college or trade schools. So they go into this world
16 with what we are -- they have learned in the classroom
17 and in the workplace programs that are offered to our
18 students at Hundred High School.

19 We have thriving businesses in the high school
20 that are used by our community. Fully functioning
21 businesses. These kids are given chances to work and
22 learn a skill in a small classroom environment, and they
23 are going to be lost in the shuffle.

24 The staff at HHS knows our kids, and they know
25 the family situations. They will not have anything when

1 they go to this school. They will be lost.

2 My first question: How are the funds going to
3 be covered for the future seniors? Will these kids even
4 have a chance of any local scholarships from Pine Grove
5 community? No, they will not.

6 Long-term effects. This existing relationship
7 between the community and students will be broken and
8 splintered. The students, staff and community are
9 intertwined. They rely on each other through volunteer
10 services, economic goods and services, financial, social
11 and emotional support. This will have a ripple effect
12 for generations.

13 The loss of Hundred High School and Paden City
14 High School will negatively affect the property values
15 in Wetzel County. Employment opportunities for
16 financial health of the businesses and local banks.

17 My second question is: Why is this being
18 rushed? This is a huge matter and needs to be looked at
19 completely different than rushing through. We hear
20 staff shortage. That is not a reason.

21 Positive treatment of your staff would help.
22 How about supporting your staff, listening to your
23 staff? They are your front line. They are the ones
24 that are in with these kids. If a plant is fed, it will
25 grow. If a plant is neglected, it dies.

1 The proposal should not have been thrown
2 together. There should not -- there should have been
3 planning and strategy formed. Community members, staff
4 members, members of the board should all have an
5 opportunity to voice their opinions, not in this forum.
6 The idea is so that we can work together, not a carbon
7 copy or cut and paste Impact Statement that is outdated
8 material, no thoughts of safety or well-being of the
9 students or staff.

10 My third questions is: Why were the
11 communities of all these schools not included in the
12 conversation about closures? It is being expressed by
13 some that it is not the obligation of Wetzel County
14 Schools to worry about the effects of a closure on
15 Hundred or Paden City area.

16 I did ask some questions, so I'll wait for
17 that, then.

18 MS. PORTER: Good evening. We hope that
19 any funding that the seniors had, they would take it
20 with them.

21 SHANNON DELANEY: No, I mean going forward.
22 What are you going to do to fill that blank?

23 MS. PORTER: I guess I'm not understanding
24 what you're asking me.

25 SHANNON DELANEY: So we had \$825,000. Come

1 next year when those seniors go, where does that going
2 to be missing? Because the Hundred alumni --

3 MS. PORTER: You're talking about
4 scholarship money?

5 SHANNON DELANEY: Yeah.

6 MS. PORTER: Alumni scholarships can always
7 happen. I mean, there's -- that's happening in all
8 communities all across the nation.

9 SHANNON DELANEY: Exactly. Of the school
10 that it's in.

11 MS. PORTER: No, no, even when schools
12 consolidate, they keep up the alumni scholarships. Some
13 scholarships are only for students that had grown up in
14 a certain community that may attend a consolidated
15 school. So that can 100 percent continue to happen.

16 SHANNON DELANEY: Okay.

17 MS. PORTER: I don't feel this is being
18 rushed. This is probably a long timing coming,
19 unfortunately. I know that you talked about teacher
20 shortages is not a problem. It's a real problem. It's
21 a real problem for our teachers that are in the
22 classrooms that have to cover every day because we don't
23 have enough subs to cover. It's a real problem for your
24 principals to every day try to figure out how to make
25 sure the kids are going to get what they need instead of

1 them sitting in the cafeteria.

2 I actually spoke with a grandma today who had
3 stopped in the board office and she had a text from her
4 son from a different school, but he had to sit in the
5 cafeteria for two periods, so he wanted the Amazon
6 password so he could watch a movie. That's unacceptable
7 to us. We have to do better for our students.

8 Why were the communities not involved? I'm
9 sorry that you feel that way. I feel like we have --
10 feel like we have worked on this as a team. This Impact
11 Statement that we put together is hours and hours and
12 hours and hours of time and gathering of data and
13 working on numbers with multiple people putting in the
14 time to get all that data that the state required for
15 that Impact Statement. So we do not feel it's being
16 rushed, but I am sorry that you feel that way.

17 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
18 Rebecca Thomas.

19 REBECCA THOMAS: Good evening. My name is
20 Rebecca Thomas, and I'm the chief executive officer of
21 the Clay-Battelle Health Services Association, which
22 houses the Community Health Center of Northeastern
23 Wetzel County here in Burton, which has been established
24 since 1979. And it has been known -- regardless of
25 whatever name is on the side of the building, it is

1 known as the Burton Clinic.

2 We have had the privilege of having our
3 students from Hundred High School becoming patients of
4 ours. And regarding the Impact Statement, as a small
5 business, we are established as a rural health center
6 that is a federally qualified health center that
7 receives patients for treatment without regard to their
8 ability to pay.

9 The impact that this will have of closing
10 Hundred High School will negatively impact our facility
11 in Burton, as well as our main site in Monongalia
12 County, Blacksville, known as Clay-Battelle Community
13 Health Center.

14 We serve the Burton area with medical and
15 behavioral health services. And with the schools being
16 so close, with patients being our students and their
17 parents, if they are to leave this area, we will have a
18 decrease in our target number, which is required by the
19 federal government.

20 Currently, our federal government target
21 number is 4,171 unique visits in a calendar year. We
22 are currently at 94 percent of that target. We have
23 seen individuals leave the area. And if the high school
24 is to close, I can anticipate that we will see further
25 loss.

1 I had a call prior to this meeting beginning,
2 having to give a fiscal year 2025 impact statement to be
3 reported to our federal government, as to how we felt
4 that our personnel would be impacted for the fiscal year
5 2025, as well as our patients. And I was unable to give
6 a definite answer because of the uncertainty as to what
7 is going to happen with our beloved Hundred High School.

8 Therefore, I had to say, Well, I anticipate a
9 negative impact, losing both patients and staff members
10 because if there are students and children that are in
11 this area do not attend Valley, they will leave the area
12 and I will lose staff members.

13 It would behoove the board to suggest to me as
14 to, I guess, the question as to whether or not there are
15 projected plans going forward with the 194 students that
16 were projected to be at Valley. If individuals do not
17 to go to Valley, as we have heard through many
18 statements, what will be the likelihood of an imminent
19 closure of Valley in the following year after this would
20 happen as a consolidation?

21 MS. PORTER: Okay.

22 Just let me reiterate. You'd like to know if
23 we don't get enough students to go Valley, what's the
24 likelihood that we'll close Valley?

25 REBECCA THOMAS: Yes, that is the question.

1 MS. PORTER: Our plan is to build one new
2 school. So our plan is not to close any more schools.
3 We just need to use our resources and our financial
4 ability better at this point. So that's not in the
5 current plan. We want to have one school each area of
6 the county so we can -- and then, hopefully, find some
7 land in the middle of the county.

8 REBECCA THOMAS: Thank you.

9 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will
10 Johanna Lemasters.

11 JOHANNA LEMASTERS: Hello. I've been
12 involved in the educational process in Wetzel County for
13 nearly 50 years, with 41 years of teaching kindergarten,
14 which Mr. Huston can verify to, and at the end of this
15 school year, it will be 9 years that I've been
16 substituting. So that will be a total of 50 years. So
17 my topic is going to be on the educational programs.

18 I first would like to ad-lib a little bit.
19 There is a bus driver here tonight that I'd like to
20 recognize. I think she's still here, Tia Wright. The
21 reason that I would like to do this is because this
22 morning I was going to substitute. I substituted in
23 second grade. And on my way in to Long Drain school, I
24 noticed something that happens daily. Tia was on her
25 bus checking the students' folders before they got off

1 the bus. And what she does, she checks these folders
2 because the parents do not take the time to sign their
3 papers for them, to look at their reading. And she'll
4 even have them read the little books to her before they
5 get off the bus every morning. I think that's quite
6 commendable, and I wonder how many bus drivers do that.
7 So thank you, Tia, for being a wonderful bus driver and
8 a support person to our school.

9 Now I'd like to talk a little bit about the
10 educational programs. Hundred High School has a fully
11 certified staff for the 2024-25 school year and has a
12 more likely chance to provide some of the -- for the
13 coming years. Hundred High School has a better location
14 to attract prospective teachers solely because of its
15 central location, being a hub of five West Virginia and
16 U.S. highways. U.S. 250, north and south. West
17 Virginia 7 east and west. And U.S. 69 to Pennsylvania.
18 Additionally, it is within 45 to 50 minutes from three
19 universities: West Virginia University, Fairmont State
20 University and Waynesburg University.

21 Hundred High School has all required core
22 classes, electives, CTE courses and provides
23 opportunities for students to attend two technology
24 centers, Wetzel County Tech, Marion County Tech.

25 The students have opportunities to enroll

1 virtually for additional high school courses and online
2 with colleges to receive dual credit offerings. As you
3 know, teachers at Hundred High School originated CTE
4 courses by receiving grants.

5 Robotics and the bakery were originated and
6 accredited by our school. Hundred High School has
7 broadcasting and broadcasting equipment that will
8 enhance the educational programs when a business teacher
9 is reinstated. Hundred High School has proved their
10 value to Wetzel County Schools.

11 Attendance in school is a key factor to the
12 overall educational program for each student. It is an
13 indicator on the West Virginia balance score card for
14 all county schools. Hundred High School's attendance
15 rate for the current school year to date is 96 percent.
16 Valley High School's current attendance rate is 86 in
17 comparison. Compare the two. Hundred High School sets
18 a better example for attendance than Valley High School.

19 Research indicates that school attendance will
20 be affected by the increase of transportation times.
21 Prolonged bus rides correlate strongly with higher
22 absenteeism, likely due to the mental and physical toll
23 of long rides.

24 Research also indicates that for several years
25 after a consolidation occurs, the attendance, test

1 scores, and graduation rates for the students who leave
2 their existing high school are gravely affected. In a
3 rush to do something, there has been no consideration to
4 include the communities in a consolidation plan. If
5 this rushed plan to do something is followed through
6 with, you will harm young people's futures, and they
7 will be affected for the rest of their lives.

8 So I have two questions. One I'd like to just
9 briefly say, and then I'll -- it's one dear to my heart,
10 so I want to say it. If our schools closes, Hundred
11 definitely will be affected as a town. And I know it
12 will be. If our town becomes unincorporated, then our
13 fire and EMS will be forced to close, due to our
14 department being registered as a town fire department
15 with the State of West Virginia. How will emergency
16 services be provided to the entire eastern portion of
17 Wetzel County? And I fought for this for years, as
18 Jimmy can testify.

19 MS. PORTER: I don't have control over the
20 fire and EMS.

21 JOHANNA LEMASTERS: No, I'm sure you don't,
22 but if our town -- it becomes unincorporated, then it
23 certainly will affect that.

24 MS. PORTER: As an educator, I hope you can
25 understand that my job is to worry about the education

1 of our students.

2 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker, Beverly
3 VanScyoc.

4 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: Good evening. A couple
5 of weeks ago while attending a community event in
6 Wadestown, I was approached by two Monongalia County
7 school board employees. They informed me that the Mon
8 County superintendent has offered to run a bus to the
9 parking lot of Hundred High School. They will pick up
10 Wetzel County students and transport them to
11 Clay-Battelle. So is there a plan in place for Wetzel
12 County busses to pick up Hundred students at their homes
13 and drop them off to Mon County busses in our own
14 parking lot?

15 When Mrs. Porter spoke with our students last
16 week, she was prompted by a student to ask how many were
17 considering leaving the county if our school is closed
18 and our students are forced to go to Valley? I will say
19 approximately 95 percent of our student body plans to go
20 to North Marion or Clay-Battelle. If Mon County runs a
21 bus to Hundred, you have effectively eliminated the need
22 for a centrally located school. If Hundred area
23 students leave the county, there will be no reason to
24 build a school centrally located in this county.

25 Wetzel County High School will be built within

1 five miles of New Martinsville. While a few Valley
2 students may travel Route 20 to the new school, many
3 will either go to North Marion or to Harrison County.
4 Paden City students will continue to go to Tyler. You
5 will be building a consolidated high school for 200 to
6 300 students.

7 You can say that staffing shortages are the
8 reason for the rush to consolidate, prior to building a
9 new school, but you are not listening when we say we
10 won't go? As teachers, counselors and social workers,
11 we're a hot commodity right now. This is unprecedented
12 in our profession. We have more job opportunities than
13 ever. We can also go to other counties. The little bit
14 of extra money we receive by working in Wetzel County
15 will be eaten up by additional transportation costs,
16 thereby making it senseless to stay. Additionally,
17 longer commutes over treacherous roads where dodging
18 sand cans and water trucks is commonplace, makes the
19 decision that much easier.

20 I've attended several board meetings this
21 year. At every single one, transparency has been
22 mentioned. It's been said on several occasions that we
23 will have, like, a mini consolidation, for lack of a
24 better word, and then a brand-spanking new complex will
25 be built. I'm going to be honest, we have serious

1 doubts that a new school will be built, and we're pretty
2 certain it's not going to be built in the center of the
3 county.

4 Let's think for a second where the tax revenue
5 to fund a new school and many of the other improvements
6 are coming from. If I'm not mistaken, that money is
7 being generated on the eastern end of this county,
8 specifically in the Hundred/Wileyville area. You want
9 the income that's tied to our end of the county, but
10 you're not interested in trying to keep our students
11 here.

12 Despite what many on the riverfront think, the
13 majority of us are not against consolidation. We also
14 want better for our students. We want one school that
15 is centrally located with one consolidation, not two.
16 We want the school colors and mascot discussion to be
17 dropped until a new school is being built. We are tired
18 of the conversations that are designed to avert
19 attention to much less important issues. Stop muddying
20 the water over colors and mascots and let's have real
21 conversations about the impact of the mini consolidation
22 on our students.

23 We also hear that everyone is concerned about
24 doing what's best for students, but I'm not seeing how
25 this consolidation is in anyone's best interest. If the

1 mini consolidation passes, not only will we lose
2 students, but sadly, Valley will continue to have their
3 teacher shortage.

4 In closing, the right decisions for the
5 students of Wetzel County is to delay consolidation
6 until land is secured in the center of the county and a
7 new building is completed. Thank you.

8 MR. MCPHERSON: One question was asked.
9 No, we have not had any talks with any neighboring
10 counties about transport from any schools.

11 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
12 Alicia Bragg.

13 ALICIA BRAGG: Hi. I'm here this evening
14 on behalf of the community of Hundred, as a council
15 person, as a church member and as a third generation
16 graduate of Hundred High School. Was I born and raised
17 here all my life? No, I wasn't. My dad graduated from
18 here and continued his career in the Army as the -- in
19 the intelligence division. So my brothers and I have
20 seen various areas and went to different schools. We
21 went to large schools and small schools, this being the
22 smallest.

23 At first I was not happy when our parents
24 brought us back here to the small town. We lived in
25 much bigger places, but then I began to understand why

1 they did. This was where we began close relationships.
2 And when my dad passed away, I was a senior in high
3 school, my youngest brother was a freshman and we had
4 close community support and teachers we could go to. We
5 began to see people that cared about us, and they was
6 going through the situation with us.

7 We had opportunities here that we would not
8 have had otherwise. People stuck beside us, and they
9 also stuck beside me when I had a child very young. My
10 oldest brother was able to become involved with the
11 medical services here. Thank you, Johanna. He became a
12 paramedic because of that. He continued his career in
13 North Carolina.

14 My youngest brother has a very smart child
15 here. He has gotten perfect scores on his state
16 testing, as you well know, because you came out and
17 brought him to the Long Drain and had a ceremony there
18 for him.

19 Then I have worked 20 years for CNX Gas as an
20 accountant. And I will tell you that you're not going
21 to see the revenue from the CNX -- or from the gas for
22 years and years to come. Everybody is banking on this
23 revenue and, you know, you're going to continue to grow,
24 no. The wells run dry. The production runs dry
25 eventually and that revenue will stop.

1 One main concern that I have is for our
2 children and what I have seen throughout the years. And
3 Paul knows because when my kids were young, I have two
4 daughters, I got the phone call that they needed
5 volunteers at the grade school, and I was there about
6 daily, so... But when we needed things, we called the
7 community. The community supports the schools. Right
8 now, the church is filled with backpacks and sends it
9 home with the kids. We make sure these kids are fed
10 through a weekend. Are you going to do that? Are you
11 going to make sure to send food home for these kids to
12 have? Are you going to make sure that they have winter
13 coats? Are you going to make sure that they have shoes,
14 because you know that's what we do. We started it when
15 I was helping you. And even though I have been working
16 with another company for 20 years as an accountant, I
17 still do it. I still help them fill these backpacks. I
18 still help deliver hygiene products, because my heart is
19 still in this community.

20 I live right here by the school. I can't get
21 any closer, believe me. I live right here. I serve on
22 the council of the Town of Hundred. My heart is here.
23 You need to take a drive home, go back 250 through
24 Littleton, go Sugar Run and see what these kids live in.
25 I want you to do it because we make sure these kids are

1 taken care of. We will continue to do that. But if you
2 take this away, we're not going to know what they need
3 and you know we won't. Thank you.

4 MS. PORTER: Okay.

5 Just so everybody knows that we have community
6 in schools in every single one of our buildings, and
7 they do provide clothing, shoes. One of my principals
8 said today he was going to get a microwave for the
9 family. So yes, we always take care of our students in
10 the entire county. Thank you.

11 At this time we're going to take a
12 five-minute break.

13 MR. CASTILOW: We're going to take a
14 five-minute break. We'll be back at 9:15.

15 * * *

16 (Brief break)

17 * * *

18 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
19 Chandra Merckle.

20 CHANDRA MERCKLE: I am a 2011 graduate of
21 Hundred High School. Nobody except Paul and Ben's wife
22 Amanda know me. Paul was my principal all through Long
23 Drain. But tonight I'm going to actually read some of
24 my niece's letter she had wrote and sent to Linda that
25 she only got a response saying, "Thank you for your

1 information." And her friend got the exact same
2 response, so you know that was a copy and paste.

3 But anyways, my niece is asking: Why would
4 you take a good school down with good achievements and
5 such good programs? When we have -- since you've heard
6 tonight, the baking company, TSA, FFA, robotics,
7 everything. But -- let's see here. But why move us to
8 a school that doesn't have hardly any of that?

9 Friendships will fall apart because they won't
10 be together. We have the nicer school and have room to
11 make the school bigger.

12 As you know, when that bad flood happened in
13 2017, Valley had a lot of damage. Did we have any? No.
14 We did not have any in the school. And you know for
15 years, ever since me, my humongous family, we have been
16 rivals with Valley.

17 And you think the bullying will be any better
18 if you combine us? Just last year, my niece, she is in
19 seventh grade now, but she was bullied so bad that we
20 ended up home schooling her, because all you guys would
21 tell my sister -- just the principal to my sister from
22 you guys, "Just put her on the opposite side of the
23 classroom, away from the bullies." You really think
24 that did anything? I mean, she was in serious danger to
25 where we was even looking putting her in private school.

1 So that will not get any better. It will get worse.

2 Of course, you've heard over and over tonight
3 again how bad it will be across Barker. I was just over
4 in Pine Grove the other day seeing my friends at
5 Short Line on their lunch break. I had my almost
6 two-year-old daughter with me and a tractor trailer
7 almost hit us. You really think a bus is going to be
8 able to get over and not get hit? A tiny electric car
9 could barely get over to let him pass that day.

10 And my niece wants to know what will happen
11 with the band, middle school band, because they come
12 over here to do band? What will you do with that? Our
13 water here is safer, it's been tested. They do all
14 state choir in elementary and high school and all the
15 kids love it. My aunt can attest to that because she is
16 the one that takes them.

17 Will the kids have more opportunity at the new
18 school? My niece wants to know. And will there be any
19 more things to do than everything we have here, which is
20 a lot. She really wants to know what your main idea
21 with thinking it's to better their future, their friends
22 and all of our families. She wants the best for the
23 future and she wants to keep Hundred High School by
24 itself, like it should be. That's my niece's stuff.

25 So on to the bullying. I want an answer, why

1 you want us to go when you know we're such big rivals
2 and we have been for years. And a question on my stuff,
3 is, one, what are you going to do with all the
4 memorabilia, like the senior frames in the band hallway?
5 Because I don't want any of my family's auctioned off or
6 just trashed or anything. I will take them before I let
7 you do that. And that will probably be about ten or
8 more frames. I have a very big family.

9 And my amazing cousin there, she is in
10 Waynesburg now, she got \$100,000 in scholarships last
11 year, but no, people think out here we're uneducated and
12 dumb hillbillies, I've even heard one of you guys say
13 before.

14 So let's face it. I've been watching all the
15 meetings on YouTube and stuff. Everything we're saying
16 is going in one ear year out the other. Not to offend
17 anybody, but especially with you, Ms. Porter. I'm done.

18 MR. McPHERSON: Okay.

19 I'm going to try to address some of your
20 questions. I might ask for some clarifications, too.
21 Is that okay?

22 CHANDRA MERCKLE: I guess.

23 MR. McPHERSON: Memorabilia, a lot of
24 consolidated schools bring that over to the consolidated
25 school. I've seen wings. I've seen trophy cases where

1 those things are preserved. So that would be an option.
2 We want to keep the histories of the schools.

3 CHANDRA MERCKLE: Yeah. I'm not letting my
4 family's go over there. I'm sorry.

5 MR. MCPHERSON: Okay. Well, I'm just
6 telling you that will be our solution.

7 Band, I know band is not 7-12 at my time at
8 Valley. It is 7-12 at Valley now. When I was at Valley
9 as the band director, which is a lot longer ago than I
10 want to think about, it seems like it was yesterday, but
11 it's not, you know, we had an 9-12 band and a seventh
12 and eighth grade band and that may be what has to happen
13 in this case.

14 CHANDRA MERCKLE: Okay.

15 I think that was pretty much it, then.

16 MR. MCPHERSON: Well, thank you.

17 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Rebecca
18 Goff.

19 REBECCA GOFF: My name is Rebecca Goff and
20 I'm the code enforcement official for Hundred.

21 THE REPORTER: Wait a minute. You have to
22 talk in the microphone. Thank you.

23 REBECCA GOFF: Can you hear me now? My
24 name is Rebecca Goff, and I'm the code enforcement
25 official for the town of Hundred. Originally, I was

1 going to speak with you guys about the issues of the
2 renovations of both schools and the requirements.

3 THE REPORTER: You need to get closer to
4 the microphone.

5 REBECCA GOFF: I wanted to talk -- I was
6 originally going to talk to you guys about the
7 renovations that are needed on both the high schools,
8 Wetzel -- or Hundred and Valley and how you guys are
9 going to come into compliance with the fact that Valley
10 is in a flood zone, but I decided that I wanted to say
11 something different.

12 My husband and I attended the Paden City High
13 School hearing on Friday. After listening to some of
14 those students talk about the effects of this merger or
15 consolidation, there is going to be students mentally
16 and emotionally. All I hear from you is that you want
17 what is best for the students of Wetzel County Schools.
18 I disagree.

19 If you truly want what's best for all the
20 students in Wetzel County Schools, you would be
21 listening to the pleas from these students at Paden City
22 and Hundred. These kids are struggling both mentally
23 and emotionally. This is very apparent after hearing
24 the students talk at Paden City on Friday.

25 My husband and I do not know the students that

1 spoke on Friday. However, they've left us in tears.
2 Our hearts are broken for the students at Paden City and
3 Hundred. I have not been able to stop thinking about
4 two certain students that spoke at Paden City on Friday.
5 My heart hurts for them. I will worry about their
6 mental health. I have no idea who these students are.
7 I have no connection with them, but I'm truly worried
8 about their well-being. Are you guys? Did you pay
9 attention to them and listen to them?

10 Superintendent Porter, you keep saying you
11 want what's best academically for all students and all
12 the things that Wetzel County Schools will be able to
13 offer by doing this merger or consolidation. But have
14 you once thought what it's doing to the students' mental
15 health? Do you realize how depressed and upset the
16 students at Paden City and Hundred truly are? Do you
17 care? Do you realize the students at Paden City and
18 Hundred High School, right now they don't care about all
19 the offerings you can give them. All they're concerned
20 about right now is losing their school and being thrown
21 into somebody else's school.

22 Don't come back to me with the answer of
23 mental health is a statewide issue and all the ideas
24 you're going to put in place for all the students that
25 are affected mentally and emotionally by this merger.

1 You're supposed to take care of the students of Wetzel
2 County. And in my opinion, all of you are ignoring the
3 students.

4 Students in today's world have enough issues
5 to deal with mentally add emotionally. Worrying about
6 the closing of their school and being tossed into
7 someone's else school shouldn't be something they have
8 to deal with. School is supposed to be a safe place for
9 students, a place where they shouldn't have worries and
10 stress placed on them by adults that truly don't care
11 about their well-being, only their own agenda.

12 The students are accepting of the idea of
13 consolidation. One move, one school. You know,
14 fairness for all students, not just the students at
15 Valley and Magnolia. So one of my questions for you is
16 why not make it fair? Why not slow down your agenda and
17 plan for a consolidated county with one school, one
18 move? Why are you in such a hurry to do this? Any
19 person with some sort of intelligence knows this plan is
20 going to fail in one way or another for more reasons to
21 mention.

22 My last question for the superintendent and
23 the board: Who is going to be responsible for students
24 whose mental health is so bad they harm theirself in
25 some way to avoid the inevitable of you closing ing

1 their school and throwing them to the wolves, into
2 someone else's school?

3 And if you honestly do not believe something
4 like this is possible, to be honest, it didn't occur to
5 me either until I heard these students at Paden City.
6 Then I know you aren't listening to these students at
7 Paden City and Hundred and you most definitely do not
8 have their best interests at heart.

9 MS. PORTER: You said why not make it fair
10 and plan for one school? We've spoke multiple times
11 about this. We are in a crisis as far as being able to
12 offer all of our students in the entire county what they
13 need. So as a Wetzel County community, we need to do
14 the best -- we need to do what's best for every single
15 student. And, unfortunately, that is going to affect
16 different people in different ways.

17 We are concerned about our students' mental
18 health. I know you didn't really want me to answer
19 this, but we've talked about this, as well. We've got
20 lots of safeguards in place. And as superintendent of
21 schools, I want to say that our teachers are rockstars
22 and no matter what school that they are in or teaching
23 at in Wetzel County, they take care of their children
24 every single day. They love the kids. They welcome
25 anyone that comes in from a different school, from a

1 different county, from a different ZIP Code. They
2 welcome them. Our teachers are amazing and so it hurts
3 me to hear people saying that we're not going to take
4 care of the mental health because we are. We do.
5 That's what we do, we're educators.

6 Did I miss something?

7 REBECCA GOFF: Nope. That was it.

8 MS. PORTER: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Emma
10 Stoneking.

11 EMMA STONEKING: Hi. My name is Emma
12 Stoneking. I am a student here at Hundred High School.
13 I'm a freshman. This school is my pride and joy. I
14 have no reason why to not love this school. Everything
15 that has been said tonight is an amazing point.

16 And, Ms. Porter, you had said something
17 about \$29 million that you have. Why don't you split it
18 up into four groups and send most of that money to the
19 schools, instead of combining them all? That's just
20 going to cost a lot more money to combine them all, than
21 it is to give them the funds that they need.

22 And you say that you're going to be helping
23 students and contributing to all of the needs that they
24 have. My sister graduated in May of 2023 here with a
25 3.8 GPA and honors. She is now going to college to

1 become a criminal behavior analyst. Without the support
2 and care from the staff from Hundred High, she would not
3 be where she is today. The school that you are trying
4 to shut down is one of the biggest supporters in our
5 kids' mental health.

6 I'm a student here. I do take pride. The
7 people who go and basically put their lives on the line
8 to cross Backer is outrageous. We should not have to,
9 as students, risk our lives every day to try and cross
10 Barker. Which I understand that I might be coming off
11 as disrespectful, but I promise I'm not trying to.

12 But what you have promised and what you have
13 said and you -- my biggest pet peeve is people not
14 keeping promises. You had promised the juniors that
15 they could graduate from Hundred High, which you had
16 told us that you shouldn't have said that, which, you
17 know, that's, no offense, bad on your half, which you
18 said that. And, honestly, Ms. Porter, that's not our
19 fault you promised it, and you should keep your promise.

20 And Mr. Huston, I was one of your students
21 whenever you were a principal and you were a great
22 principal. And if you're voting to keep up, I'm
23 thankful for you. But if you're voting to shut this
24 school down, there is no reason for it. You were a
25 principal here. You should know how much we love our

1 schools. You should know how much these schools matter
2 to us. This place is our sacred home. You cannot just
3 rip it away from all of us like that. That is not okay
4 to do.

5 You guys might think this is going to be so
6 eventful, so helpful, so everything. It's not. It is
7 just going to tear kids down and some kids don't have
8 enough willpower, to come up and speak out. I am
9 standing here today and I'm shaking at the moment
10 because of how nervous I am.

11 You expect us kids to come up to some
12 counselors and be like, Hey, this is what's going on
13 when we can't do that. Some kids can't do that because
14 they're afraid that either, one, they're going to call
15 CPS. Two, they're going to say something that they
16 don't want to hear, which is normal. Some people don't
17 want to hear what is supposed to be said.

18 But with you trying to consolidate my school,
19 my school, with Valley, is not going to go anywhere.
20 Our school is a rival with them. We don't like them.
21 They don't like us. Us coming on their turf is not a
22 good idea. That is their turf. Don't cross that line.

23 I do have one question for you, though. My
24 question is -- actually, it's not really a question.
25 It's a statement. You can't really take that from us.

1 Once a Hornet, always a Hornet. That's all I have to
2 say. Thank you.

3 MS. PORTER: Thank you for your courage in
4 speaking to us today. And maybe just let me clarify a
5 little bit. Yes, we did set aside the \$29 million in a
6 fund, and we didn't specify what it was going to be used
7 for, but we also know that that money is not going to be
8 there forever.

9 So in order for us to ensure that the legacy
10 of Wetzel County and the schools which we know all need
11 some upgrades in some capacity, for us to be able to
12 take that money and use that, and whatever oil and gas
13 money we can set aside to build a new school for
14 everyone, and not put the burden on the taxpayers, is
15 the thought process behind that.

16 I did -- well, actually, we all did some
17 research on riding in a bus, and the statistic is every
18 year approximately 6 children will die on a bus, a
19 school bus. 2000 will die in a car. So statistically,
20 the bus is very safe and that's why we use the bus and
21 that's why we have used the school bus for so many
22 years. This is nationwide.

23 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
24 Amanda Lippencott.

25 AMANDA LIPPENCOTT: Okay. A lot of what

1 I'm going to say has probably already been said
2 previously, so bear with me. And I've added a few
3 things, so...

4 Good evening. I come to you tonight as a
5 concerned parent. I have a daughter that graduated from
6 HHS, an eighth grader that will, hopefully, be starting
7 at HHS next year. And a fifth grader. The talk of this
8 merger has been a very difficult and stressful topic in
9 our home. Yet, it seems to be all we can focus on
10 nowadays.

11 One of my main concerns is that Valley High
12 School is located a half mile from the Hastings plant
13 that has a 10-mile radius danger zone. I'm sure we
14 could all argue that the odds of an explosion happening
15 are slim to none. But there was an incident where the
16 propane tower caught fire once and had it not been for
17 the quick actions of the man working there to shut
18 everything down, this meeting wouldn't be necessary
19 today.

20 As a mother, how could I willingly put my
21 daughters' lives in danger, even if the odds are slim to
22 none? Why would you, as a board, knowingly put our
23 children in a potentially dangerous environment?

24 Then there is the topic of sports. As I
25 mentioned, I have a fifth grader. She will be playing

1 middle school volleyball and basketball next year. My
2 eighth grader currently plays volleyball and basketball
3 and has for the past three years. If she continues to
4 do sports in high school, it would be impossible for me
5 to be in two places at once. So how do I, as a mother,
6 choose which child's sports are more important?

7 Ms. Porter told the students at LDS there
8 could be an activity bus giving our children false hope
9 that they would still have transportation to and from
10 practices. I don't think you realize the amount of
11 children that have to walk to practices due to lack of
12 transportation. What happens to these children if this
13 merger happens? Their sports days are over.

14 What happens with the families that have no
15 form of transportation? What if their child gets sick
16 or hurt? Are they expected to stay at Valley school for
17 the remainder of the day because they have no one that
18 can travel to Valley to pick them up? What if their
19 child misses the bus? Do you realize how much of an
20 increase in absences there will be, or do you even care?

21 You say that you care about the students in
22 Wetzel County. And, yet, when asked by a child at LDS
23 what their options were, you told them they didn't have
24 to attend Valley. They could go to Marion or Monongalia
25 or Cameron. That was the options that you gave our

1 children. And you just said earlier that you don't want
2 to lose any Wetzel County students. Why would you
3 suggest sending our children to different counties,
4 then? Shouldn't our priority be to keep our children in
5 Wetzel County?

6 If Hundred High School is closed, my children
7 will miss out on so many opportunities. One of the
8 things my daughters look forward to is joining the FFA
9 and the Covered Bridge Bakery and working in the
10 greenhouse and at the flower shop. These are
11 opportunities that Valley does not offer.

12 I can't understand why you would close down
13 the school that offers so much to our children,
14 including a full staff, and send them to a school that
15 isn't fully staffed. A school that is in a danger zone
16 and a flood zone and has a water and sewer problem. How
17 does this benefit our children at HHS?

18 There are so many issues that I could go on
19 about and facts that I could argue, but, unfortunately,
20 I don't have the time.

21 The last thing I'd like to recognize is that
22 if this merger happens, our children will be losing over
23 two vital hours of classroom time due to the distance
24 being traveled on dangerous roads. How is this going to
25 better our children's education?

1 I'm not opposed to consolidation, if done
2 correctly. Build one centralized school where all the
3 children will be starting new. One school, one move.

4 In closing, I just want you to keep in mind
5 that you won't always be members of the board or a
6 superintendent. So the decision that you make Friday
7 won't affect you in years to come, but it will affect
8 the parents, the children and the community for quite
9 some time.

10 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Nick
11 Kirby.

12 NICK KIRBY: Ladies and gentlemen of the
13 board, I stand before you not just as a concerned member
14 of this community, but as someone who has graduated from
15 Hundred High School and who sees the value of our school
16 far beyond spreadsheets and statistics.

17 Hundred High School is more than just a
18 building. It is the heart of our town, the cornerstone
19 of our community, and a place where students are more
20 than just your numbers. They are individuals with
21 names, dreams and potential. To consolidate this school
22 is dismantling a community that has thrived on personal
23 connections and a shared commitment to our students'
24 success.

25 You may see this decision as a matter of

1 efficiency and cost cutting, but I urge you to look a
2 little deeper than that. What is the cost of losing our
3 sense of community? What is the price of robbing our
4 students of the opportunity to learn in an environment
5 where teachers know their names, their strengths and
6 their struggles? In larger schools, students often
7 become anonymous. Their voices drown out in the crowd.
8 At Hundred High School, everyone's voice matters. This
9 is the foundation of quality education.

10 The impact of consolidation is beyond the
11 classroom. For many families in our community, this
12 school represents stability. It is where parents,
13 grandparents and generations before them walked the
14 halls. It is where memories are made. Traditions are
15 celebrated and lifelong lessons are learned.

16 Closing this school sends a clear message to
17 you, these -- that these traditions, these
18 relationships, these memories and our students and
19 children don't matter to you, the members of the board
20 of education.

21 Furthermore, let's talk logistics.
22 Consolidation often brings promises of better resources
23 and opportunities, but the reality is usually far from
24 that. Students face longer commutes, which means less
25 time for homework, extra activities and family time,

1 which is also very important for a students' mental
2 health. Overcrowded classrooms mean less individualized
3 attention, which directly impacts academic success and,
4 again, the emotional and mental health of the children.
5 And also, importantly, communities like ours are left
6 with empty buildings and empty hearts.

7 But this isn't just about emotion. It's about
8 outcomes. Studies show that smaller schools produce
9 better academic results, foster stronger relationships
10 and reduce dropout rates. If your goal is to give our
11 children the best future possible, the solution is to
12 invest in what we already have, not to tear it apart.

13 I understand that budgets work the way that
14 they do because I'm also in business, but you look at
15 our children as a paycheck. But I urge you to think
16 about the students at Hundred High School and their
17 future. Closing our school is not the only option, it's
18 the easy one. And great leadership, guess what, it
19 doesn't settle for easy.

20 So I ask you today: Will you be remembered as
21 the board that valued numbers over our students or as
22 the leaders who stood up for a community, for tradition,
23 for emotional and mental health for our students who
24 deserve the very best at what we can give them? And
25 Hundred High School deserves your commitment, not your

1 consolidation. Thank you.

2 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
3 Scott McGlumphy.

4 SCOTT McGLUMPHY: Good evening, everyone.
5 I believe most of you today have not read Sun Tzu's "Art
6 of War," because if you have, you would understand in
7 order -- excuse me, everyone. You always build your
8 opponent a golden bridge to retreat upon, which you have
9 not for this community. So I have offered a solution
10 here tonight, and I offer you a bridge in which you can
11 retreat upon.

12 I have found 16 legal precedents where schools
13 have been shut down by the boards and the towns can use
14 eminent domain to take the school from the county. By
15 doing this, we will become a private school.

16 Now, I know you wonder how to fund this. I
17 have found if we set this school up as a 501(c)(3)
18 organization, which is a nonprofit, we could use the
19 Hope Act which West Virginia state has given to every
20 student, which is \$4,921.39 to pay private tuition.

21 Also, I have found Elon Musk has built a
22 program just for these schools. He gives out over \$100
23 million a year to these schools and these institutions.
24 And with Donald Trump's tax credit, it's called a 529
25 savings account, which will allow each student to have

1 \$10,000 a year, 100 percent tax free K-12. And I'm sure
2 there are many people in this room now that can find the
3 additional funding that this school needs to operate as
4 an independent private academy.

5 And not only does this program work, but it
6 can be duplicated across the county to schools you have
7 threatened with closure and closure. These schools and
8 these communities can do this and take their education
9 system back from this board. If the people are willing
10 to do this, I'm sure we can succeed. Now, I have left
11 you a golden bridge to retreat upon. The question is:
12 What will be your choice?

13 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
14 Clinton Yost.

15 CLINTON YOST: Good evening, ladies and
16 gentlemen, community of Hundred High School. Welcome.
17 I didn't think I'd find myself here tonight. I
18 contemplated whether or not I should say anything. I
19 don't want to belabor the point. You guys have heard
20 talk of financial troubles, the community troubles, the
21 emotional impact, right, that this will have. All
22 right? We've heard from a lot of really good people
23 from the audience.

24 I think the problem is we're framing this
25 discussion entirely in the wrong manner. See, what we

1 have here, you look at the way the room is structured,
2 you feel like we're at odds with one another. Right?
3 Like, it's us against them. In reality, I think we all
4 agree and we're on the same page, we want what's best
5 for the kids. Right? That's what we're here for.

6 This isn't a discussion about whether we want
7 to win, you want to win. What we want to do is come
8 together, and I think the best way to do that is to look
9 at this as a false dilemma. Right? Either we
10 consolidate or we don't consolidate, but the real
11 logical issue is there is always a third option. Right?
12 People have talked about waiting, developing a five-year
13 plan, building a bigger school.

14 The reality is we don't have to say
15 consolidated or not consolidate. We can take some more
16 time. We can think about this. This is a momentous
17 decision that we're about to make, and I don't think
18 we've taken the time and the thinking necessary.

19 Now, surely, you people, you have done a lot
20 of thinking. I can tell. You've drafted up a plan, an
21 Impact Statement. I don't envy your position at all,
22 and I thank you for listening to us, for having us voice
23 our concerns. It's a great opportunity just to be able
24 to express the emotion, and you can see the emotion in
25 these people here. So I think we just want to get to a

1 conclusion that's rational, that's logical.

2 I want to leave you with a quote here. One of
3 my favorite people is Aristotle. Aristotle said that
4 educating the mind without educating the heart is not
5 education at all. You can see here the heart. You can
6 see the heart of these people. If you focus just on the
7 logistics, just on the financials, you miss out on the
8 big picture.

9 So I think, No. 1, we're talking about this in
10 an entirely wrong manner. We need to reframe the
11 discussion. We need to take more time to think about
12 it. Just the enmity that you see from, you know,
13 certain folks, it suggests that it's a big undertaking.
14 Right? So we need to think about this in a more logical
15 manner.

16 And No. 2, we need to take the time to
17 consider the entire scope of the situation. I
18 understand, you know, some folks feel like we're rushing
19 into this. Certainly, it feels like that. What I'm
20 saying overall is, No. 1, let's not consider ourselves
21 like we got to choose this or choose that. Let's
22 actually consider there is always a third option. We're
23 not in a false dilemma, you know. We don't have just
24 two choices. Okay?

25 The other thing I want to talk about is there

1 is famous principle when you have to choose between
2 competing theories. It's called Occam's razor. Occam's
3 razor suggests that simplest explanation is usually the
4 best.

5 You've heard from a lot of people here
6 tonight. They believe that the best solution is to keep
7 the school open, to not consolidate. I would argue it's
8 also the simplest, if you look at the logistics of what
9 will happen, say, when we examine bus routes, bus times,
10 students' mental and physical health and overall
11 well-being. There is a lot of great points that these
12 folks have brought up. And that, to me, suggests that
13 there are a lot of -- what's the word I'm looking for --
14 considerations, implications, based on what we choose
15 today.

16 So the simplest explanation here or the
17 simplest solution is to not consolidate. Let's take the
18 time, let's think about it and let's come up with a way
19 we can come together and merge our ways of thinking.

20 The problem is -- and often we find ourselves
21 at odds. Right? We find ourselves at odds tonight.
22 And really, I think these people and you folks on the
23 board, we want to come together. We want to do what's
24 best for these kids. They want to feel like they're
25 supported. They want to feel like they have a future.

1 And I think if we consider all these things and we
2 reframe the discussion, we can do that. So I thank you.

3 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
4 Annaliese Yost.

5 ANNALIESE YOST: Hi. Most of you guys know
6 me. I'm Mrs. Yost. I'm the agriculture education, FFA
7 advisor here at Hundred High School, as well as our Long
8 Drain FFA program.

9 I just wanted to bring a few words of,
10 hopefully, encouragement and just some statistics of our
11 program here at Hundred High School. We've all heard
12 tonight about our simulated workplaces that we have and
13 here at Hundred those are workplaces. Our students come
14 in, they clock in, they clock out. They're here after
15 hours, sometimes late nights, and they're getting a
16 paycheck.

17 Here just with our FFA program alone, we have
18 Hundred FFA processing, which we butcher pigs and cattle
19 and stuff for communities, as well our ham/bacon
20 program, and we bring in, annually, \$40,000 to \$60,000
21 to our students.

22 We also have our -- in the meat processing, we
23 hold food for the local food pantry. And also when the
24 town had our flood, we were the point of food storage
25 for the entire community in the area.

1 We have the greenhouse. It is one of the
2 largest greenhouses in the entire State of West
3 Virginia, tripling in size. We normally do \$18,000 to
4 \$20,000 in revenue, with that money supporting our
5 students and our kids.

6 We also added in the flower shop, with my time
7 here. We're the only simulated workplace that leads the
8 state with a flower shop. Many programs have now added
9 that in, but we've continued to grow to gain national
10 recognition. Starting out small with one wedding, now
11 we do over \$12,000 to \$15,000 in weddings every year and
12 our students spend in less hours. Many of these
13 students have been with me at 11:00 at night. We're
14 still working for the kids and for the community. We've
15 continued to grow, having five students, just in the
16 last two years, hired at professional florists between
17 Morgantown and surrounding areas. And we act as the
18 florist even clear into PA as they lost their flower
19 shop. We are the flower shop for within a 30-mile
20 radius in the area.

21 I talked about our simulated workplaces, but
22 we also do have our Long Drain Middle FFA program. If
23 we consolidate, I hate to see that we're going to have
24 members lose out on that opportunity. This year alone,
25 we have 58 high school members, which is over half of

1 our school, as well as 26 middle school members. Three
2 of those middle school members just earned top 3 spots
3 in the state tractor driving contest, wiping out the
4 competition at the region.

5 I just want to leave you with these words:
6 The FFA motto is learning to do, doing to learn, earning
7 to live, and living to serve. And our students at
8 Hundred are living to serve this community. Thank you.

9 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Rachel
10 Amos.

11 RACHEL AMOS: Good evening, members of the
12 board. My name is Rachel. I am a recent relocate to --
13 back to West Virginia from Texas eight years ago. I
14 moved out to West Virginia to try to have a better
15 education for my kids.

16 My brother recommended when I was looking to
17 come home to come here. I looked at all the statistics.
18 I looked at the school size, and me and my son made the
19 decision to come here. The school size matters more
20 than you may understand. Unless you've been in and had
21 kids in those school systems that are huge, you wouldn't
22 understand. I did.

23 I had them go from -- going to Salem
24 Elementary, Mountaineer Middle and Liberty High to
25 schools that were double and triple in size. My kids

1 became numbers. Consolidation does not improve
2 anything. Morgantown is hurting from the consolidations
3 that they did because they turned it around and grew
4 their county. And now they are outgrowing their
5 schools.

6 The one thing they need to do now and they are
7 working on is investing in their schools, and that's
8 what we need to do here because when our schools thrive,
9 our communities thrive. And when you want to
10 consolidate, that's an easy fix for problems that are
11 going on.

12 I'd like to ask out of the 11 people that are
13 graduating from Fairmont State, did Ms. Porter go and
14 talk to them about possible education opportunities
15 here? Because they are graduating in the education
16 program this month or in December. I know the
17 superintendent of Marion County went and talked to them.
18 I didn't see that she went and talked to them. And only
19 two graduated from WVU because they only offer a
20 master's program.

21 There won't be a shortage if you actually go
22 and you speak to the kids or you go and speak to the
23 different graduates and if you actually invest in our
24 teachers and our school systems.

25 I've seen more opportunities for kids here in

1 Hundred than I would have seen ever in Houston, Texas.
2 Think about that. A city of 6 million people. My kids
3 had less opportunities, less chances to have a
4 well-rounded education. And yes, West Virginia is two
5 years ahead on curriculum.

6 My juniors, they were sophomores when we moved
7 down here. They were told they just needed to get a
8 couple core classes in for the junior year and some time
9 and they could graduate a year early because
10 West Virginia has a higher curriculum and a higher
11 standard alone. And I've even seen it more increased
12 here in the small community where my daughter thrived
13 when we came back to West Virginia.

14 I wouldn't have come out here if I had known
15 you guys were going to ruin that, because right now,
16 that's what's happening. You're going to ruin it.
17 People are going to look at it and be, like, Why am I
18 going to move there? Kids are aren't going to be
19 consolidated in. They're going to leave. Home school.
20 They'll do other options. Nobody wants to make these
21 trips over those mountains. Not when it's something
22 that is being forced on them. Thank you, and I would
23 like an answer.

24 MR. MCPHERSON: The answer to your question
25 about Fairmont State, I spoke with a December Fairmont

1 State graduate in person today who is teacher in
2 residence for us. And we do teachers in residence
3 through West Liberty. We do a lot of our charter
4 certification through Wheeling University, and we do
5 seek those folks. We have done as well as we can with
6 job fairs and things like that.

7 I've hired -- I can't hire people on the spot
8 because we have to have the board approve it, but I've
9 definitely had people fill out applications. We've had
10 a few of those folks come to the county. So yeah, we
11 talk to people.

12 RACHEL AMOS: Okay.

13 It's just I constantly hear about WVU, but
14 I don't hear about the other colleges. I know Fairmont
15 State has had a good education program since I went
16 there.

17 MR. MCPHERSON: I'm a West Liberty guy, so
18 I talk to them, too. Got you.

19 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker would be
20 Travis Robb.

21 TRAVIS ROBB: Good evening, everybody. My
22 name is Travis. The first thing I want to say is that
23 if I'm going to ask any questions, I want Ms. Porter to
24 answer them and only Ms. Porter to answer them.

25 You have to answer for what you're doing

1 for this county. My kids, you're saying there is a
2 loss, they just had a HeadStart program start in Long
3 Drain. My 3 year old is in it. Then I have a 4 year
4 old in pre-K and a 5 year old in kindergarten, who just
5 turned 6 today. He just turned 6. He is excited to
6 learn what a school is about and have some school
7 spirit. He is excited to go through the years and find
8 out what a high school is about. He wants to learn it
9 all, and you'd rather destroy this community than help
10 anything else.

11 And actually, I have a quick quote from the
12 Roane superintendent, Roane County, because recently,
13 there was consolidations. So he came out and at the end
14 of the article, give me one moment here, he said, "Once
15 you close a school, that's it. You don't close it for a
16 couple of years and then reopen it. It's just gone and
17 that community is gone. And the whole spirit is gone.
18 So if we postpone these for a couple years, I think the
19 investment would be absolutely worth it." That's what
20 Richard Dunkman said. Duncan, I apologize.

21 He is absolutely correct. Investing is a lot
22 better than taking the easy route out. Why are you
23 taking the easy route out, Ms. Porter? Why don't you
24 actually want to be somebody that does something for
25 their name instead of just giving yourself an ego trip?

1 It doesn't help anything, and it's going to
2 hurt your image. And I'm upset that the board decided
3 to hire somebody that does not actually care for
4 anything and wants to see a number.

5 One other thing, I'm one of the kids that she
6 spoke about that went to school down in Houston, Texas.
7 The school that I went to -- I went to two. I went to
8 E.L. Furr High School and I went to Pasadena High
9 School. With Furr, there was 17 known gangs on campus
10 at all times. They were not worried about students'
11 grades. They were worried if students were going to get
12 stabbed. They were worried about everything else going
13 on. They did not care if you passed because even the
14 principal set up a no-zero policy. Everyone got 50s
15 because they'd rather get them out of school and keep
16 them safe than try to actually give them an education
17 because of how big it was.

18 Same thing with Pasadena High School. I
19 couldn't join band because you had to start at freshman.
20 You couldn't join anything if you started in the middle
21 of your school year. If you were a sophomore, a junior
22 or senior, you weren't allowed to join anything. You
23 had to stay in those for four years starting as a
24 freshman at Pasadena High School. That's another
25 opportunity that was taken away from me. Because Furr

1 tried turning into a green school, and they took away
2 all the their arts and crafts. The theater, band. We
3 even had dance. There was several things that they took
4 away to try to turn into a green school, trying to make
5 it better. They destroyed that school.

6 So, like I said, my question for you is: Why
7 are you taking the easy trip out? Why don't you
8 actually want to work for your legacy instead of just
9 trying to make it seem like you're doing something?

10 MS. PORTER: Travis, thank you for speaking
11 tonight, but that's not what's happening and I'm sorry
12 that you feel that way. As Mr. Yost said, we need to
13 try to work together. This is not appropriate. Thank
14 you.

15 TRAVIS ROBB: You didn't answer my
16 question. You didn't -- you're taking the easy route
17 out and you're not answering my question. Thank you.
18 You just proved a point.

19 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Shawna
20 Cogar.

21 SHAWNA COGAR: Hello. I'm Shawna Cogar.
22 I'm a social worker and a mental health therapist at
23 Camden -- or Clay-Battelle Health. Sorry, I'm a little
24 nervous. I work at both the Blacksville location and
25 the Burton location, more commonly known as the

1 Community Health Center of Northeastern Wetzel County.

2 I was asked to come here tonight to talk about
3 the impact school consolidation has on the mental health
4 of the students and the community. As I sat and done
5 this and wrote down topics and did my research, I found
6 it very difficult to focus just on the mental health and
7 the impact that this consolidation has on the mental
8 health because I am a mother. A mother in a rural area.
9 I grew up in a rural area, and I understand the impact
10 that this will have as a mom, as a student and I think
11 you've heard a lot from them this evening, as a
12 community member and as a professional.

13 So I will try not to repeat all of the things
14 that have been said that you've heard multiple times,
15 but I'm sure some of it will be repetitive. Mental
16 health includes emotional, psychological and social
17 well-being. It affects how we think, feel, act, focus
18 and learn. A person's mental health can also impact
19 their physical health. Early identification and
20 effective treatment for children and their families can
21 make a difference in the lives of children with mental
22 health conditions.

23 According to the National Alliance on Mental
24 Illness, 1 in 6 youth age 6 to 17 experience mental
25 health disorders or conditions. Half of all mental

1 health conditions appear by the age of 14. The most
2 common diagnoses in this age group are ADHD, anxiety,
3 depression and behavioral problems. Sleep is also
4 highly impacted.

5 Recent data shows that adolescent mental
6 health is getting worse. As result of the nation -- as
7 a result of this, the nation has recognized how
8 important the role of school is in promoting mental
9 health and mental well-being. However, the pandemic,
10 coupled with decades of inaction by school boards and
11 state legislature has only made things worse.

12 An intervention specialist, Rene Myers,
13 stated: You can't teach if you're not addressing mental
14 health. And I couldn't find anything more true.
15 Undiagnosed, untreated or inadequately treated mental
16 illness can significantly interfere with the students'
17 ability to learn, grow and develop. Since children
18 spend much of their productive time in an educational
19 setting, schools offer a unique opportunity for early
20 identification, prevention and intervention.

21 Students who attend schools in their
22 communities such as Hundred High School have a unique
23 opportunity. They are attending school at home. They
24 know the community, and the community knows them. The
25 students in the community know what's happening as it's

1 happening.

2 West Virginia has implemented the Handle with
3 Care where if law enforcement is called to a scene of
4 possibly a domestic violence, substance use problems,
5 murder, that if children are involved, they figure out
6 where the child attends school and they let the school
7 be aware that something happened, not giving any
8 specific information, to handle with care.

9 You know what happens in a small community
10 like this? They know that Joe is this person's uncle.
11 So even though this person wasn't at the scene when the
12 police officers came, they know that it likely has an
13 effect on Joe. It gets through the community, and the
14 community and the school provide that support.

15 One in three adults have mental illness that
16 is not adequately treated. So if we're looking at the
17 schools and treating it appropriately and quickly, then
18 they're more likely to be successful adults, but you
19 have to know your students. Consolidation is going to
20 make that difficult.

21 All studies have shown that children going
22 into a school system are less likely to be accepted and
23 less known, but we're not talking about the educators.
24 The teachers feel less likely to be accepted, do not get
25 to know their students as well at the new school and

1 they do not feel as connected to the parents.

2 So we've talked about the students and the
3 students should be the focus, but what about our
4 educators? What about our community? What about
5 Valley? I heard somebody say, Why are we talking about
6 mascots and changing this and this? Okay, but to me
7 that's paint, that's money, that's changing the mascot
8 on the scoreboard, in their gymnasium and all this. So
9 we're spending that extra funding, but we're not
10 spending on mental health.

11 There should be a psychologist for every 500
12 students. Your board website indicates there is two,
13 one of which professional application indicates she no
14 longer works for you, neither of which are licensed by
15 the West Virginia Board of Psychology. How is that for
16 treating our students' mental health?

17 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker is Karen
18 Longwell.

19 KAREN LONGWELL: I think you know, I'm
20 Karen Longwell. My reputation precedes me, sorry, to
21 many of you, but I'm here to speak.

22 The population of our state, our county,
23 our communities and our schools have decreased.
24 However, the ability of Hundred High School to provide
25 quality education in the classroom and outside of the

1 classroom has not decreased.

2 You've witnessed the excellence of academics,
3 innovation and community spirit regardless of the
4 school's population. You may look at the size as a
5 hindrance. We look at the small size as an increased
6 opportunity for more students to be in leadership roles,
7 to be provided one-on-one academic support from teachers
8 and develop friendships that last a lifetime and sustain
9 students in their school setting.

10 We have proven that a small school can provide
11 students with opportunities and prepare them for the
12 future. We ask you not to give up on our school because
13 of its size. There is no legal or financial reason to
14 do so at this time.

15 We have actually shown our willingness to work
16 with the board of education and the administrative staff
17 to bring our strengths to the topic of education in
18 Wetzel County and Hundred High School. We invited the
19 superintendent and board members to our community
20 meeting in March of 2024. I personally presented you
21 with questions at a board meeting that were submitted by
22 many community members. We sent you and the board
23 members e-mails requesting responses.

24 Recently, Hundred High School students
25 requested that Mrs. Porter talk to them about the Impact

1 Statement, about what was going to happen. My point is:
2 We, as a school community, have repeatedly reached out
3 to you. Only when we ask do you then react.

4 If you had included all communities in an
5 honest discussion from the beginning, you could have
6 given a voice to all the high school students and
7 community leaders and our teachers and our other staff
8 members. That's all anyone wanted, is a chance to be
9 part of a process that affects the future of our county
10 for years to come.

11 The people who live in Wetzel County have
12 always been divided geographically, but never in the
13 last 45 years that I've been a part of the educational
14 setting of this county have I seen such divisiveness.
15 That's not what we want for our educational landscape to
16 look like. It's sad, disappointing and really
17 unbelievable to me that we can't come together and that
18 we can't realize every corner of this county has
19 something to contribute to the discussion of
20 consolidation.

21 You said that you have included the four
22 attendance areas. Tell us how you have done that, how
23 you have included us and been transparent about
24 consolidation.

25 MS. PORTER: Are you finished with your

1 five minutes?

2 KAREN LONGWELL: Okay. Then I'll go past
3 my five minutes. I thought you were going to answer it.
4 Okay. So what -- now I'm going to go this last part and
5 I'm come back.

6 I heard a student from Paden City ask you if
7 you had any regrets in how they were treated at Paden
8 City High School, when you abruptly closed their school.
9 I heard you admit that you regretted telling Julian
10 Conaway that Hundred High School would not close next
11 year. And I'm telling you that you would not have had
12 any regrets if you had created a plan and a timeline,
13 you would not be mistrusted if you had carefully thought
14 through the process and included all communities in
15 these discussions.

16 Stop the process to consolidate into two
17 existing high schools. It's okay to admit you've made a
18 big mistake. Learn from it. Learn from it. That's all
19 we want. Teach our students that you have a growth
20 mindset.

21 I will end this quote from a letter I sent to
22 you at a previous board meeting: "Let's move forward in
23 Wetzel County Schools with transparency and clarity so
24 that we can keep our students and the communities
25 educated and excited about Wetzel County Schools."

1 Hats off. I want to say this to the students,
2 to the community, for finding your voices. Always stand
3 up and speak out for yourself and the causes you believe
4 in, and that's our students' education in this area.

5 MS. PORTER: So I know that you don't feel
6 like we've included all attendance areas in the process.
7 I do believe, before I took this position, there was a
8 large vision committee that was held countywide and lots
9 of work was done on that.

10 And then when I took this position, we had a
11 hard time the first year with getting our classes filled
12 because people were not in the right spot. And in year
13 two, we are in dire straits. So we take all that
14 information from the vision committee.

15 I meet with the high school students a minimum
16 of four times a year. I meet with my team. I meet with
17 the principals. I've met with all the staff over the
18 last year and a half. So that is how we have worked on
19 this process.

20 I do not believe it's a mistake. I understand
21 how you feel. I am also human, and I appreciate that
22 you recognize that. And I clarified the Julian comment
23 was before, when I made that comment, that we would not
24 be closing because we did not build a school in time.
25 So, unfortunately, sometimes my words get misconstrued.

1 But trust me when I say this, I've been in
2 education for 31 years in West Virginia. I believe in
3 West Virginia. I believe in the students of West
4 Virginia. And I only want what is best for them. Thank
5 you.

6 KAREN LONGWELL: Well, you had stated you
7 spoke with the teachers and the staff. Did you? Have
8 you spoke to the teachers and the staff at Hundred High
9 School about this? Have you asked them personally?
10 It's just something to think about, because I don't
11 believe you have. And we do want to work with you.
12 We're not really trying to be against you, but include
13 us.

14 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
15 John Hayes.

16 JOHN HAYES: Wow. Welcome to Hundred High
17 School. Pretty impressive, in my opinion, the success
18 stories, the -- I veered off my speech already. I said
19 I wasn't going to do that, but... The success stories
20 of the alumni of this school, the students and the
21 opportunities they've had, how impressive they were to
22 get up here and talk to you folks is just amazing.
23 Absolutely amazing. Again, welcome to Hundred High
24 School.

25 I hope your journey out Route 7 found you

1 well. Sometimes it's difficult with the sand trucks,
2 the water trucks. It's not the most pleasant drive, but
3 it is a visible sign of the major source of tax revenue
4 here in Wetzel County, right, but it does come at a
5 cost. It's the realities we face every day in the
6 county. Where I live, where I grew up, where I'm
7 raising my kids.

8 Allow me to introduce myself. My name is John
9 Hayes. I'm a 1994 graduate of this National School of
10 Excellence. I went on to WVU and graduated with honors
11 in 1998 with a degree in civil engineering. And since
12 then, I've had a successful career in mining, but my
13 biggest success is being a coach here in this community,
14 being a father, being a husband.

15 My daughter, she was the salutatorian of last
16 year's graduating class. My son, who you heard from
17 earlier, is a freshman here at Hundred High School, and
18 I'll be honest, his list of accomplishments to this
19 point are too many to read in five minutes. He is an
20 amazing kid. I'm blessed to be his dad. The challenge
21 we face, though, is based on this meeting and what's
22 about to happen, whether he is going to finish those
23 accomplishments here at Hundred High School or even in
24 Wetzel County. And that's a fact.

25 My wife, she is a dedicated teacher here.

1 Spends endless hours helping the kids of this community
2 learn music, get in front of an audience like many of
3 them did here this evening. Opportunities that are in
4 this that sometimes in a bigger setting you don't get,
5 statistically. Right?

6 So let's talk about opportunities.

7 Merriam-Webster defines opportunities as a favorable
8 junction of circumstances. A good chance for
9 advancement or progress. Do you think shipping kids 90
10 minute across Barker Hill gives them the favorable
11 junction of circumstances to have opportunity? I don't.

12 When you walk the hallways of a small school
13 like Hundred, you find opportunities that are unique and
14 meaningful. The chance to be part of an academic team,
15 to hold a leadership position or to stand in the
16 classroom, these aren't extra opportunities. They're
17 opportunities that make a difference in a young person's
18 life. And that's why there's been many success stories
19 you've heard of tonight. With this plan, that number
20 gets cut in half, and then by 75 percent when we go to
21 one school.

22 I'd like to address the teacher shortage
23 because that seems to be the crisis at hand driving this
24 decision. We all know it's a serious issue in many
25 schools, not currently here, though. The problem isn't

1 that you have too many schools. The problem is
2 leadership. We have failed to track, develop and retain
3 dedicated, certified teachers in this county. We've
4 seen good teachers leave because of poor support, low
5 pay and lack of resources. Consolidating does nothing
6 to solve that problem. It's a Band-Aid on a gaping
7 wound.

8 Dedicated teachers don't teach, they invest in
9 their communities. They live here. They care about the
10 kids because they're part of these small towns. If we
11 want to fix this, we need to focus on supporting
12 teachers, not closing schools.

13 I realize I'm about out of time, so I want to
14 leave the board with this: What's your legacy going to
15 be? What's your motto going to be? Build it and they
16 will come? Keep it, they will stay? Close it, let them
17 leave?

18 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be
19 Kermit Junior Wamsley.

20 KERMIT JUNIOR WAMSLEY: Good evening.
21 We're -- or good night, to Ms. Porter and the board of
22 education. My name is Kermit, but anyone in this room
23 that knows me, I grew up being called "Junior." I went
24 here. I'm a graduate of 1982. I saw earlier, I don't
25 know if she is still here, I just -- I think about these

1 things because this is what makes Hundred, Hundred and
2 what you should be worried about.

3 As a band director -- I've been a band
4 director for 36 years. I've taught in three states.
5 Taught in West Virginia, did my student teaching at Long
6 Drain. I did my student teaching for high school at
7 Wheeling Park. After Wheeling Park, I came back. There
8 wasn't any teaching jobs in the area as a band director
9 because everybody was doing a good job in the all the
10 good schools. I didn't have a chance to get a position,
11 so I had family in upstate New York.

12 I drove nine and a half hours to be here
13 today, over 500 miles. I'm going to be back -- I'm
14 going to be in my truck and head towards upstate New
15 York because I have a teaching job. I teach. I love to
16 teach. It's about the kids. It's about seeing
17 everyone's eyes on me. That's what I say as a band
18 director, when I stand on the podium and I raise that
19 baton, I need every eye here because you cannot make
20 your ears go the other direction. If I have your eyes
21 and I have your attention and you're listening, oh, my
22 God, are you listening?

23 These high school kids -- we didn't need to
24 have the adults talk. If you're really listening -- I
25 don't think I'm going to need this (indicating). I'm

1 comfortable as a public speaker because of that man
2 right there (indicating).

3 I was in band. I was in chorus. I was in
4 drama. I was in FFA. I was part of the student
5 council, the list goes on and on and on, because I was
6 at Hundred High School. I have applied for many jobs in
7 my life. Never has the fact that I was educated at a
8 small school -- we just happened to have, the year I
9 graduated, I think we had one of the smallest classes at
10 that time. We graduated with 32 students. I have never
11 felt that I was unprepared by going to school here.
12 Anywhere I've been.

13 I don't know if you know about the New York
14 City education system, but it is pretty difficult to get
15 through. I got my master's -- I went to West Liberty
16 State is where I did my master's -- my BS work. I mean
17 my BA, bachelor of arts work. I got my master's from
18 SUNY New Paltz in upstate New York.

19 I don't -- I'll go back to the thing of
20 listening. I don't know that you're listening. And I
21 hope you're willing to just -- when you lie your -- when
22 you put your head on your pillow tonight, do you feel
23 that you've done the right thing? Is your conscience
24 clear? At the end of every day can you say: I've done
25 the best I can, I've helped these students and I'm going

1 to do the right thing? Not am I going to do the popular
2 thing, but am I doing what's best for these kids?

3 Now, I understand these dynamics and people
4 think, Oh, you're in New York state. They think I'm in
5 New York City. They don't understand that New York
6 state is huge. Six hours, seven hours to cross the
7 state from where I am, towards Boston, all the way out
8 to Erie, headed towards Cleveland. Six, seven hours to
9 drive across the state. I teach in an area very much
10 like here, where I grew up. I teach in a rural school.

11 One of the things that I don't get is you're
12 misleading these people and you guys need to understand
13 this. I know I'm not supposed to address you, but I
14 really don't care. If you throw me out, I'm going back
15 to New York.

16 A merger -- a merger is when you take School A
17 to School B. You make these students lose everything.
18 They lose their spirit. They lose their sense of
19 community. You've heard it all night long. So you've
20 moved -- beep. You've moved those students over here
21 (indicating). That's not fair. There is no way.

22 If are you thinking people, and I'm sure
23 you-all are, if you're thinking people, you've got to
24 understand that leaving these kids, pushing them into a
25 school, the other group of kids don't have to change

1 anything. They don't have to worry about the anxiety of
2 learning new teachers. They don't have to worry about
3 the anxiety of, Can I make it on a sports team? So
4 you're misleading by using the words consolidation.

5 Consolidation is taking school one, school
6 two, school three and school four. School one, school
7 two, school three and school four. You're bringing one
8 here. You're bringing two here. You're bringing three
9 here. You're bringing four here (indicating) and you've
10 made a new heart. You've made a new community.

11 MR. CASTILOW: Sir.

12 KERMIT JUNIOR WAMSLEY: Okay, yeah.

13 You've made a new community. You're talking
14 about doing fairness for these kids. That's the only
15 option you have.

16 MR. CASTILOW: Sorry, we can't make out the
17 first name. The last name is Cecil.

18 COURTNI CECIL: Courtni. Sorry about my
19 handwriting. It's about as well as I publicly talk, I
20 promise. It looks the same.

21 Hundred High School's local school improvement
22 council met and voted to reject the Impact Statement to
23 close Hundred High School. We also developed
24 alternative recommendations for you to consider. Well,
25 now, I'll present the recommendations from the letter to

1 the Wetzel County Board of Education I believe you-all
2 received copies of our impact refusal and reputation.
3 Okay.

4 1. Do not close any schools in Wetzel County
5 until you bring together representatives from each high
6 school community to discuss the long-term goals and
7 plans for consolidation. This will demonstrate to all
8 schools, communities and taxpayers that all students in
9 this county matter.

10 2. Read carefully our rejection and
11 reputation of the proposed closure of Hundred High
12 School. Please seek clarity and specific details for
13 each school affected.

14 3. Carefully consider the transportation and
15 safety aspect of the statement. Travel yourself from
16 Hundred High School to Valley High School on a bus.

17 4. Do not close Hundred High School and
18 consolidate it with Valley High School.

19 5. Continue to encourage, support and
20 recognize Hundred High School, a small rural high
21 school, as an example of excellence and pride for Wetzel
22 County and West Virginia. They do great things here.
23 And we're tiny.

24 6. Let the local school improvement councils
25 in Wetzel County school system be a part of the

1 conversation concerning the decrease in population of
2 students and staff.

3 7. Update the comprehensive educational
4 facilities plan For Wetzel County by bringing together
5 representatives from all attendance areas. I hear you
6 used to.

7 8. Create a task force of employees from all
8 attendance areas to discuss the reasons for the shortage
9 of certified teachers and support staff. They can
10 brainstorm ways to attract employees to Wetzel County
11 Schools. This task force will be able to give important
12 insight into staff morale. They have first-hand
13 experience and knowledge that is valuable.

14 9. To eliminate these staff shortages, post
15 all job offerings for Wetzel County Schools on the West
16 Virginia Frontline state site. Establish a close
17 working relationship with all universities that have
18 teacher preparation degrees and work to provide a
19 culture that values and trusts employees to know what
20 their students need.

21 10. Reconsider Hundred High School becoming a
22 6-12 configuration which allows education to be
23 coordinated between the middle school and high school.
24 We're already doing that with some of our programs. You
25 heard the FFA, the middle school thing. It would just

1 make more sense. It would give more opportunities for a
2 streamlined approach to education for middle school to
3 high school.

4 We ask you to maintain our school because it's
5 essential to us, an essential community resource that
6 supports student growth, educational quality and local
7 stability.

8 My name is Courtni Cecil. I'm a mom of four
9 Hundred Hornets. My family owns the local grocery store
10 that we bought after the flood wiped out the Belcos. We
11 applied to the Mid Ohio Valley Regional Council in hopes
12 of -- we have a school here, help us have groceries
13 here. We need to feed these people. That's the only
14 reason we have a grocery store.

15 This town matters to a lot of people. We have
16 people driving here to be here to say these things to
17 you tonight. I don't think you realized what we got on
18 this end of the county. It's a treasure. You're not
19 going to find it anywhere else. If you move us -- if
20 you move us, our community declines, our kids lose these
21 assets that they have, our alumnis crumble. We can't
22 give the resources that we give them. Thank you.

23 MR. CASTILOW: The next speaker will be Jay
24 Taylor.

25 JAY TAYLOR: Thank you. My name is Jay

1 Taylor. I'm from Grafton, West Virginia. I actually
2 married a Hundred girl, and her parents Roger and Susie
3 Taylor Hill taught here at Hundred. And thank you,
4 Roger and Susie, for your service here.

5 I'm also a state senator here in West Virginia
6 for the 14th Senatorial District from Taylor County.
7 Why am I here? I'm here to ask you to wait. You need
8 to wait. Coming up this next legislative session, you
9 got a new governor, Patrick Morrissey. We've got a new
10 senate president soon to be Randy Smith. You've got
11 your own locally-elected, Senator Chris Rose, who is
12 also here tonight. And all of us support SPA and school
13 funding formula reforms. That is coming.

14 We are going to -- I can't say fix all of the
15 problems, but we want to -- one of my new bills is to
16 turn the SBA, the School Building Authority, into the
17 School Maintenance Authority. We've got to stop this
18 consolidation.

19 Another one of my senators, fellow senators,
20 Mike Stuart, wanted to be here tonight. He sends his
21 regrets that he couldn't be here. But he -- if you've
22 heard him in the news recently talking about
23 deconsolidation. That's our goal, deconsolidation. The
24 era of big consolidated green schools is almost over.

25 Now, absolutely money is not an issue here.

1 It was like -- it sounded like there was about \$500,000
2 in savings to consolidate these schools here, and you
3 want millions of dollars to fix the roads. Wait a
4 minute, something is not adding up here.

5 There is no hurry. Wait. Let these reforms
6 happen. Look around you. This type of school is the
7 future for West Virginia. Small community schools are
8 the future for West Virginia.

9 To the elected school board members, be the
10 hero. Stop the consolidation fad. For a lot -- I've
11 heard a lot of people tonight that had hard feelings
12 towards the superintendent. School board members, she
13 works for you. You can be the hero to this community,
14 to Paden City to Hundred, to Wetzel County. You can
15 stop the consolidation fad that is about to end. I'm
16 begging you, wait. Help is on the way.

17 MR. CASTILOW: In the interest that
18 everybody is clear on this, we are not permitted by law,
19 by code, to have this meeting last beyond 11 p.m. It is
20 now 10:41. We have 11 more people that are signed up to
21 speak.

22 AUDIENCE: Yeah, we started late. You had
23 to move us. We --

24 MR. McPHERSON: If everyone will listen,
25 I'll explain what has to happen. By code --

1 AUDIENCE: It's not --

2 MR. MCPHERSON: Yes, it is in code. You
3 can shake your head all you want. It's in code. 3.a.1,
4 The hearing shall be scheduled to last a reasonable
5 amount of time, but no event shall be scheduled to begin
6 before 9 a.m. or continue beyond 11 p.m. But, and this
7 is the important part, may recess and continue from day
8 to day until concluded. So we can't --

9 KAREN LONGWELL: Mr. McPherson, I just
10 wanted to say, you took up time having us relocate, and
11 I understand what you're saying.

12 MR. MCPHERSON: Karen, it's in the code. I
13 can't change it.

14 MS. PORTER: Listen. Please listen. We're
15 going to reconvene and start again tomorrow at 9 a.m.
16 No. No.

17 AUDIENCE: 6 p.m. We all work. What are
18 working parents supposed to do? Unacceptable.

19 MR. CASTILOW: We'll have 15 --

20 AUDIENCE: Just a moment, please. Why
21 don't you look at who can speak tonight that will not be
22 able to speak tomorrow. There is some of us that can be
23 here. There are others that took days off from work.

24 MR. CASTILOW: That was my suggestion
25 coming up. Anybody that would like to defer their

1 speaking time, five-minute speaking until tomorrow at 9
2 a.m. here, anybody that can speak in the morning that's
3 remaining on the list that's willing to give up their
4 time for tonight for someone else that can't be here.

5 AUDIENCE: Move on. Let's go.

6 MR. CASTILOW: Wait until tomorrow.

7 STEPHANIE PERALDO: My name is Stephanie
8 Peraldo, you can mark my name off. I have one question.
9 Does Valley High School have a work program that the
10 kids can participate in? I'm a local business owner and
11 I hire high school students that will give them their
12 first jobs.

13 AUDIENCE: They do at Simon's. They will
14 let them work there.

15 STEPHANIE PERALDO: But only at Simon's.
16 There is multiple ones in our area. Thank you for
17 listening.

18 MR. CASTILOW: Anybody else willing to go
19 to tomorrow?

20 AUDIENCE: I have just one question.

21 THE REPORTER: I need your name, please.

22 BRITTANY MOORE: For the past three years,
23 I've argued with the board of education because I have
24 two kids that -- special needs. For the past three
25 years, you-all have told me you-all can't meet at the

1 end of Barker, on Barker or anything because it was so
2 unsafe. I still drive my kids 20 minutes to the bus
3 stop. Why is it any different now? I have six kids
4 that live in our household full time, and you will not
5 come up because it is so unsafe.

6 MR. CASTILOW: Deborah Henderson.

7 AUDIENCE: No answers?

8 BRITTANY MOORE: It's so unsafe I have to
9 drive my 6-year-old off and I drive a big bus.

10 VOICE: Debbie Henderson. Debbie, where
11 are you? Can you wait until tomorrow to speak?

12 DEBORAH HENDERSON: Yeah.

13 BRITTANY MOORE: Can you answer that,
14 please. And you can mark me off.

15 MR. CASTILOW: Howard Henderson.

16 MS. PORTER: Mrs. Loy isn't here to answer
17 that question tonight. I don't have an answer right
18 this second, but we will get one.

19 MR. CASTILOW: Mr. Turner, can you wait
20 until tomorrow? Mr. Turner is next.

21 We have time for two more speakers and then
22 we'll reconvene in the morning. That's the way the code
23 reads. I'm sorry.

24 MIKE TURNER: Thank you for allowing me to
25 talk. I feel blessed to come to a community activity

1 where the community is this strong. I want you to know
2 that you're sitting here looking at the taxpayers.
3 These are the people that will provide the money to do
4 the things you need to do on a regular basis.

5 My question is this: What is the estimated
6 loss of property for the community schools that will be
7 shut down? And I'm talking about the personal property.

8 You see, in the last year, at board meetings
9 you have heard that the communities will lose 10 to 15
10 percent of their present selling value. Hmm... You may
11 not be aware, but the selling value is set by the sale
12 of the house similar to the house down the street that's
13 like your house. And as that value goes down, the value
14 on our houses go down. And as it continues in a few
15 years, the assessments will go down. Because who wants
16 to come into the community when they know that they're
17 going to lose value with their houses?

18 You see, the average price to build a new
19 house in West Virginia in 2024 is \$290,000. That's what
20 you would pay to build a house in Wetzel County or
21 Marshall County. Would you make that investment,
22 knowing that the value will be less after you bought it?
23 Not many people will. I just want you to be aware of
24 that because as more people leave, they'll leave selling
25 their houses cheaper and soon you will be looking for a

1 way to find more tax dollars because the well will go
2 dry.

3 These school closures will hurt all the
4 taxpayers in the communities. And I'm talking about not
5 the community of Wetzel County, I'm talking about this
6 community and Paden City as a community. It's how you
7 view that. How do you view the community? Well, look
8 at Hundred. See how they -- they come wanting to talk
9 to you, and the loss of their property is heavy on their
10 heart, as well as the educational business. So I ask
11 that you do that.

12 And another question I do have is after the
13 first year of no job loss, how many board members will
14 be RIF'd? My first question is: What is the estimate
15 loss of property in the communities?

16 MR. McPHERSON: We're not the Wetzel County
17 assessor's office. We don't know. Board members are
18 elected, they don't get RIF'd.

19 MIKE TURNER: So that doesn't affect board
20 members. Oh, well, the elected board members live in
21 the county. Not all of you do. How about after the
22 first year, how many job losses in the administration
23 will be lost?

24 MR. McPHERSON: We look at that stuff from
25 year to year. Yes, people at the board office have been

1 RIF'd in the past. It's happened.

2 MIKE TURNER: So there is no long-range
3 planning. Thank you.

4 MR. CASTILOW: The last speaker for this
5 evening is Chip Goff.

6 CHIP GOFF: Good evening, Superintendent
7 Porter, staff and board members. Well, there is nothing
8 that I could add that's submitted or better than
9 everyone has said tonight. As a matter of fact, I've
10 written one speech before I went to Paden City on Friday
11 night. I got so emotionally touched that I had to write
12 another one. Well, I wrote another one and everyone
13 here tonight, I mean, I can't add anything better than
14 what they've done tonight. I'm so thankful for people
15 coming from New York and Charleston tonight to support
16 us. I'd like to thank Senator Taylor, Senator Rose,
17 Delegate Statler and Delegate Sheedy for taking time out
18 of their busy schedules to come and fight for our
19 school, as well.

20 I would like to let you know just -- I wanted
21 to end the night on a different note, not yelling and
22 screaming but hang a little picture in your mind.

23 Hundred High School has been here since 1923.
24 We're celebrating, you know, our 102nd, 101st graduation
25 this year. I've got to be part of the schools when they

1 was new. When Long Drain school was new, I got to be a
2 student there. My freshman year, I got to experience
3 the houses being tore down, the school being tore down
4 and we went to school in houses and our principal's
5 trailer burned down. You know, this school means
6 everything to me.

7 You know, I don't know if most of you know,
8 but I'm the mayor of the town and I'm a proud mayor of
9 this town. I love this community. I love everybody in
10 this crowd. I love everything about them. I love
11 Wetzel County.

12 AUDIENCE: We love you, Chip.

13 CHIP GOFF: Thank you guys.

14 But you know, I hold several roles and they're
15 all dear to me. But, you know, when it comes to the
16 teachers, we talked about a small school. My teachers
17 are still alive. They're here. They're still teaching.
18 I mean, they've been around since asbestos. But let me
19 just -- just take a couple minutes, but one teacher is
20 not here, one special coach, Mr. Seese. He was the
21 biggest Hornet of them all. He fought for this school.
22 He's part of why I'm the person that I am today. I got
23 his work ethic by watching him work on the football
24 field and the baseball field and that made me give back
25 to the community. I follow that tradition now.

1 I've been the voice of the Hornets for 17
2 years. I've painted the football field for 14 years.
3 I've announced ball games, and basketball games and did
4 stats. You know, I'm in the fire department. You know,
5 I've had to cry in 2017 being a first responder just
6 because I didn't know if we was going to be able to save
7 people's lives that night. And then for the town to
8 appoint me to be their mayor, is just the greatest
9 feeling in the world, that these guys trust me to be one
10 of their leaders. It's because I had great teachers.

11 I came from a small school that loved me, and
12 they still support me today. And they give me a lot of
13 energy. They give me a lot of love and support and that
14 can't be measured in any way. I love those guys. I
15 love everybody in here, you know.

16 You know, this gymnasium means a lot to me.
17 The football field means a lot. This small school means
18 a lot to this community, and I just ask you to please
19 reconsider the merger of us with Valley and reconsider
20 merging Paden City with Magnolia at this time.

21 I believe that you guys are all great people
22 with good hearts, well-educated, and I believe we all
23 want what's best for the kids. But as the mayor and
24 with the senators and delegates that are here supporting
25 us tonight, I ask that you please just slow down. Let's

1 work together as communities, as school staff and let's
2 take our time. Like I said, when you make a decision,
3 that's final. So, please, I ask you to please
4 reconsider closing Hundred High School at this time.
5 Ladies and gentlemen, my town has spoken.

6 MR. CASTILOW: We will reconvene -- or the
7 hearing will reconvene tomorrow at 9 a.m. at Hundred
8 High School. We will probably be in the auditorium so
9 we don't disrupt the school day. Motion for adjournment
10 and recess.

11 MS. NICE: Second.

12 MR. CASTILOW: Moved and seconded. All
13 those in favor of recessing, please signify by saying
14 "aye."

15 * * *

16 (All board members said "aye.")

17 * * *

18 MR. CASTILOW: We will meet at 9:00 at
19 Hundred High School.

20 * * *

21 (Whereupon, this hearing was adjourned at
22 10:58 p.m.)

23 * * *

24

25

1 THE STATE OF :
2 WEST VIRGINIA : SS: C E R T I F I C A T E
3 COUNTY OF OHIO :

4 I, TAMMIE TRIGG, Registered Professional
5 Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of
6 West Virginia, duly commissioned and qualified, do
7 hereby certify that the proceedings within were by me
8 reduced to stenotype; afterwards reduced to Computer
9 Aided Transcription under my direction and control; that
10 the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the
11 proceedings.

12 I do further certify that these proceedings
13 were taken at the time and place in the foregoing
14 caption specified, and was adjourned to be completed the
15 next day.

16 I do further certify that I am not a
17 relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or
18 otherwise interested in the event of this action.

19 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my
20 hand and affixed my seal of office at Wheeling, West
21 Virginia, on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

22
23
24
25
TAMMIE TRIGG, Registered
Professional Reporter and
Notary Public within and
for the State of West Virginia

My commission expires:
September 22, 2028



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WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Hearing Held on Nov. 20, 2024 at Valley High School

DELEGATION – PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

All delegations shall hold their presentations to not more than five (5) minutes. Delegations may not discuss matters that involve student privacy, confidentiality, or matters related to specific employees. The Board president has the authority to restrict any presentation which becomes personal, abusive, or inappropriate. – WCS Policy: BDDH

Please print clearly

~~Kydney Dallison~~ Mary Summers
~~Mary Summers~~ Aubrey Gump
Kynnedi Dallison
Kaylin Scott
Sean Snedden
Beverly VenSoyoc
Alyssa Tedrow
Emma Gump
J.D. Morris
Howard Hendrix
Raechel Hutton
Emily Willey
Kylan Adams
LeAnne Bernette
Carolyn Voho
Rebekah Gantz

Jane Beckert
Jessica Mace
Aliyah McGlumphy
Kortyn Mace
Bacquet King
Jackie Shepard
Joshia White

1 WETZEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2
3
4 PUBLIC HEARING

5 RE: CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL
6 AND ITS CONSOLIDATION INTO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
7
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9

10
11 The following proceedings were stenographically
12 recorded by and before Tammie Trigg, RPR and Notary
13 Public in and for the State of West Virginia, at Valley
14 High School, 44 Lumberjack Lane, Pine Grove,
15 West Virginia 26419, commencing at 6:03 p.m.
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APPEARANCES

Cassandra Porter, Superintendent
Ben McPherson, Chief Personnel Officer
Paul Huston, Secondary Education Director
Jeff Lancaster, Treasurer
Todd Barcus, Attendance/Student Services Director
JoBeth Simmons, Executive Secretary/Elections
Coordinator

Wetzel County Board of Education Members:
Linda Fonner, President
Brian Castilow, Vice President
Jimmy Glasscock, Member
Christine Nice, Member
Christine Mitchell, Member

* * *

P R O C E E D I N G S

* * *

MS. FONNER: I call this special meeting of the Wetzel County Board of Education to order. This meeting is for the public hearing on closure of the Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School. We will begin the meeting with Mrs. Mitchell leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

* * *

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.)

* * *

MS. FONNER: You may be seated. Let the record show that all five board members are in attendance: Mr. Glasscock, Mr. Castilow, Mrs. Fonner, Mrs. Nice and Mrs. Mitchell. This hearing is on the closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School. We will start with a summary of the proposed action presented by the administration.

MS. PORTER: Good evening and welcome to Valley High School tonight. Wetzel County is experiencing significant demographic shifts that are having a direct impact on the educational system. The

1 county's population has steadily declined by 15.2
2 percent since 2010 from 16,537 residents to an estimated
3 13,786 in 2024, continuing the trend seen in much of
4 rural West Virginia.

5 Student enrollment has similarly dropped by
6 nearly 800 students over the same period reflecting
7 these broader demographic changes. The trend is evident
8 in the declines of both Hundred High School and Valley
9 High School.

10 Hundred High School, which has an enrollment
11 of -- which had an enrollment of 109 students a decade
12 ago, has seen its numbers shrink to just around 64 in
13 the current school year. Similarly, Valley High School,
14 once serving 187 students, has seen its enrollment dip
15 to 139 students in recent years. In total, for the 2024
16 school year, these two schools are projected to have
17 just around 194 students combined. A clear signal that
18 the current configuration is no longer suitable.

19 These declining enrollments point to the need
20 for a strategic realignment of resources and facilities
21 to continue providing high quality education for Wetzel
22 County students.

23 The facilities at both Hundred High School and
24 Valley High School are aging, and each school could
25 require investments to meet modern educational

1 standards. Hundred High School needs approximately \$7.8
2 million in renovations, including major upgrades to its
3 HVAC system, while Valley High School would require
4 about \$10.7 million to address similar issues and
5 modernize its larger campus. Despite the necessary
6 upgrades at both schools, Valley High School is the more
7 viable long-term option.

8 From a financial standpoint, the proposed
9 consolidation of Hundred High School into Valley High
10 School is a strategic move that will yield savings.
11 Currently, Hundred High School's annual operating costs
12 total \$2 million, while Valley High School's costs are
13 about \$2.7.

14 After consolidation, the estimated total
15 operational cost will rise to about \$4.2, primarily due
16 to the need to hire additional staff to accommodate the
17 increased student body. However, Wetzel County Schools
18 expects to save approximately \$580,000 annually with
19 notable reductions in utilities, maintenance and
20 miscellaneous expenses.

21 One of the key benefits of the consolidation
22 is that there will be no net loss of professional or
23 service personnel. All current positions at Hundred
24 High School and Valley High School will be retained,
25 ensuring that the experience and dedication of the staff

1 will continue to serve all of our students.

2 This stability is critical in maintaining a
3 seamless transition and upholding the high standards of
4 education that Wetzel County Schools is known for.

5 Additionally, the consolidation will allow for
6 more efficient scheduling, creating additional
7 opportunities for students to access a wider range of
8 academic and extra-curricular offerings.

9 Transportation will see some adjustments
10 following the consolidation. While travel times will
11 increase for some students, particularly those from the
12 Hundred area. No waivers for travel are required at
13 this time.

14 The consolidation of Hundred High School into
15 Valley High School is an opportunity to enhance
16 educational offerings for all students. Wetzel County
17 Schools is committed to ensuring that all students have
18 access to high-quality education that aligns with
19 federal, state and local requirements.

20 The consolidation will adhere to policies such
21 as Policy 2419, 2510 and 2520, ensuring that students'
22 academic and developmental needs are met. With this
23 move, students will benefit from a broader array of
24 elective courses and improved resources.

25 The community served by Hundred High School

1 and Valley High School both have strong, long-standing
2 relationship with their schools. Each school has been a
3 central hub for social and community activities.

4 Consolidating Hundred High School into Valley
5 High School offers the potential to forge new
6 relationships and expand opportunities for both
7 communities. By combining the strengths of both
8 schools, the district can offer more programs,
9 resources, activities, creating a larger, more connected
10 community that benefits all students and families.

11 In summary, the proposed consolidation of
12 Hundred High School into Valley High School represents a
13 thoughtful and necessary response to the declining
14 enrollment and aging infrastructure. While there will
15 be challenges, particularly in terms of transportation
16 and community connections, the long-term benefits, both
17 academically and financially, are significant.

18 This move will ensure that Wetzel County
19 Schools remains a strong, sustainable educational system
20 capable of meeting the needs of its students and
21 preparing them for future successes. Thank you.

22 MS. FONNER: In accordance with the West
23 Virginia Policy 6204 and Wetzel County Schools Policy
24 BDDH, each speaker will be allotted a maximum of five
25 minutes to present their remarks. This policy ensures

1 that all individuals have an equal opportunity to
2 address the board in a fair and timely manner.

3 During the five-minute speaking period, any
4 questions or clarifications raised by the speaker will
5 not be addressed immediately. Instead, in accordance
6 with Policy 62043.4.A.8, all questions will be answered
7 at the conclusion of the speakers' allotted. This
8 structure helps maintain order and ensures that each
9 speaker has a full opportunity to present their views
10 without interruption and that they're able to use the
11 entire five minutes they are entitled to.

12 We ask that all participants respect the time
13 limitation to facilitate an orderly and efficient
14 meeting. Board members, Mr. Glasscock down through here
15 with us, board members are not allowed to respond to the
16 delegations. All questions will be answered by the
17 administration. All comments are to be made to the
18 board and not to the audience. The comments should not
19 be of a personal nature. The board is not responsible
20 for any speakers' comments. The speakers themselves are
21 responsible for their own comments, and the board
22 president has the authority to maintain order at the
23 meeting.

24 So with that being said, I ask that when you
25 do come up and you speak at the microphone, that you

1 speak closely to it so that everyone can hear clearly.

2 Okay. Our first person, Mary Sumners.

3 MARY SUMNERS: Good evening, and welcome,
4 Superintendent Porter, board of education, staff,
5 students and fellow community members. My name is Mary
6 Sumners. I'm a sophomore at Valley High School. I
7 participate in FFA, volleyball, track and the leadership
8 team. I have two main points to discuss and that is to
9 clear some accusations made about Valley by individuals
10 at the meeting Monday and discuss consolidation.

11 To start off, I am for consolidation. Before
12 I say anything else, I firmly believe one school, one
13 move. I believe in waiting for one big school and
14 saving money to make the best we can. I see very little
15 reason to spend millions rebranding two new schools for
16 a temporary fix. Looking like this isn't going to be
17 the case, I still feel strongly about clearing Valley's
18 name.

19 First, I would like to say Valley kids are far
20 from what people think. We are a family and a family
21 that is open to everyone who walks through the front
22 doors of this school. We are more welcoming than words
23 describe. New students have come in all year, and just
24 two last week, and they have fit in right with us. And
25 we look at them no differently than the family I

1 compared us to previously.

2 I want the school coming over to know that we
3 are not against you. We sympathize with you and
4 understand what you're going through. We're losing our
5 school, too, but we're keeping our building and that's
6 it. So much can happen in a building. There are
7 memories here, but there can always be new ones made,
8 with new friends, new teachers and a new start. Two
9 historic communities will be changed forever, so I
10 understand why everyone is on the edge of their seat and
11 filled with tension.

12 I would just like to take the time to say that
13 the staff and students at Valley High School aren't
14 horrible people. We are loving, caring, compassionate
15 and respectful and we want to welcome you with support.
16 The last thing we want is people not to feel welcomed,
17 because I can tell you first hand, as a student who has
18 went to Valley the last two years, I have felt nothing
19 less than welcome. From the students who try to include
20 everyone, to the teachers and staff who make sure no one
21 is left to struggle.

22 At the end of the day, this decision is in the
23 board's hands, and we have to realize that something
24 could happen that some may not like. We have to be
25 optimistic and open to change to new opportunities and

1 to work together. Thank you.

2 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Aubrey Gump.

3 AUBREY GUMP: Hello, Mrs. Porter and all
4 the board members in attendance tonight. My name is
5 Aubrey Gump. I'm currently enrolled in Valley High
6 School as a sophomore. I'd like to speak tonight about
7 accusations addressing the attitudes that the Valley
8 students will have towards the Hundred students next
9 year.

10 As you all know, the meeting held at Hundred
11 on Monday night addressed a lot of concerns as to how
12 the Hundred students will be treated next year. I feel
13 personally offended that there are people saying that we
14 will not make the Hundred students feel welcomed. We've
15 received two new students this here, and I've heard
16 nothing but feeling of acceptance and welcoming here at
17 Valley from them. From the moment they walked through
18 those doors, I could tell they felt that they were
19 excited to get a fresh start and were not scared of
20 bullying of any kind. And I can tell you as someone who
21 has grown up through Short Line and now Valley, for the
22 two years I've been here at Valley, I've not met a
23 single student who would leave someone out just because
24 they went to a different school.

25 I had always pictured high school as a place

1 where I would not be welcomed and be put down by upper
2 class immediately. I can assure you that on my first
3 day at Valley, I was immediately welcomed in with open
4 arms and accepted for who I am. The people here at
5 Valley made me feel like I could personally turn to
6 whoever and I would never be judged.

7 With that being said, I'd like to say that
8 there is no hatred toward Hundred like I felt watching
9 the meeting on Monday towards Valley. I do have to ask
10 the questions: Why do I feel like the victim? Why am I
11 being painted as the bad guy? Why is my student
12 constantly being accused about something that is not
13 true? No teenager should worry about the hatred that
14 could be coming with these Hundred students simply
15 because of a decision what we don't have a say in. This
16 decision is ultimately up to the board. Valley just
17 gets to add their opinion on it.

18 So anyone that thinks bad about Valley or has
19 said anything bad about Valley, I just want to inform
20 you that we are very nervous about this change. We know
21 we can overcome this challenge together. Change
22 sometimes may be hard to adjust to, but in the case of
23 this betterment of both Valley High School and Hundred
24 High School, it is very necessary. We have to stay
25 positive and optimistic about this consolidation.

1 I hope this speech has eased some of your
2 feelings and your concerns about how you and your child
3 will be treated at Valley next year. Thank you for your
4 time.

5 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Kennedy Dallison.

6 KENNEDY DALLISON: Hello. My name is
7 Kennedy Dallison. I'm a sophomore here at Valley High
8 School. I know I'm just a kid, but what you don't
9 realize is this is about the kids, the young adults at
10 Hundred and Valley High School. I truly believe merging
11 is the way to go.

12 I watched the meeting Monday, and I heard a
13 lot of bashing on Valley High School. It felt as though
14 everybody who talked badly about Valley never got the
15 chance to talk to a student who goes here or even hear
16 from us. I felt as though conclusions were drawn about
17 the students based off the few times we compete against
18 Hundred in sports.

19 The first concern that comes to mind when I
20 heard Hundred students not feeling welcomed, as a
21 student I would like to tell you first hand we truly are
22 one of the most welcoming schools. I think I speak for
23 my classmates and I coming from such a small class, I
24 love meeting new people and making new friends, but,
25 most importantly, making memories that will last a

1 lifetime. Oh, I lost my spot.

2 Our community has always supported us. I know
3 they will support any students that walk through those
4 doors. This merger can make two small communities, each
5 with lots of pride, come together. Imagine how loud we
6 could be cheering on our teams to show the state that we
7 can do great things, not only in sports, but in
8 academics, FFA and other aspects of student life.

9 Another concern I heard was Valley coaches and
10 teachers favoring Valley kids. As a student, I would
11 like to disagree. The teachers help every student meet
12 their goals and strive to be better individuals. The
13 coaches want talented, hardworking players that show up
14 and do their best. A lot of coaches aren't even from
15 the area, but they found a place here for them at
16 Valley. I know every one of my teachers and coaches
17 want me to be the best version of myself.

18 With all that being said, I would like to let
19 Hundred students know we sympathize. Along with you, we
20 are losing our identity. The only difference is we get
21 to keep a building we won't even recognize. My family's
22 roots runs deep with Valley High School. My great,
23 great grandfather, Pat Dallison, named us the Valley
24 Lumberjacks after our family lumber company. The same
25 company sign that is now hanging on my granddad's barn.

1 Therefore, I can sympathize with losing your identity,
2 because not only am I losing that, I'm losing a family
3 legacy.

4 Students from both schools are losing more
5 than what people on the outside can see, but I, a
6 student of Valley High School, a student losing a
7 legacy, a multi-sport athlete, a member of the FFA and a
8 classmate, believe we need to embrace change and think
9 about the betterment of our futures. Thank you.

10 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Kaylie Scott.

11 KAYLIE SCOTT: Hello. My name is Kaylie
12 Scott. My husband and I are 2010 graduates of Valley
13 High School. We have two children who attend Short Line
14 school. Our son is in seventh grade and our daughter is
15 in sixth.

16 I personally feel that this merger is the
17 right thing to do. As a parent, I want more for my
18 children. I want more certified teachers in classrooms
19 with all these children involved. I want more
20 opportunities for them while they are in school. If
21 this merger doesn't happen because everyone is so
22 focused on building a singular school for all four high
23 schools to attend, then what is going to happen in these
24 next four to six years waiting for land to be found that
25 makes everyone happy and the rest of the process that

1 goes into building a school? Our children will not be
2 getting the education that they deserve.

3 We talk to our children all the time about the
4 future: What they want to be when they grow up, where
5 they want to live and all other kinds of scenarios. Our
6 children are the future and are being held back by the
7 past. The alma maters of their families, the histories
8 of these schools and the "Well, it's worked for this
9 long mentality." The problem is that it is not working
10 anymore.

11 We have classes that can't be taught because
12 there isn't a teacher to fill the class. We also don't
13 have the subs to cover classes when a teacher calls off.
14 So these are wasted days. Days that are being taken
15 from our kids that they aren't learning. We have our
16 kids sitting in front of laptops being taught core
17 classes by a teacher that they will never meet. We need
18 to think back to COVID and how well this didn't work for
19 our children and how their education suffered during
20 that year.

21 We have some very amazing teachers in this
22 county that are spread through all four high schools,
23 and merging all these teachers and students into two
24 schools, imagine what could happen? We could have
25 teachers in all the classrooms teaching. The new

1 possibilities that could be introduced would be amazing.

2 You would have a stellar FFA program. The
3 bands would be bigger and better. Our kids could have
4 new programs added in as electives. We could have
5 better business programs, technology programs, add new
6 programs in that the kids help choose that they would be
7 interested in taking part in. So many amazing things
8 are possible just by doing this merger. The most
9 amazing thing, though, our kids are being taught by
10 teachers, certified teachers in the classrooms.

11 I hardly hear people talking about this,
12 though. You hear the, "Well, our kids won't be accepted
13 in another school." Most of these kids are already
14 friends with people from the other three schools in this
15 county due to sports and social media. They will be
16 accepted into a school just like any other new student
17 is.

18 The majority of the people here tonight will
19 probably agree that the Short Line community is like a
20 family. Something bad happens to a family and the Short
21 Line bans together to help ease burdens of whatever it
22 is that has happened. Not just in this community, but
23 in others, as well. You and your children will be
24 welcomed into this family. Thank you.

25 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Sean Snedden.

1 SEAN SNEDDEN: Hello. My name is Sean
2 Snedden. I'm the math teacher at Hundred High School.
3 I had not planned on speaking here tonight, but
4 yesterday my name was brought up in the meetings. I
5 didn't feel that it was appropriate, and I'm going to
6 ask some questions to present why I feel that it wasn't
7 appropriate.

8 Question No. 1: Have you ever heard me say
9 anything about having to teach all the math classes at
10 Hundred High School or ask me what my plans are for next
11 year?

12 Would you say that the main premise for this
13 consolidation of Hundred High School into Valley is to
14 concentrate the teachers as resources into one school so
15 that students that attend these areas have more
16 opportunities.

17 Question No. 3: What is the current staffing
18 situation at Valley High School?

19 Question No. 4: What is the current staffing
20 situation at Hundred High School?

21 Question 5: What are the specific
22 opportunities that will be increased for the students
23 currently at Valley High School?

24 What are the specific opportunities that will
25 be increased for the students at Hundred High School

1 with the merger and increase in staff?

2 Are the increased opportunities for the
3 students based on the 13 faculty members from Hundred
4 High School and the 18 faculty members at Valley High
5 School as listed in the Impact Statement?

6 Have you had any discussion with all the
7 teachers at Valley High School about what this merger
8 will look like, what the impact will be on them and how
9 they will respond to the merger?

10 Have you had any discussions with all the
11 teachers at Hundred High School about what this merger
12 will look like, what that impact will have on them, and
13 how they will respond?

14 Question No. 9: Based on the Impact
15 Statement, does the principal at Hundred High School,
16 who also is listed as a tech ed. teacher, plan to
17 continue teaching while serving as principal after the
18 merger?

19 Are each of the half-time teachers at Hundred
20 High School counted as full-time teachers in the Impact
21 Statement? If so, how many are shared with other
22 schools and how would they be relocated?

23 Question 11: Are you aware that these factors
24 change the faculty numbers upon which your main premise
25 is based and that this will drastically affect the

1 outcome?

2 Given that the assumption that this goal is to
3 merge -- given that the assumption that this goal of the
4 merger is to consolidate teacher resources into one
5 school, would it be more sense to move staff from a
6 fully staffed school to an understaffed school or vice
7 versa? Please explain your reasoning.

8 Question No. 13: What percentage of the
9 students is considered acceptable if you choose not to
10 follow the merger and attend school in another county or
11 to be home schooled?

12 Question 14: Did you do any analysis on the
13 number of students who will change counties and schools
14 due to merger? If so, what criteria did you use to
15 assess this?

16 Since the teacher staffing is tied to student
17 enrollment, was a potential loss of students considered
18 when planning teacher employment for the following year
19 and years? If not, why?

20 Question No. 16: Given that a merger like
21 this is more akin to a business process than an
22 educational one, who developed the plan for the merger?
23 And what qualifications, background and management
24 expertise do they have in merging organizations?

25 Question 17: Were any external consultants or

1 experts consulted regarding employment -- sorry,
2 regarding employment movement and retention during this
3 merger? If not, why?

4 Question No. 18: Since this merger is not
5 affecting your jobs directly, would you, as an
6 administrator in Wetzel County, be willing to stake your
7 jobs and reputation on the success of this merger, given
8 the premise that consolidating Hundred High School into
9 Valley High School will concentrate teacher resources
10 and increase opportunities for students in both
11 attendance areas? Thank you.

12 MR. MCPHERSON: I'm going to take some of
13 your employment-related questions because that's me.

14 SEAN SNEDDEN: Can we start with the
15 beginning, the first question I asked, please?

16 MR. MCPHERSON: Okay. We'll try.

17 SEAN SNEDDEN: The first question was:
18 Have you ever heard me say anything about having to
19 teach all of the math classes at Hundred High School or
20 asked me what my plans are for next year?

21 MS. PORTER: Me, directly? No. I just
22 know what you do teach, according to your schedule, and
23 the outcome of that and how hard that will be on you.
24 You and I did not talk directly about that, and I think
25 that's between you and I.

1 The main purpose to concentrate the resources,
2 we want to be fiscally responsible and give our children
3 the best education we responsibly can. So the current
4 staffing situation in Valley High School, by combining
5 those two schools, we will be able to give not only the
6 opportunities that each school has, but those
7 opportunities will be blended together.

8 So, for example, you would not have to teach
9 all of the math classes and we could offer upper level
10 classes. You could go back to teaching, hopefully, some
11 of your specific classes, such as broadcasting or STEM
12 initiatives.

13 SEAN SNEDDEN: May I speak?

14 MS. PORTER: Sure.

15 SEAN SNEDDEN: All right.

16 I feel that as being able to teach all the
17 math classes, I get to see all the students' strengths
18 in different areas. And I don't see it as a weakness.
19 I think it is a strength, for No. 1. No. 2, I do not
20 teach broadcasting.

21 MS. PORTER: I know that. I know. That's
22 what I said, you would have the ability.

23 SEAN SNEDDEN: I do not teach. I have not
24 taught broadcasting. I teach coding through games and
25 app.

1 MS. PORTER: So business classes.

2 SEAN SNEDDEN: No, it is not a business
3 class.

4 MS. PORTER: I was going at electives.

5 SEAN SNEDDEN: But you weren't --

6 MS. PORTER: You could teach electives.

7 SEAN SNEDDEN: I understand that, but you
8 did not give me the correct class to teach. You were
9 not specifying the right class.

10 MS. PORTER: Okay.

11 I was specifying electives and just giving
12 some examples.

13 SEAN SNEDDEN: Okay.

14 MS. PORTER: Specific opportunities would
15 be the blending of the two schools.

16 SEAN SNEDDEN: Hold on, that's good. Let's
17 go through my list of questions, please.

18 Question No. 2: Would you say that the main
19 premise for the consolidation of Hundred High School
20 into Valley High School is to concentrate the teachers
21 as resources into one school so that students have more
22 opportunities in these attendance areas?

23 MS. PORTER: Yes.

24 MR. MCPHERSON: This was current staffing
25 situation at each school?

1 SEAN SNEDDEN: Yes.

2 MR. MCPHERSON: Okay. Currently, Valley
3 High School has two long-term substitutes in positions
4 and a virtual thing being covered. Hundred is currently
5 fully staffed, but anybody who has seen the agenda
6 today --

7 SEAN SNEDDEN: Excuse me, Mr. McPherson --

8 MR. MCPHERSON: Yes, sir.

9 SEAN SNEDDEN: Currently?

10 MR. MCPHERSON: Currently, but if you were
11 to look at the agenda, you will find that that's not
12 going to be the case next year.

13 SEAN SNEDDEN: But, Mr. McPherson, when
14 this was made, were we fully staffed?

15 MR. MCPHERSON: You were.

16 SEAN SNEDDEN: Thank you. My next
17 question: What are the specific opportunities that you
18 feel will increase for the students currently at Valley
19 High School and currently at Hundred High School?

20 MR. MCPHERSON: I think you can look at
21 those together, and I'd also agree that pooling
22 resources will allow teachers to concentrate on things.
23 And I'm not --

24 SEAN SNEDDEN: Be specific, please.

25 MR. MCPHERSON: Can I finish?

1 SEAN SNEDDEN: Yes, I'm sorry.

2 MR. McPHERSON: It's okay. And I respect
3 you as a teacher. I want you to know that.

4 SEAN SNEDDEN: I know that.

5 MR. McPHERSON: I know what you do and what
6 you do is very hard. And, you know, I know what it's
7 like to have something different every period. So
8 that's difficult. But when you look at that and then we
9 can get into the chance of, you know, a math elective
10 that we may not have or more than one section. You
11 know, I've scheduled at a small school like Valley and
12 we all know how hard that is. If there is nobody in the
13 room that has done that, you've done it, too --

14 SEAN SNEDDEN: May I speak for a second?

15 MR. McPHERSON: Yeah.

16 SEAN SNEDDEN: I've taught at Paden City,
17 at Magnolia. I've taught here at Valley and Short Line
18 and Hundred. During my 25 years, I've never had fewer
19 than five different classes ever. It's not something
20 that is different. It's just what happens. Okay? So
21 using that as a tool to promote this consolidation, I
22 feel, is inappropriate.

23 MR. McPHERSON: Okay.

24 Well, I have seen what it can be like when
25 someone who is not just a math teacher -- that sounded

1 horrible. I didn't mean it that way. Someone has a
2 chance to specialize within their area, what that can be
3 like. So I would --

4 SEAN SNEDDEN: So do you feel that my
5 teaching ability for having all the classes at Hundred
6 is diminished?

7 MR. MCPHERSON: I'm not saying that, but
8 I'm saying I would like to see what folks who get a
9 chance to specialize in something could do even more.
10 Because you juggle a lot of things very well. I'm not
11 saying that. I've been in your classroom before. Okay?
12 I'm not trying to be personal. I'm trying to tell you
13 that I've seen it.

14 SEAN SNEDDEN: All right. Let's continue,
15 then. Have you had any discussions with all the
16 teachers at Valley High School about this merger, what
17 it will look like, what the impact will be on them and
18 how they will respond to the merger? All teachers.

19 MS. PORTER: I did have a faculty meeting
20 with teachers that were able to attend on several
21 occasions for different things and when they asked
22 questions to me, we did talk about it, but there is
23 nothing 100 percent set. We want to make sure who we
24 have and what their certifications are and what we're
25 going to offer to our students, so...

1 SEAN SNEDDEN: Have you had any discussions
2 with all the teachers at Hundred High School about this
3 merger, what it will look like, what the impact will be
4 on them and how they will respond to the merger?

5 MS. PORTER: Not all of them, no.

6 SEAN SNEDDEN: How many, please?

7 MS. PORTER: I don't have a specific number
8 for you tonight.

9 SEAN SNEDDEN: We have 11 staff there.
10 That's not many.

11 MS. PORTER: I think we need to not banter
12 and just I'll answer the questions to the best of my
13 ability at this time. Okay?

14 SEAN SNEDDEN: That's fine.

15 Based on the Impact Statement, does the
16 principal at Hundred High School, who is also listed as
17 a tech ed. teacher, plan to continue teaching while
18 serving as principal at the merger?

19 MR. MCPHERSON: The answer is that -- now,
20 this is not a secret, Mrs. Beckett is retiring at the
21 end of December, and I will have to post a principal's
22 job over here and see what that looks like.

23 SEAN SNEDDEN: I understand that.

24 MR. MCPHERSON: That's the answer to your
25 question, Mr. Snedden.

1 SEAN SNEDDEN: Well, the answer would be
2 that we would not have the tech ed. teacher portion of
3 that in the merger, correct?

4 MR. MCPHERSON: I think the hope would be
5 that we could find an actual tech ed. teacher who
6 teaches all day instead of a principal.

7 SEAN SNEDDEN: That is not part of the
8 faculty that's already in place?

9 MR. MCPHERSON: Right.

10 SEAN SNEDDEN: That's what I'm saying.
11 It's not in place right now. It would have to be an
12 added position.

13 MR. MCPHERSON: And what would be wrong
14 with that?

15 SEAN SNEDDEN: Nothing. I'm not saying
16 that is anything wrong, but this Impact Statement is
17 based on what was done, not what will be in the future.

18 MR. MCPHERSON: And remember, it does say
19 "anticipated." We're not -- it's not carved in stone.
20 Like it would not be a bad thing to have extra people.

21 SEAN SNEDDEN: Oh, I've never said that.
22 It's not a problem when you talk about having extra
23 people. All right. And I'm the only math teacher at
24 Hundred High School. We had two math teachers at
25 Hundred High School two years ago. When the math

1 teacher that was there decided to take a job closer to
2 home because he had two young children, the math teacher
3 position was never posted.

4 MR. McPHERSON: That's happened at several
5 schools throughout the county.

6 SEAN SNEDDEN: And was there a reason why
7 that position wasn't posted?

8 MR. McPHERSON: If you look at enrollment
9 numbers, they've gone way down.

10 SEAN SNEDDEN: Okay.

11 But at that time, Hundred was still right at
12 100 students, and we had been at about 100 students for
13 the last 5 years before that. So it wasn't a change in
14 our student numbers at that time.

15 MR. McPHERSON: Okay.

16 I'm not even sure I was in the position at
17 that time. I just know where your enrollment numbers
18 are now.

19 SEAN SNEDDEN: I'm stating facts from those
20 time periods.

21 MR. McPHERSON: Okay.

22 SEAN SNEDDEN: All right.

23 Are you -- the question about are each of the
24 half-time teachers at Hundred High School counted as
25 full-time teachers in the Impact Statement? And if so,

1 are they shared with other schools and how would they be
2 relocated?

3 MR. McPHERSON: So the way the folks would
4 be relocated -- well, half-time, so when you look at
5 full-time teaching positions, the half and half is a
6 one.

7 SEAN SNEDDEN: I understand.

8 MR. McPHERSON: That's how I counted them,
9 if that's what you're asking. And then as far as that
10 goes, we will post jobs, you know. We have a vote on
11 Friday, state board in December. In January we will be
12 posting jobs at the consolidated schools so we can get
13 everybody moved around as soon as possible.

14 SEAN SNEDDEN: Well, I understand that.
15 You realize that in the Impact Statement it says we had
16 11 staff at Hundred High School. Do we have 11 teachers
17 that will be coming to Valley?

18 MR. McPHERSON: Well, I think we've made a
19 very, very firm commitment to keeping all the positions.

20 SEAN SNEDDEN: I understand that. But of
21 those 11 --

22 MR. McPHERSON: I don't know if they'll all
23 come. I can post a job and hope they apply, yes.

24 SEAN SNEDDEN: No, what I'm saying is that
25 11 is not the appropriate number with the half-time

1 positions. They weren't counted in. And if you take
2 out the principal as being a tech ed. teacher, that
3 takes another piece out. So your numbers are incorrect
4 on the Impact Statement and the number of resources
5 coming to Valley High School will be different. So that
6 changes your statement.

7 MR. MCPHERSON: Okay. And again,
8 "anticipated," remember that.

9 SEAN SNEDDEN: Okay.

10 Well, that -- I will say given that the
11 assumption, the goal of the merger is to consolidate
12 teacher resources into one school, would you make more
13 sense to staff from the fully staffed school to the
14 understaffed school or vice versa? Please explain your
15 reasonings.

16 MR. MCPHERSON: So I see where you're
17 coming from, and you're correct. When we made that
18 statement, it was a fully staffed school, but we do know
19 now that it's not going to be for next year, at this
20 point, and neither was Valley. And, honestly, none of
21 our schools are fully staffed, so...

22 SEAN SNEDDEN: But you've made this
23 statement before you knew that these people were
24 changing jobs.

25 MR. MCPHERSON: You're correct.

1 SEAN SNEDDEN: And it's not right to change
2 the premise of your item based on new knowledge, okay,
3 that happened now, not --

4 MR. McPHERSON: And you're entitled to that
5 opinion. I get it.

6 SEAN SNEDDEN: What percentage of the
7 students is considered acceptable if they choose not to
8 follow the merger and attend school in another county or
9 be home schooled?

10 MR. McPHERSON: Do you mean is acceptable
11 for what outcome? Obviously, we'd like all of our
12 students to stay.

13 SEAN SNEDDEN: I understand. But you're
14 deciding -- this is a decision to make a merger.

15 MR. McPHERSON: Well, I'm going to stop you
16 there. The word "merger" does not appear anywhere in
17 state code.

18 SEAN SNEDDEN: I apologize, consolidation.
19 If I use merger, I apologize.

20 MR. McPHERSON: I know what you're saying.
21 So you're asking probably about the decision is whether
22 Valley High School remains Valley High School?

23 SEAN SNEDDEN: No. I'm asking when is it
24 acceptable or what number of lost students from our
25 community as Wetzel County is acceptable for making a

1 consolidation into this school?

2 MR. McPHERSON: I'm trying, Sean. I don't
3 understand your question. Acceptable in what --
4 obviously, we want all of our kids to stay here.

5 SEAN SNEDDEN: I know that, but you are
6 going to --

7 MR. McPHERSON: Okay.

8 So the answer is 100 percent. We would like
9 them all to stay.

10 SEAN SNEDDEN: Okay.

11 At what point do you say we've lost too many
12 students and then this would not be a good
13 consolidation?

14 MR. McPHERSON: I don't know.

15 SEAN SNEDDEN: Thank you on that.

16 Did you do an analysis of the number of
17 students who will change counties and schools due to the
18 consolidation? If so, what criteria did you use to
19 assess this?

20 MR. McPHERSON: No.

21 SEAN SNEDDEN: Since teacher staffing is
22 tied to student enrollment, was a potential loss of
23 students considered when planning teacher employment for
24 the following year and years? If not, why?

25 MR. McPHERSON: So, of course, you're

1 thinking formula, right?

2 SEAN SNEDDEN: Of course.

3 MR. McPHERSON: And, of course, we are
4 lucky that we don't -- we're not tied to the formula
5 right now. So no, it was not taken into account.

6 SEAN SNEDDEN: Something that you said
7 earlier, the reason that we did not have a math teacher
8 posted at Hundred High School was because of the
9 formula.

10 MR. McPHERSON: But not from a funding
11 standpoint, which is what you asked.

12 SEAN SNEDDEN: No. I said this would be
13 from the formula, but the position at Hundred High
14 School was not posted and it was based off of
15 enrollment.

16 MR. McPHERSON: Okay.

17 We've had several principals at Hundred High
18 School since then and none has asked for a math teacher,
19 either, so...

20 SEAN SNEDDEN: Given that the merger for
21 this is more akin to the business process than an
22 educational one, who developed the plan for the
23 consolidation and what qualifications, background and
24 management expertise do they have in unifying
25 organizations?

1 MR. MCPHERSON: So it was developed
2 initially by the county office staff, reviewed by the
3 Department of Education, and also run through Bowles
4 Rice, Howard Seufer. And I think the only thing
5 involved with more school closings than Howard Seufer is
6 COVID. So he knows a thing or two.

7 SEAN SNEDDEN: Since this merger does not
8 affect your jobs directly, would each of you, as
9 administrators in Wetzel County, be willing to stake
10 your jobs and reputation on the success of this
11 unification of schools?

12 MR. MCPHERSON: So I'm not going to speak
13 for anybody else. I'll speak for myself and say --

14 SEAN SNEDDEN: Well, we have a few people
15 up there that would speak for themselves.

16 MR. MCPHERSON: They could, and they may
17 choose to. But I know that I think this is a
18 make-or-break moment for Wetzel County Schools and its
19 students, period.

20 MS. PORTER: I agree. I agree.

21 SEAN SNEDDEN: Thank you.

22 MR. MCPHERSON: Thank you, Mr. Snedden.

23 MS. FONNER: Our next speaker is Beverly
24 VanScyoc.

25 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: I hate to use my time on

1 this, but I'm tired. Are you guys tired? I'm beat.

2 In honor of American Education Week, today
3 was flannel day at school, so I apologize for my
4 appearance tonight. I would like to begin by saying
5 that I have a lot of respect for all of you. I in no
6 way want you to think that our opposition to the school
7 consolidation is personal. With that being said, I've
8 been asked to clarify some questions that were asked at
9 the Tuesday morning hearing, specifically if Mrs. Porter
10 did, in fact, personally talk to Hundred High School
11 teachers about transferring to Valley next year and if
12 our teachers were planning to go.

13 I've given the board members and county office
14 staff copies of the responses, and I will share
15 composite figures in the interest of time. Out of 13
16 teachers and 1 nurse, no one had spoken to Mrs. Porter
17 about working at Valley. 12 teachers and 1 nurse said
18 they would not transfer to Valley. One teacher said he
19 would work at Valley High School next year.

20 Once again, it's important to note that
21 Hundred teachers will not be filling Valley's vacancies.
22 Our teachers feel that we are being viewed as stubborn
23 and petty when, in fact, we have valid, rational reasons
24 for not wanting to work at Valley.

25 According to Clinton Yost, he and his wife

1 have three small children and both work at Hundred.

2 They cannot logistically drive an hour to work, put a
3 child on the bus and get two others to daycare.

4 Mr. Snyder lives in Pennsylvania and
5 transferring to Valley will double his drive time, his
6 transportation cost and interfere with getting his son
7 after school. Mr. Snyder has been searching for social
8 studies positions within a 32-mile radius of his home
9 just this week. In case you're wondering, 32 miles is
10 the distance he currently drives to work. Just this
11 week alone, he has seen four job postings within that
12 radius. Why should he increase his time away from home,
13 increase his travel expenses and drive on unsafe roads
14 for nothing positive in return?

15 When I asked Mrs. Minor why she didn't want to
16 go to Valley, she said, and I quote, "Why would I travel
17 in a direction away from my livelihood? It makes more
18 sense to go where I grocery shop, have doctor and dental
19 appointments, am closer to my kids and where the roads
20 are far safer in the winter. It takes me 40 minutes to
21 get to Valley, but 50 or 60 minutes or less to reach Mon
22 County or Marion County Schools. Valley High School is
23 not even a consideration for my career move."

24 Mrs. Yost feels a job at Valley would mean an
25 unmanageable schedule that would be detrimental to her

1 young family.

2 As for me, I'm originally from Marion County,
3 and I live in Mon County. My daughter has a six-month
4 old and has been able to work at a schedule with the
5 hospital that allows him to only be cared for by family
6 members. I would never be able to make that work if I'm
7 driving from Pine Grove. Our other teachers have the
8 same concerns.

9 Please understand we don't have anything
10 against the Pine Grove community, the school, the
11 teachers or the students. When you look at the issues
12 that we have repeatedly brought up, it just doesn't make
13 sense to move Hundred to Valley.

14 Mrs. Porter told our student body that we
15 would be merging with Valley simply because they have
16 more students. Has anyone asked Valley High School
17 students how many of them would go out of county or to
18 Magnolia if they were forced to come to Hundred? If
19 their students are anything like ours, they will look at
20 geographics and realize they can probably get to North
21 Marion or a Harrison County school easier and quicker
22 than they can get to Hundred. By the time their student
23 population enrolls out of county, I bet we will have a
24 level playing field.

25 To be fair, when we are considering enrollment

1 numbers, doesn't it make sense to ask both student
2 bodies the same question? If we only use current
3 enrollment numbers, we decide where we merge. Aren't we
4 really comparing apples and oranges?

5 The meeting to vote on the school merger was
6 poorly timed. If our school remains open, our faculty,
7 staff and students have Thanksgiving break to celebrate.
8 If you choose to close Hundred High School, we will have
9 students out of school nine days with little or no
10 support to process and deal with the news. Please think
11 about the students and the effect this would have on
12 their already fragile mental health.

13 You all are adults who grew up in a different
14 time. Those of you from my generation grew up tough and
15 are prepared to handle life's challenges and all the
16 adversity that comes with living. Today's students have
17 a difficult time dealing with stress, anxiety, their own
18 emotions, depression and any adversity. Please think
19 about those concerns when you consider what is truly
20 best for the students of Wetzel county.

21 If consolidation is the answer to all of our
22 county's problems, then leave all of us in our own
23 schools, purchase centrally located land in the center
24 of the county and build one school where all students
25 are the new kids on the same day at the same time.

1 And I have a couple of questions. If this
2 move is truly about having certified teachers, why did
3 no one ever talk to us about the possibility of
4 transferring and why would you risk losing fully
5 certified teachers when our county is already struggling
6 with staffing issues?

7 No one has talked to us. No one has said,
8 "Are you willing to transfer?" Out of respect for your
9 educators and for the professionals who work in your
10 county, we should have been talked to before any of this
11 ever occurred. Someone should have just had the -- I'm
12 in my questions now.

13 MS. FONNER: Oh, okay, I thought you were
14 done.

15 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: I'm in my questions.

16 MS. FONNER: Okay.

17 MS. PORTER: That's part of your five
18 minutes. Your questions are part of your five minutes.

19 MR. McPHERSON: Answering them is not part
20 of the five minutes. That was read at the beginning.

21 MS. FONNER: But she did ask you a
22 question.

23 MS. PORTER: Possibility of transferring,
24 losing teachers. Of course we never want to lose
25 certified teachers, ever. I mean, we wouldn't want to

1 do that.

2 As you probably know during your tenure in
3 education, we never know what's going to happen. We
4 have teachers coming to the office, the central office,
5 to sign up as substitutes hoping to get a teacher. We
6 have teachers leaving for various reasons. So the
7 possibility of transferring teachers and teachers not
8 coming, that's not our intent in this at all.

9 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: Wait a minute. I don't
10 understand. So it's not your intent for us to transfer,
11 but yet we are being transferred?

12 MS. PORTER: It's not our intent for us to
13 lose you.

14 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: Okay. Okay.

15 But we are going to lose teachers. Okay.

16 Why was Hundred not even considered as the
17 school site?

18 MS. FONNER: Go ahead and answer that one,
19 but, Ms. VanScyoc, you were to ask your questions during
20 your five minutes.

21 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: Oh, I'm so sorry.

22 MS. FONNER: That was supposed to be part
23 of the five minutes. Go ahead and answer that one, but
24 then we'll move on.

25 MS. PORTER: Both schools were considered

1 and that's why we put the Impact Statement together and
2 did our metrics and came to a decision as a team which
3 would be the most viable option for us at this time.

4 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: Okay.

5 My next question is really important and then
6 I'm done, if I can ask it. Why were Valley students
7 never asked if they would move to Hundred to get a
8 better estimate of future enrollment?

9 MS. PORTER: Because when we did our Impact
10 Statements, that's not something that we felt we needed
11 to ask them.

12 BEVERLY VanSCYOC: Thank you.

13 MS. FONNER: Thank you very much. Again,
14 for the future people speaking, you have five minutes
15 total to make your point and ask any questions. Five
16 minutes. Alyssa Tedrow.

17 ALYSSA TEDROW: Good evening, board members,
18 staff, students and community members. As you know, my
19 name is Alyssa Tedrow, and I'm a junior here at Valley
20 High School. And I just want to say that I firmly
21 believe in one school, one move.

22 I would like to take some time to tell you my
23 story because you know nothing about me and, yet, you
24 still want to take away my school. In the middle of my
25 eighth grade year at Short Line, I moved to

1 New Martinsville because I had not yet gone to high
2 school, I could have easily gone to Magnolia, but I knew
3 that my place here was at Valley. The place where most
4 of my family has graduated, and I wanted to continue
5 that tradition. I had heard such great things about
6 this school, and I knew that I belonged here.

7 My freshman year I felt so welcomed. I
8 quickly made friends from other grades by joining band
9 and the Raise Club. These friendships grew into family.
10 When my sophomore year began, I was 15 and my brother
11 had graduated high school the year before, and my
12 parents both had full-time jobs, so I had no way to get
13 from New Martinsville to Pine Grove. Some people may
14 say that it might have been smart to switch to Magnolia
15 at this point, but I knew that I wanted -- I didn't want
16 to leave Valley. I felt like family there, and I knew
17 that that was where I belonged.

18 So from August to March, I would live with my
19 grandmother and cousins, switching from week to week. I
20 would see my parents for one whole day on Saturday, and
21 not even then because my mother had to work. Not seeing
22 my parents every day at 15 was probably the hardest part
23 of my life, and I felt what no one at that age should
24 ever feel. But I knew that it would all be worth it
25 when I would walk across the same stage as my parents, I

1 didn't know it then, but graduate under the same
2 principal.

3 You've tried to take this away from me
4 moving -- making the hardest point in my life not worth
5 it, and I struggled so much so that I could graduate
6 from Valley, the place that I felt like home. Please do
7 not take that away from me and my fellow graduates.

8 My question for Ms. Porter is: Do you
9 actually care about how this is affecting the students?

10 MS. PORTER: Yes, I do.

11 ALYSSA TEDROW: Okay. That is all. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Emma Gump.

14 EMMA GUMP: Good evening, board members,
15 students and staff. As you may know, my name is Emma
16 Gump, and today I am here on behalf of the students at
17 Valley High School and myself. Today I'm here to talk
18 about a few things, but first, I'm going to talk about
19 the students at VHS losing their school and their school
20 identity.

21 A lot of the students here have family members
22 that have graduated from here, and friends, too. I also
23 have a great grandfather, Bob Coen, that passed away,
24 but worked too hard for this school and the FFA. So
25 losing the school name and colors is going to be hard

1 for me to cope with, but -- because I have been a Valley
2 Lumberjack since I was a little kid.

3 My junior class and myself are not getting
4 to graduate as a Valley High School student. I'm going
5 to graduate to whatever the new school will be named. I
6 will not get to graduate with the colors black and gold.
7 I don't get to graduate as a Lumberjill. And I also
8 don't get to say that I am a fifth generation graduate
9 of Valley High School. And this is really hard.

10 This is not only about the students. This is
11 also about the teachers. Students are not just losing
12 their school, but we also will be losing our teachers
13 because they might not want to stay if we have a new
14 school or do not want to lose their job.

15 I'm a student that has an IEP, and I am
16 wanting to know, as many others that have an IEP in
17 Valley High School, what's going to happen? Is a
18 consolidation going to give us a new teacher to help us
19 with -- new teachers to help with the students that have
20 an IEP? Will there be enough special education teachers
21 to have one-on-one with students?

22 I will always respect my elders. That will
23 always happen because I was raised that way, but there
24 are times during the process of all of this talk -- all
25 of this talking about consolidation, I feel a lot of the

1 times none of the schools are getting a lot of respect
2 to us, students, or our teachers.

3 As a student at Valley High School, I am
4 wondering how long is the process going to take with
5 changing schools? Because there is only two and a half
6 months of summer, and I do not think that is going to be
7 enough to have reconstruction done because I don't want
8 to be walking to class and have to be careful because
9 they are still working. And you're not just going to
10 have to change the gym floor, but repaint a lot of the
11 rooms and you are going to have to do a lot of changes.

12 Also, would Valley still get to have the
13 seventh and eighth grade middle schooler kids at Short
14 Line Elementary come up and be a part of the high school
15 marching band?

16 I would also like to say: Do you know what
17 this is going to do to the students of Hundred and Paden
18 City mentally? This could cause a lot of problems to
19 students. Students should not have to worry about being
20 tossed into a school they do not want to be at. And
21 what about the possibility of students hurting themselves
22 because they are too scared to speak up to a new teacher
23 or counselor they will have because they are having
24 problems fitting in or being bullied?

25 Another question is about the FFA chapter.

1 Will the name be changed, or do we get to keep being
2 called Pine Grove FFA? I would also like to say thank
3 you, Hundred FFA, because the FFA advisor is the one
4 that was able to help me starting him in bacon because
5 Valley was not able to do that yet. One second.

6 I would also like to say once a Lumberjack,
7 always a Lumberjack. Thank you.

8 MS. PORTER: So thank you, Emma. It was
9 very brave of you to speak. As far as special education
10 teachers, yes, you may have some new ones. You may have
11 some old ones. Will there be enough special education
12 teachers? Well, that's our goal. We sure hope so. And
13 that's individualized, you know. You know each student
14 has a specialized plan. So we will do, as we do every
15 day, our 100 percent best to make sure you have what you
16 need.

17 How long will it take? There's been lots of
18 discussions about that. But let me tell you, first and
19 foremost, we're not to that point yet. Okay? We need
20 to get through this week first and then that would be
21 another thing that we would do, meeting with students
22 and deciding which direction we're going to go. And
23 then, of course, the board would have to have the final
24 vote on changing colors and names, but we're not really
25 there yet. Have we talked a little bit with students?

1 We have, because they're interested in knowing, you
2 know, what could happen. I've heard lots of ideas, but,
3 technically, we're not there yet. Okay.

4 The FFA chapter name. We'd have to work with
5 your FFA teachers, and I'm not 100 percent sure on the
6 process of that. I know there is a process because I've
7 been approached about what we could do, and I do have
8 somebody looking into that for you.

9 EMMA GUMP: Okay.

10 MS. PORTER: And the band. Do you want to
11 talk about band?

12 MR. MCPHERSON: Sure. That seems like
13 something I could talk about. I imagine that would stay
14 the same. And I'm going to make an observation, because
15 you talked about your grandpap, and I once got in a
16 fight and people here will understand that, with Brian
17 Jones, so we could have a key fob to get in. I remember
18 him, so...

19 EMMA GUMP: Thank you.

20 MS. FONNER: J.D. Morris.

21 J.D. MORRIS: Let me start off by saying
22 all of my questions are rhetorical, so please don't feel
23 any need to answer those.

24 Board members, county office personnel,
25 students, parents, community members, I would like to

1 personally thank you for coming out this evening to show
2 your support to our school system and our students of
3 Wetzel County. Board members, I would like to extend
4 another personal thank you for the difficult decisions
5 you have made so far in this daunting task. Thank you.
6 I appreciate you.

7 First and foremost, let me tell you that I'm
8 not the largest fan of change. I think that was born
9 into me from my family. I have my daily routine, and I
10 do not like it to be interrupted. I think we are all
11 that way in one way or another. We all get in a
12 routine, a form of normalcy, and it's our comfort zone,
13 our safe place. And we don't want to lose that. Is
14 that a problem that we feel that way? No, I don't think
15 that it is. I think that's what makes us human. It's
16 what keeps us going. However, at what point does that
17 routine that normally -- that normalcy that we deal with
18 become a rut instead of a routine?

19 I, unfortunately, feel that we, as a Wetzel
20 County community, are in a rut in terms of our current
21 configuration of schools. I feel that we avoided any
22 change out of fear of the unknown. In previous
23 meetings, many individuals have spoken of the negatives
24 that could happen if the board proceeds with some form
25 of consolidation, but little light has been shed on the

1 positive outcomes that could result from the change.

2 64 years ago the decision was made to
3 consolidate 3 schools into what has been Valley High
4 School. A decision that has led to many positive
5 outcomes. A change that has resulted in growth, more
6 opportunities and more possibilities for students. A
7 decision that while at the time, I'm sure, was
8 surrounded by a lot of fear, resulted in a new normal
9 that we have known for many years.

10 As a current teacher in Wetzel County, I'm
11 asked on a daily basis to scaffold, modify and adapt
12 lessons to meet the needs of my students. However, we
13 have not modified our county configuration in many
14 years. We have a goal to educate individuals for
15 success. But, are we doing that to the full potential
16 that we could? Or are we doing it in the form that
17 feels the most comfortable to us?

18 So what are some positives that could result
19 from some sort of a change? More opportunities for
20 students to have truly personalized education that they
21 can dive into specific courses that they're passionate
22 about. More opportunities for teachers to be able to
23 specialize in the area they are passionate about to give
24 their most to their students. More opportunities for
25 students to have a trusted adult who they can connect

1 with. More opportunities for us to utilize our funding
2 sources to impact all high school students in Wetzel
3 County equally.

4 I think that it's very clear that a large
5 portion of people feel that if there is a change to the
6 configuration, that one new state-of-the-art building is
7 the best solution. While I can't say that I completely
8 disagree with them, what is the solution for the next
9 five to six years? Just stay in this same form of
10 normal that we have been in for so many years? Is that
11 really what's best for our students here in Wetzel
12 County?

13 I can say no matter what decision is made,
14 myself and many other faculty and staff members of
15 Wetzel County will continue to care about each one of
16 our Wetzel County students and attempt to do our best to
17 educate the students for success after the classroom.

18 But let me just ask if the fear of something
19 possibly going wrong outweighs the possibility of the
20 opportunities and the growth that can come from change.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Howard Henderson.

23 HOWARD HENDERSON: I'm back. You're
24 probably wondering why I'm here talking to you at Valley
25 High School. I taught here for 34 years. I filled out

1 one job application in '77, and I stayed at Valley my
2 entire lifetime of teaching. There is a lot of great
3 educators here at Valley. Some of them have been here,
4 some of them are still here. Kristina Earley, my hat
5 off to her. She started a mentorship program here at
6 Valley, and you can attest to how clean this school is.
7 And it was her leadership that got that started, so give
8 her a round of applause.

9 I guess the main reason I'm here is I am
10 supporting Valley High School and Hundred High School to
11 remain open to be separate entities. Valley is too far
12 for kids to be bused. Hundred is the same situation,
13 it's too far. And in today's oil and gas industry, it's
14 not safe to go either direction. The time frame, you
15 know, you can say it's only going to be so many minutes
16 longer, but it's an unsafe situation.

17 It would be different, it would be totally
18 different if they were closer together, but when I was
19 working here at Valley, I made visits to ham and bacon,
20 you had to do SAE visits. And I went from one end of
21 the county -- I'm trying to remember the name of it.
22 It's up on the hill from Porters Falls.

23 AUDIENCE: Chisel Finger.

24 HOWARD HENDERSON: Chisel Finger, yeah
25 that's it. And at the same time, that night, I went

1 clear up to Pickenpaw. Pickenpaw is up Smithfield area.
2 I put 60 miles on my vehicle that night. I can remember
3 that vividly there looking at animals. And as I was
4 driving the tractor today coming in, I thought about
5 that. And I thought about how cruel it would be to make
6 a kid ride that far and come to Hundred. And at the
7 same time, I thought about Hundred students, how far
8 they would have to travel to come over here.

9 So it would be different if financially we
10 couldn't afford four schools, eight schools, but we can.
11 We can afford it. I think, you know, it's something
12 that needs some more thought, some more prayer before
13 you make this decision.

14 I guess some of the things that I've noticed
15 about some of the problems, I wonder when a teaching
16 position is open, I wonder how many would be unfilled if
17 they were advertised teaching positions not only in the
18 state website, but on the national website. People in
19 California and Texas are leaving, and they would love to
20 find a rural setting to teach school, to raise their
21 children. So that's something to keep in mind.

22 I also think Valley High School, as well as
23 Hundred, seventh and eighth grade should be back in
24 those schools. That would alleviate some problems. If
25 their teachers aren't certified, I think it's a couple

1 hundred dollar test in some situations. I know some it
2 wouldn't be so easily for them to teach high school
3 courses and that would alleviate some problems there.

4 I'm not aware of how the substitute teachers
5 get paid as far as if you can't fill a position and you
6 have a teacher -- maybe this is one of my questions, and
7 you have a teacher fill in on their planning period, are
8 those teachers reimbursed because that money is saved
9 from not having someone, then you should be able to
10 reimburse them?

11 MS. FONNER: Mr. Henderson, that was your
12 five minutes.

13 HOWARD HENDERSON: Already?

14 MS. FONNER: Would you like to respond to
15 that, please?

16 MR. MCPHERSON: I think you asked --

17 MS. FONNER: You're not on.

18 MR. MCPHERSON: There we go. I think you
19 asked two questions. You asked about our open teaching
20 positions. They are posted on the state website and
21 that actually draws internationally. I do screen people
22 from the Philippines occasionally. So it does draw.
23 And we don't -- it's not the fantasy the legislature
24 would have you believe. It does give us a lot more
25 reach, and we have hired some people that have applied

1 for that. I know that I was happy to see that come back
2 because that's how I ended up in Wetzel County from
3 Pennsylvania myself. It was posted on the state
4 website, and I took a chance, and I'm still here. And I
5 like it here.

6 Sub teacher pay, I think currently, until --
7 Jeff might be able to chime in, but until some other
8 counties catch up, we do offer very competitive
9 substitute pay. You know, for retirees we offer 80
10 percent of whatever you walked out of the classroom with
11 on our pay scale. That's an eye-popping number for some
12 people. It really, really is. And we did make some
13 changes to our policy. State requires that someone who
14 subs long-term on their 31st day to be paid their daily
15 rate. We do that at 20 days. And we also do the -- a
16 substitute teacher in a long-term position after 20 days
17 and every 20 days thereafter gets a day of leave to help
18 people out.

19 Certificationwise, we do work with, you know,
20 plenty of folks. This is -- it's simultaneously good
21 and bad that it's incredibly easy to become a teacher
22 right now. It's a double-edged sword. There are people
23 that definitely can do all of the paperwork, except for
24 the background check, over the weekend if they have a
25 bachelor's degree already. We do have people come to

1 the office with that, and we've picked up some great
2 people as a result of that, too.

3 And you can take a practice test. West
4 Virginia finally caught up with the rest of the nation.
5 I know Virginia has been doing it for over 20 years
6 where can take a practice test and add that to your
7 certification. We have folks who do that and take
8 advantage of it.

9 And then we do have a system in place,
10 correct, Jeff, to pay teachers for their planning
11 periods if they give them up?

12 MR. LANCASTER: Yeah, we started that a few
13 years ago, and it's been a big help because we have
14 asked teachers to give up their planning periods for
15 your time, I'm sure you just did it and you had to make
16 up for that time somewhere else. So, yeah, we started
17 that a few years ago.

18 HOWARD HENDERSON: Just the one quick
19 comment. I think the bottom line is it's one thing to
20 tell people you care. It's another thing to show them
21 that you care. Thank you.

22 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Rachel Hutton or
23 Hulton.

24 RACHEL HUTTON: Do not go gentle into that
25 good night. Hundred has not went gentle. Over 200

1 people came to support and speak out until 11 p.m. You
2 all sat because we did not go gentle. A six-hour board
3 meeting because we did not go gentle.

4 My name is Rachel Catherine Hutton. I'm a
5 2019 HHS graduate. I am employed within a school
6 district. Not Wetzel County, but a neighboring one. I
7 drive two hours to make it to work at 7:10 a.m. I wake
8 up Monday through Friday at 4:30 -- I wake up Monday
9 through Friday at 4:45 a.m. I get home at 4:30 p.m. I
10 have a two-hour commute. The proposed plan tells us the
11 kids will have a longer commute than me, and I'm here to
12 state that it's exhausting, but I'm not a child.

13 I ask you sitting before me, have you rode on
14 the proposed route on a bus two hours? Every single
15 board member before me, I challenge you all to get up
16 and do the commute the kids will be expected to. Every
17 single day for two weeks, morning and evening, on a bus
18 with frequent stops. Then I want you to continue your
19 workday completely. Then you can go home. The
20 students, however, will have hours of practice time,
21 hours of homework, dinner, showering and prep for the
22 next day. What time would the kids return home if all
23 of these things are taken into account? I hope to read
24 or hear about you speak on your direct experience with
25 the bus routes.

1 Are you aware of the conditions of the
2 guardrails on Barker Run Road? Over 5 foot spans of
3 three or more separate areas where there is either no
4 guardrails or where there should be or they are mangled.
5 Do you believe that this is safe?

6 90 percent of students at Hundred High School
7 stated they would not be coming and would be moving to
8 neighboring districts. I asked you when told the entire
9 school of Hundred, besides roughly ten students will not
10 be staying in district, when you are informed of this,
11 did you revise or add note of it to the plan for the
12 merger? Or consolidation, my bad. The estimated
13 student population, cost plans, bus plans,
14 extra-curricular activity plans. If you didn't, why
15 not?

16 And I think before you vote you should have to
17 add this to your plans as the students you are doing
18 this for will no longer be within Wetzel County. Your
19 past proposed plan will then become irrelevant. You
20 want to close Hundred for the better of the kids who
21 will leave once you do, forcing you then to close
22 Valley, sending everyone to Magnolia.

23 It was stated Valley only has an eight kid
24 average class size, one more than Hundred. If the kids
25 follow through and not go, Valley's class size will

1 remain close to unchanged. Will you close Valley if
2 this happens? No new school will be built if Valley
3 closes, too.

4 When asked about the kids choosing to leave
5 the district, Ms. Porter stated the kids in previous
6 years have left for neighboring districts. As you said
7 two days ago, Ms. Porter, to a man who came to speak at
8 Hundred, you replied verbatim, This isn't relevant.
9 Ditto. Past kids moving is not relevant.

10 The question was how you feel about the
11 students enrolled now who will not be there when you
12 vote yes? You said you want to give them more access to
13 teachers and classes.

14 When asked why so many empty positions have
15 not been posted, you said you weren't sure and had to
16 look. That was over 33 hours ago. Have you looked?

17 When you say you want to give more access to
18 students in classes, including extra-curricular
19 activities, I ask you what about the countless amounts
20 of students who will no longer be able to participate in
21 extra-curricular activities due to the proposed plan.

22 The better opportunities Ms. Porter spoke on
23 won't matter to the students if they're unable to
24 utilize them to their full potential. What are the
25 motivators for the students to stay in the county and

1 merge since sports and extra-curricular activities won't
2 be feasible to them?

3 I ask: Does Valley have a work-based bakery
4 program such as Hundred's? A work-based construction
5 program? A work-based florist program? If not,
6 wouldn't -- if not, would the students -- wouldn't the
7 students be losing more opportunities if you vote yes?
8 Will you ensure each of the work-based programs I
9 mentioned are offered at Valley, if they are not
10 already?

11 I believe you are perfectly capable of waiting
12 and building one school instead of merging. Waiting
13 will ensure that the 90 percent of students stay.
14 Student enrollment has been stated multiple times as one
15 of the biggest reasons for this proposed plan.

16 The Hundred area is not against the
17 consolidation. The Hundred community isn't okay with a
18 merger, then consolidation. You possess the capability.
19 Any excuse to not is just that, an excuse. Ensure that
20 the new school is built first.

21 I ask in ten years if no new school is built
22 and all the kids in Wetzel are bused to Magnolia, will
23 you issue an apology for all of this?

24 When asked about the new school not being
25 built two days ago, one of the board members said, and

1 I'm quoting his words, I hope, I think, my daughter will
2 graduate from one consolidated school. "I hope, I
3 think" is not enough. If you cannot ensure today that
4 one school will be built, then you have no business
5 closing built schools with students in them for an idea
6 that you hope and think for.

7 I ask today: Can you ensure one school will
8 be built? Have you done a student impact analysis for
9 each school involved in this merge? If not, why not?

10 And I would just like to state, like
11 Mr. Snedden, I have all of my questions that I have
12 asked so far on a separate piece of paper. I would like
13 to be answered the same way that his was, please.

14 Have you rode on the proposed routes on a bus
15 for two hours?

16 MS. PORTER: No, no.

17 RACHEL HUTTON: What time will the kids
18 return home if all of the things I stated were taken
19 into account?

20 MS. PORTER: It will depend on what
21 activity they choose to participate in.

22 RACHEL HUTTON: Ms. Porter, are you aware
23 of the conditions of the guardrails on Barker Run Road?
24 Do you believe they are safe?

25 MS. PORTER: I'm aware of those conditions

1 and that is something that we've already spoken about
2 talking with the Department of Highways to fix, if
3 needed.

4 RACHEL HUTTON: Good. I asked you when
5 told the entire school of Hundred, besides roughly ten
6 students, would not be staying in district, when you
7 were informed of this, did you revise or add note of it
8 to the plan of the merger, the estimated student
9 population, cost plans, bus plans, extra-curricular
10 activities plans? If not, why not?

11 MS. PORTER: The Impact Statements are
12 prepared and they stay as is until after we vote.

13 RACHEL HUTTON: If the kids follow through
14 and do not go, Valley's class size will remain close to
15 unchanged. Will you close Valley if this happens?

16 MS. PORTER: I don't have an answer for you
17 on that. That is not what we have been talking about at
18 this time.

19 RACHEL HUTTON: It's still my question.

20 MS. PORTER: But I can't give you that
21 answer.

22 RACHEL HUTTON: You stated yourself, ma'am,
23 that Valley only has a one higher number student ratio
24 than Hundred.

25 MS. PORTER: I'm not really sure why this

1 question is relevant tonight.

2 RACHEL HUTTON: The question was: How do
3 you feel about the students enrolled now that you
4 answered irrelevantly. Who will leave our -- can I
5 repeat it? The question was: How do you feel about the
6 students enrolled now who will leave our county?
7 Ms. Porter, when asked by so many -- oh, my question,
8 and then I'm done, was: How do you feel about the
9 students enrolled now who will leave our county without
10 stating about the students who have left previously in
11 years because it's irrelevant?

12 MS. PORTER: So you want to know how I feel
13 about that, like, this is a subjective question you're
14 asking me?

15 RACHEL HUTTON: Yes.

16 MS. PORTER: I stated numerous times I
17 don't want anyone to leave our county. I want to
18 educate all of our students in Wetzel County. But I
19 also stated that we all have choices as adults, so
20 families will have to make the choice that is best for
21 them.

22 RACHEL HUTTON: Thank you.

23 MS. FONNER: Thank you. The next speaker
24 is Emily Willey.

25 EMILY WILLEY: Good evening, Superintendent

1 Porter, board, staff and guests. My name is Emily
2 Willey, and I am a junior here at Valley. I'm speaking
3 on the behalf of myself and the VHS student leadership
4 team.

5 There is a rumor that the leadership team has
6 already decided on colors and a mascot. That is simply
7 not true.

8 My school counselor, Mrs. Mace, encouraged us
9 to group together and use our voice. That is why I'm
10 standing here. Beside that, I'm here because Valley is
11 a school worth fighting for. We have staff that have
12 put off retiring a few too many years just to come back
13 after retiring because there is something great here.
14 There is pride here. There is a family here.

15 The slander I have heard about Valley this
16 past week is beyond inconsiderate. It is sad seeing so
17 many adults not from the board act childish in a
18 professional environment, slander students and forget
19 this is, ultimately, about the students and staff. We
20 have to show up here every day and deal with the
21 constant uncertainty.

22 Yes, this is taking a toll on our communities,
23 but we are human. No one is better than anyone in this
24 situation, even if you are older than one another or
25 hold a position of authority.

1 I stand strongly on one school, one move. The
2 money being used for the meetings and two consolidations
3 could be used towards our consolidation and not cost
4 everyone's identities. The money could be used to
5 better the four schools in the meantime while waiting
6 for a true consolidation.

7 I would like for absolutely everyone from
8 Hundred to understand that Valley students and staff did
9 not wake up one day asking for your school to be shut
10 down. We didn't ask for any of this. We have a strong
11 community, and we are using it to look for the best in
12 this situation.

13 People have said that we will not welcome
14 students, we will bully students and you will not fit
15 in. We welcome any student that comes here. We do not
16 tolerate bullying, and everyone has found a place at
17 Valley, including myself.

18 My reality my freshman year is that I would
19 graduate in this gym in black and gold with a Lumberjack
20 painted on the wall behind me. I would be a third
21 generation graduate and the youngest of six kids to
22 graduate a Lumberjill. My reality quickly turned to a
23 nightmare and the past is a dream worth grieving.

24 My last school year, I showed up to school on
25 a Tuesday and was informed that my English, creative

1 writing and newsletter teacher was leaving that Friday
2 out of fear of losing her job. The uncertainty and
3 heartbreak has only continued since then. It is a
4 constant battle getting comfortable with the
5 uncomfortable.

6 Mrs. Porter, my school remembers clear when
7 you showed up on the first day of this school year at
8 Valley in a Hornets shirt. This only showed lack of
9 respect and consideration to our school. I know you
10 were tired. Your demeanor has visibly changed since you
11 started this. I just hope that you have actually
12 listened, no matter how draining it has become. We know
13 that you were hired to do this. Please do it the right
14 way.

15 Anyone listening that can relate to me, do not
16 give up. Use your voice and fight. The people I stand
17 in front of this evening are in charge of my school's
18 future and my senior year. Please know what is in our
19 best interest while reminding yourselves that we are
20 human, too. Some of you have heard me -- some of you I
21 have heard talk more than you have heard me, but I would
22 hope by now that you have heard me. Here is to shedding
23 more tears and hours of sleep until Friday. As always,
24 kick some ax jacks. Thank you.

25 MS. FONNER: Rylan Adams.

1 RYLAN ADAMS: Good evening, Superintendent
2 Porter, board members and everyone listening. My name
3 is Rylan Adams. I'm a junior here at Valley High
4 School, as well as class president. After hearing the
5 accusations and misconceptions about my school at
6 previous meetings, I would like to clear up some things
7 about my school and its students. On the first day of
8 my freshman year, I cried after school. Not because I
9 was treated badly or I feel like I didn't belong, but
10 because I was nervous due to the unfamiliar environment.
11 On my second day, all my fears dissipated due to the
12 staff and students here at Valley being so caring and
13 welcoming.

14 I don't know a single student here that
15 wouldn't help another student out if they were in need,
16 nor a single faculty member who wouldn't do everything
17 in their power to make sure the students were
18 comfortable and have everything they need. It was sad
19 to hear that the students are bullies, among other
20 things.

21 I'm here to say that is not true and never
22 will be true. The students here are so kind and caring
23 that it hurts me to know that some people are thinking
24 about us this way. I have made so many friends in my
25 time here, not just from groups I'm acquainted with, but

1 with kids from different friend groups and crowds due to
2 the welcoming nature of the students here who are all
3 welcoming to new friends no matter who they are.

4 Moving on to the accusations on our staff.
5 Not only from members of the community, but from
6 students here at Valley, as well. I would like to shed
7 some light on our wonderful staff and all the hard work
8 they put in for the students. Some of our staff drive
9 miles just to be here, as well as teachers who spend
10 money out of their own pockets to ensure the students
11 have absolutely everything they need. We have teachers
12 who go above and beyond with no recognition, and I hate
13 to hear the harsh words against them.

14 My speech tonight is not to put down Hundred
15 High School or highlight what they do not have. My goal
16 is to shed light on what Valley does have and what we
17 can offer.

18 Here at Valley we have a wonderful FFA program
19 that many students are extremely passionate about, as
20 well as simulated workplaces, a variety of ag. and
21 business programs, and ten-plus clubs the students can
22 choose from, depending on their interests.

23 We also have students getting a head start on
24 college due to the early entrance classes we offer here.
25 Even have students go as far as graduating with

1 associate's degrees, and I myself am on track to
2 graduate with one. We have a multitude of classes,
3 including art programs, that have pottery and ceramics
4 that are offered to any student interested.

5 Again, the point of my speech was not to put
6 down Hundred at any point, but to show what we do have
7 to offer here at Valley High School. I would like to
8 mention that even due to the lack of opportunities here
9 at Valley, every student has something that they are
10 passionate about. From FFA to art or sports, or even
11 just writing. Every student has found their thing. I
12 truly hope that my initial statements have shifted some
13 beliefs on the students here and the staff and shown the
14 true nature of our character. I want to thank you all
15 for your time and consideration. Thank you.

16 MS. FONNER: Thank you. LeAnne Barnette.

17 LeANNE BARNETTE: Hello. My name is LeAnne
18 Barnette. I'm a graduate of Valley High School, class
19 of 2000. My husband Jack also is a graduate of Valley.
20 We have seven daughters and one granddaughter. Our two
21 oldest daughters are also graduates of Valley High
22 School. We currently home school one of our children.

23 Basically, she was one of the ones who fell
24 through the cracks that we all talk about after COVID.
25 We decided home schooling was in her best interest. Our

1 youngest four currently attend Short Line school. Next
2 year, our granddaughter will also attend Short Line
3 school. Most of our family are graduates from Valley
4 High School. Our Lumberjack pride runs deep.

5 With that being said, in 2016 my husband
6 and I purchased a restaurant in Hundred, West Virginia.
7 It's called the Dairy Dream. Hundred welcomed our
8 family with open arms. We quickly became family. Our
9 little restaurant has employed many students from
10 Hundred High School. We work around their school
11 schedules and anything extra-curricular. At times, we
12 have worked with our employees to leave to attend school
13 functions of their children to then return and finish
14 their shifts so that they can keep their hours.
15 Regardless of what the decision is, we will continue to
16 work with them because family is important to us.

17 Closing Hundred High School is going to have
18 an impact on our little town. It's also going to impact
19 our little restaurant and many other businesses there.
20 We serve some of these families several times a day
21 during sports seasons.

22 These kids are going to have to be on a bus
23 stated up to 95 minutes. Lots of things happen on the
24 bus. Currently, my kids have a long bus ride and on a
25 daily basis things happen. The longer the ride, the

1 more things that can happen. Kids get restless. They
2 find things to do. Most of the time it's things that
3 they shouldn't be doing.

4 What is your backup plan if the majority of
5 Hundred students don't come to Valley? Will Valley then
6 be merged with Magnolia? Are all staff on board from
7 Hundred to transfer to Valley? If not, what is the
8 plan?

9 MS. PORTER: The plan -- check. The plan
10 currently is to consolidate the four schools into two.
11 That's what the plan is. The plan is not to then move
12 into moving Valley into Magnolia. We've talked about
13 before wanting to build one school. I think there is a
14 lot of support for that. That is still being
15 investigated on a daily basis.

16 The other thing was about faculty and staff
17 not coming?

18 LeANNE BARNETTE: Yes.

19 MS. PORTER: Okay.

20 Well, our plan would be to -- if they don't
21 come, we'll have to fill the jobs that we need. We'll
22 have to post those on the state website and then fill
23 those jobs as needed.

24 LeANNE BARNETTE: Thank you.

25 MS. PORTER: Thank you.

1 MS. FONNER: Thank you. The next speaker
2 is Carolyn Yoho.

3 CAROLYN YOHO: Good evening, board members
4 and staff. I've sat through all the meetings about
5 consolidation/merging schools. This is very sad to hear
6 these students pour their hearts out about their
7 concerns for their classmates and what their school
8 communities have done for them. Listen to what they're
9 saying. Students, bigger is not always better. When it
10 comes to our kids' stress, anxiety and mental health,
11 but here that you can do what is best for this students
12 maybe think of the phrase because I feel that all of the
13 stress, mental health and anxiety that has been put on
14 our students and staff in this county is not good.

15 Then in a meeting we heard that it is not
16 the school's responsibility to take care of this
17 community. You need to open your eyes and see. Look
18 around, because if it wasn't for your community, we
19 would not need the schools. Without the school, you
20 people sitting in front of us tonight would not have a
21 job. You need to remember that you work for us. These
22 students and staff across this county deserves respect
23 and trust.

24 Truth. Bring your plans and ideas to the
25 table. Don't leave things untold. When you break the

1 trust with children, they will remember that for a long
2 time, and they just don't get over it overnight. It
3 will take a long time for them to have the trust in you
4 and your words.

5 I really feel that this county really could
6 leave the schools the way they are because we have the
7 funding. If the consolidation is something that is
8 going to happen, then find the property in the middle of
9 the county, build the school, one school, one move. Our
10 children's education should be the main concern, not the
11 power of the selected few. One school, one move.

12 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Rebeckah Goontz, I
13 believe.

14 REBECKAH GOONTZ: Hello. My name is
15 Rebeckah Goontz, former graduate of Valley High School,
16 class of 2017. I'd like to start off by saying I'm for
17 the ultimate picture of a consolidated school. However,
18 I don't believe that the merger will really fix any of
19 our issues, but add more to the already existing issues.

20 I feel the rhetoric that is currently being
21 pushed we need to find a common ground that will suit
22 people, especially since there is so much worry going on
23 between transportation and time. We live in a fairly
24 large county in West Virginia that takes time to travel
25 through, especially on bus stops. So a common ground is

1 a must.

2 It's also just not the driving to get those
3 kids to and from that are a worry for some, but some of
4 those households only have one car, some don't have any
5 at all and others don't have support from family members
6 to help pick up their kids in case of sickness and
7 stuff.

8 I want these kids to be able to participate
9 in the things that they choose that they will better
10 help them once they come into the real world and while
11 they're still here at the school, which I think most can
12 agree it never truly prepares you for when you're an
13 adult. It's just a stepping stone in the right
14 direction. There are always things to learn and to
15 better yourself.

16 These kids need to have a school that is
17 better equipped with teachers for all backgrounds to be
18 covered that currently exist and then some. The
19 ultimate goal is a better education. Anything else is
20 coming in second.

21 I want for them a school that has actual
22 chemistry taught, not just out of a textbook. Hands-on
23 science that is well-equipped. History that is taught
24 in better engaging ways to keep the kids interested.
25 Math and English teachers that are very well-versed in

1 what they do to help get these kids better prepared.

2 We need better equipment for FFA, TSA, home
3 economics, drafting, art, band, choir, a super nice
4 gymnasium with awesome weight room for those
5 extra-curricular stuff outside of school. Basically,
6 all the electives and more that we can get, the better.

7 And a nice parking complex so there is room to
8 accommodate all of us. I want for them a nice field
9 complex where they have equipment, not just for baseball
10 and football and softball, but all the sports, such as
11 track and field, because I can attest it sucks to having
12 to run the sidewalks in Pine Grove. And not having
13 great equipment for us to practice with or having to
14 drive clear to New Martinsville to practice which we
15 have done from time to time.

16 I also feel we need to hammer down more on the
17 safety for our children, especially since it's a bigger
18 school, is the ultimate picture. And there is going to
19 be more problems to arise, I'm sure, because it just
20 comes with the territory. But there are things that I
21 think that might help it go more smoothly.

22 I feel that we need a PO officer with K9 dog
23 on campus. Our community suffers greatly from drugs in
24 our small communities. And although I hate to say it, I
25 know it's in our schools. I've seen it from whenever I

1 was in school, and I'm hoping it's not there now. I
2 hate to see anyone lost to that.

3 I also feel teachers need to be drug tested,
4 on top of this, randomly. Again, for better safety for
5 our children. Testing is done for a number of jobs.
6 Why not those that are required to work with our
7 children?

8 We need aides in the classrooms to better help
9 the teachers to help these kids keep on track and so
10 that there is more eyes on them to keep them from doing
11 things they shouldn't be doing in school. I feel like
12 we also need aides on the bus to help the bus drivers so
13 that they can focus on the kids and the bus drivers can
14 focus on the roads.

15 We need to advance classes -- more advanced
16 classes for those that aren't having a hard time with
17 what they're doing now.

18 We also need a more structured plan for those
19 with IEPs, better equipment, better resources and a must
20 needs to be followed because sometimes it's not right
21 now.

22 I feel like that we need to have better pay
23 incentives for our teachers, including healthcare. They
24 should be able to have leave of absences for surgeries
25 and such and not be fired, one of which was my friend,

1 who did that program that you guys all talked about how
2 you do the testing after they already have, like,
3 degrees and stuff, and she was fired.

4 I've seen many times, especially where I grew
5 up, where bus drivers are not wanting to take certain
6 routes and roads because they just don't want to because
7 they want to get home sooner. I don't know who is in
8 charge of letting them decide, but I feel like that
9 needs to be changed because parents shouldn't have to
10 worry about their kids making it home. Because I know a
11 number of people that don't have vehicles that they have
12 to walk to ends of roads to go pick their kids up.

13 Not only all of this, why can we not get a
14 daycare in our school for our teachers that have kids
15 that are under the age of school age so that they can
16 come in and help work in the community as aides?
17 Because I know a number of people that already have a
18 hard time finding people to watch their kids.

19 To get change, you need to give something in
20 return and don't treat people -- or treat people
21 accordingly so you can get an outcome that is better for
22 the future of all these kids, including a better policy
23 for bullying no tolerance and it being followed through.
24 No exceptions. Consequences for said actions.

25 I don't want to see here what I've been seeing

1 in multiple other counties and in our country where
2 there is kids that are hurting themselves and everything
3 else. I want them to have a better education and no
4 bullying.

5 Instead of a merger, I feel like it should be
6 one school, one move. Work with the community to help
7 get an understanding of what more people want and try to
8 come up with a common ground to get us the things that
9 we want, especially because it's not only affecting us,
10 it is affecting our children. Thank you.

11 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Janie Beckett.

12 JANIE BECKETT: Mrs. Porter, board members,
13 staff, students and community members, I was born and
14 raised here and I'm a graduate of Valley High School
15 with the class of 1966. I've worked in this county
16 since 1969 as a teacher and administrator for 55 years.
17 Our class was the first to go through 7th to 12th grade
18 after the consolidation of Reader, Pine Grove and
19 Smithfield High Schools. The towns at that time did not
20 decline, parents did not move. They still shopped and
21 lived in the communities.

22 My class had 119 students when we started at
23 Valley. We lost several classmates who went to serve
24 our country as the Vietnam War was just starting. The
25 enrollment at Valley High School has declined to 124

1 students, just 5 more than were in my class. The
2 enrollment at Hundred High School is 66.

3 Is it time to consolidate? Absolutely.
4 However, I believe that we should wait on the one high
5 school instead of closing two schools and doing this
6 again. It will take several years to build a school, a
7 new high school, but we can wait. A new facility will
8 offer many more educational opportunities, more clubs
9 and activities for students and better facilities for
10 athletics. It would be a win-win situation for
11 everyone. Thank you.

12 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Jessica Mace.

13 JESSICA MACE: Good evening. Today I'm
14 speaking as Jessica Mace, counselor at Valley High
15 School. That title -- oh, I'm already getting
16 emotional. That title is the third most important role
17 in my life behind mother and wife.

18 I'm a very proud alumni and resident of
19 Hundred. This has been an incredibly difficult time for
20 me feeling torn between the town that raised me and I
21 call my home, and this school that holds a large part of
22 my heart. Five days a week I spend more time with my
23 kids here than my children at home. And I say "kids"
24 instead of "students" because from the moment they walk
25 through those doors, they're my family.

1 They are not a test score. They are not just
2 a number for enrollment purposes. They are students
3 with a past, present and future that we want to help
4 make successful, whatever that looks like for them.

5 They are humans with feelings that have been
6 deeply hurt from the consolidation talks and that means
7 more to me than the hurt I feel being torn between two
8 parts of my identity. They didn't ask to be the
9 villains in this story, and yet, that's where they find
10 themselves. This is about education, and we've lost
11 that focus.

12 I have often said facts, not feelings is
13 what can change the hearts and minds of others. So I
14 will present facts and possible solutions. It is a fact
15 that we're a rural county in West Virginia. We have
16 winding roads everywhere in West Virginia and in this
17 county. There are no good roads in West Virginia, if
18 we're being honest, especially with oil and gas traffic
19 as heavy as it is throughout this county. It is a fact
20 that Barker could use some work. Some of the guardrails
21 are mangled and need repaired. Some of the hillside has
22 slips that needs attention.

23 It is a fact that our students and Hundred
24 students participate in a variety of activities together
25 from early childhood to senior year, including FFA, 4H,

1 all-county band, attending Wetz Tech, sporting events,
2 county academic banquets and more. We may be rivals in
3 sports, but off the field many of our students would
4 call each other friends.

5 Hundred is fully staffed, and we are not.
6 That is a fact. We know the reasons why our staff
7 members left and some of those reasons were personal.
8 Some are bigger issues than our BOE can fix. Some are
9 issues that our BOE can fix and are trying to fix with
10 consolidation.

11 It is a fact it has been very well-established
12 the last ten years that our West Virginia state
13 legislature does not value public education. Our newly
14 elected President has stated he wants to abolish the
15 Federal Department of Education which funds special
16 education and Title I services, both of which are
17 necessary in this county to serve our special needs
18 students. And our students need that extra support in
19 reading and math in their developmental years. Services
20 that my own children have benefited from.

21 It is a fact that we've seen the decline of
22 family and discipline in the United States. And I say
23 "discipline," not abuse. Please make it clear.
24 Discipline measures in the school have been taken away,
25 and, as a result, we've seen an increase in behavior, a

1 decrease in structure and consistency and lack of social
2 and daily living skills. We have more students than
3 ever being raised by someone who isn't their biological
4 family.

5 You talk about filling the gap. No one knows
6 about filling the gap more than educators. We do it
7 every single day. All of this has led to the decline of
8 people going into education. It's why teachers are
9 leaving the profession in droves. Even TikTok has a
10 hashtag for Teacher Quit Tok.

11 We have at least four educators at retirement
12 age at Valley. I know Long Drain has several. My kids
13 go there. Short Line has some, as well. Our subs on
14 this end of the county are mostly retired teachers and
15 thank God for them because we'd never have subs. And we
16 still have classrooms without teachers where the staff
17 covers classes so the kids are still supervised.

18 We are in a crisis, truly, in this county.
19 Our kids' education is suffering. We simply do not have
20 enough people to make sure that every student and every
21 building every single day is getting the education they
22 deserve. And not only do they deserve it, it is their
23 right to receive an education. No one wants to lose
24 their school. No one. But we're doing our students a
25 huge disservice as parents, as educators, as community

1 members if we don't put our focus where it should be for
2 the purposes of what this board controls, our kids'
3 education.

4 This is not an us versus them, Hundred versus
5 Valley or Mrs. Porter and the board members. She and
6 her staff and this board before us are finally doing
7 what should have been done years ago before this crisis
8 became an emergency. This consolidation isn't a
9 Band-Aid. It's a tourniquet to stop the bleeding of our
10 kids' education while the life-saving measure of a new
11 school is built.

12 I would love one school, one move to give us
13 time to prepare for closure mentally and emotionally,
14 but that decision is up to everyone in front of me and
15 doing what they feel is best for our Wetzel County
16 students based on information we know and information we
17 don't know, because it's personnel issues or other
18 private issues that cannot be discussed publicly.
19 Information that is above my pay grade.

20 I have solutions and questions. Fix Barker.
21 Whoever we need to contact to make that happen and make
22 it safer for daily travel of buses, it should be safe
23 for all of our students to travel. Can we possibly
24 stagger start times of our elementary and high schools
25 to decrease bus travel time? Can we contact local

1 churches, Short Line Crossing, the local library and/or
2 give after-duties pay to staff so that our students can
3 be supervised while they wait for practice?

4 Can we contract local churches or staff to run
5 an activity van if we don't have enough bus drivers to
6 take to the bottom of Barker or another common meeting
7 point to make it more convenient for parents? I have
8 one more, but I can give that to my son.

9 MS. FONNER: Go ahead.

10 JESSICA MACE: Could we financially
11 maintain the upkeep of Hundred High School while a new
12 school is being built so we could continue to utilize
13 the facility? It would be a great use of the extra
14 income from the oil and gas revenue and could alleviate
15 multiple concerns from the Hundred area and limit
16 financial barriers for families. This could also help
17 with late practices because the gym has to be shared
18 between boys and girls basketball.

19 MS. FONNER: Okay. You are going to have
20 to stop.

21 JESSICA MACE: Yeah.

22 MS. PORTER: Thank you. Yes, we are
23 looking at staggering start times. We actually talked
24 about that again today because we know that our
25 elementary schools get a lot more time than they have to

1 have. Not that we don't like that extra time, but we
2 did talk about -- and not that we would have to shorten
3 the time, but staggering them. So we have talked about
4 that.

5 After-duty supervision. 100 percent would be
6 a must when you have kids that have to wait for
7 practices and stuff, and that's things we'll work out
8 with our building principals. Okay.

9 Can we financially upkeep Hundred High School
10 while the new school is being built? And that goes back
11 to could we? Yes. Is that using our resources as
12 financially responsible as possible? Because building a
13 new school, a new complex which I hear over and over
14 again and I love that passion for that, because I love,
15 as well, myself, is going to cost a lot of money.

16 So when we did all of our metrics for the
17 Impact Statement, part of that was conserving that money
18 so that we can build that pot because we, again, do not
19 want to ask taxpayers to fill that burden if we can save
20 our oil and gas money as it goes through.

21 Hopefully, as we've heard some other people
22 speak about, that that will continue for a while. Maybe
23 that will completely fund our project. We may have to
24 look into SBA, but we are trying to utilize our
25 resources to the best of our ability, as well as educate

1 our students to the best of our ability at this time,
2 because we are in crisis and our legislatures and our
3 people that work for government are not supporting
4 public education as we feel they should at this time.
5 Thank you.

6 JESSICA MACE: Thank you.

7 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Aliyah McGlumphy.

8 ALIYAH McGLUMPHY: Hello. My name is
9 Aliyah McGlumphy. I'm a freshman at Hundred High
10 School. All of my family has graduated from Hundred
11 High School except for my grandmother, Bonnie McGlumphy.
12 However, she has been a teacher there for 19 years and
13 has been with our community for 48 years. My aunt,
14 Jessica Mace, works here at Valley High School and from
15 what my brother has told me, Aaron Ficus, who graduated
16 here with the class of '24, has said that she is a great
17 counselor.

18 Even with that being said, I'm asking you not
19 to consolidate Hundred High School with Valley High
20 School. I wasn't going to speak at first, but from what
21 I heard at the closure meeting at Hundred High School I
22 changed my mind. I realize what this can actually bring
23 for the future and what would happen to my hometown, my
24 community and my family.

25 I know that raising my voice isn't going to

1 change what your opinion is and being up here may not,
2 either, but I can hope that what my community can do
3 right now is to hope that just maybe you will listen to
4 us.

5 First of all, I would like to apologize for
6 how people from my community and peers have spoken to
7 you all. I do realize that you are human and do have
8 emotions just like me. But in that same breath, I hope
9 you realize that all of us are hurt, scared and angry.
10 People are speaking out of anger and fear. Because of
11 this, I think losing our school isn't the easy solution
12 you may think it is.

13 Correct me if I'm wrong, but in the past you
14 have said that we were hemorrhaging money, that we are
15 spending too much money on a small group of people.
16 Have you considered moving the Long Drain sixth to
17 eighth graders and the teacher to Hundred High School
18 like how it used to be?

19 When I asked this on Wednesday, November 13th,
20 when Mrs. Porter came to answer questions about the
21 merger, Mrs. Porter said that there isn't enough room,
22 which is false. We have at least three empty rooms
23 upstairs and two downstairs. We could also turn our
24 library into a classroom since we have a public library
25 right across from Hundred High School.

1 This would be enough room for all four middle
2 school classes. This would bring our school population
3 from under 70 students to approximately 120 students.
4 It would also give more opportunities to our middle
5 schoolers with our shop classes, and it would be easier
6 for them to work on their TSA and FFA projects so they
7 don't have to ride a bus over to HHS at the end of the
8 day.

9 Speaking of TSA, Paden City and Hundred are
10 the only schools in the county who have TSA. For what
11 we lack in choice, we make up for in those other
12 extra-curricular activities, such as TSA, FFA, baking
13 and our art classes. Just recently, the baking and
14 engineering team got first at the Bake and Quake
15 culinary competition. We have multiple national
16 champions and finalists for TSA and FFA. Last June I
17 got to go to TSA Nationals in Orlando, Florida, for the
18 first time. I got fifth overall in tracks, and I had
19 the second fastest car out of, like, 120 cars.

20 Mrs. Porter, would all the students at HHS and
21 LDS still have these opportunities? Will the flower
22 shop, meat processing and baking business follow us?
23 Can you answer this with a yes or no?

24 Mrs. Porter, when you came to our school to
25 answer questions about the merger on Wednesday, November

1 13th, you said a new school will take about five years
2 to build and that you have \$29 million for said new
3 school and that it would take around \$50 million in
4 total.

5 So another question of mine is: Why not just
6 wait until the new school is built to consolidate us?
7 Wouldn't that save money and be easier for everyone
8 involved? If you do decide to consolidate us now, do
9 you realize that is a loss of identity for both schools
10 and towns? Valley be will Valley and Hundred will be
11 Hundred. Will we even have a say in what we will
12 forever be called if the consolidation takes place now?
13 Sorry, I talk fast.

14 MS. PORTER: Thank you. I was trying to
15 keep up. Thank you. You did a great job. Let's see.
16 We still have opportunities, absolutely. That's part of
17 the goal here is to make sure we have opportunities,
18 combining the schools and putting those opportunities
19 together, like your flower shop.

20 So, you know, we are currently almost finished
21 with building our pro start and baking pastries facility
22 at our tech center. So that is something that we've
23 been working on, oh, for probably about the last six or
24 seven months so that every student in the county has
25 that opportunity.

1 Help me out with some of your questions. I
2 was typing them as fast I could.

3 ALIYAH McGLUMPHY: Sorry.

4 MS. PORTER: That's okay.

5 ALIYAH McGLUMPHY: Why don't you just wait
6 until the new school is built to consolidate us?
7 Wouldn't that save money and be easier for everyone
8 involved?

9 MS. PORTER: What we're facing is a crisis
10 right now. That's what we're facing. It's hard, but I
11 have to make sure that when my team here that's sitting
12 here and the rest of the team at the board office work
13 on things, we think about every single student. So all
14 2100 students in the whole county. I can't just focus
15 on certain students or certain areas. I have to focus
16 on all of them. So that is the plan that we came up
17 with to make sure that we're giving you what we need
18 now.

19 We do not want to have classes where students
20 have to be on their computers and looking at a teacher
21 that they never meet. We do not want to have our
22 teachers burdened more than they have to. We do not
23 want students sitting in libraries or cafeterias when
24 there is no substitute. So our plan is to lessen that
25 burden and educate everyone as best we possibly can.

1 Do we want to build a new school? Yes, it's
2 been said multiple, multiple times. And I wish I could
3 snap my fingers and build that school for you all in the
4 fall. Unfortunately, it's going to take time to build
5 that complex for everyone. So that is a multi-year
6 process step. So at this time we feel like we are in
7 crisis and need to make the move now.

8 ALIYAH McGLUMPHY: Okay.

9 The other one was why don't you just move the
10 sixth through eighth graders of Long Drain over to
11 Hundred like how it used to be since we have enough
12 room?

13 MS. PORTER: Okay. So we actually did look
14 into that for all of the schools in the entire county to
15 put our 6th through 12th in the building with the high
16 schools. We actually did extensive searching on that.
17 And our teachers aren't certified. So a lot of our
18 teachers are certified to teach through 8th grade, but
19 that wouldn't really help us to put them in there and
20 lessen the burden because they couldn't teach 9th
21 through 12th at that time. It is the certification that
22 our current teachers hold.

23 ALIYAH McGLUMPHY: Then why don't you just
24 have the 9th through 12th teachers teach the high school
25 classes, and then the middle school teachers teach the

1 middle school classes?

2 MS. PORTER: It's not quite as easy as
3 that. I know that sounds like it would be easy, but a
4 lot of our elementary schools are small, as well, and
5 some of those teachers teach multiple things.

6 ALIYAH McGLUMPHY: Okay.

7 MS. PORTER: Thank you. Good job.

8 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Korbyn Mace.

9 KORBYN MACE: Hello. My name is Korbyn
10 Mace, and I'm a sixth grader at Long Drain School. I
11 spoke to you all the other night, but tonight I have a
12 few questions. Can we fix Barker or build a new road
13 between Hundred and Valley that is more safe? Why can't
14 we leave the buildings the way they are and not
15 consolidate? If we did consolidate, what would happen
16 to the Long Drain Middle School because I go to HHS at
17 the end of the day for band?

18 MS. PORTER: All great questions, Korbyn.

19 Can we fix Barker? That's our plan. We can't
20 fix Barker, but the Department of Highways can help us
21 fix Barker. And, hopefully, the oil and gas companies,
22 as well. We would have to work with them very seriously
23 if this plan goes through.

24 Can we build a new road? Again, we'd have to
25 work with the Department of Highways on something like

1 that.

2 Can we leave the building alone? Well, this
3 plan doesn't -- this plan is not for that. This plan is
4 to consolidate.

5 And as far as band goes, this is my expert
6 band person right here, because we love band, but this
7 is my band guy (indicating).

8 MR. MCPHERSON: Remind me what your
9 question was again, because I put "band question mark,"
10 Buddy.

11 KORBYN MACE: I go to HHS at the end of the
12 day for band. What would we do for all middle schoolers
13 that go to band?

14 MR. MCPHERSON: So middle school, a lot of
15 times -- my favorite configuration for band is fifth
16 grade band, sixth grade band and seventh through eighth
17 grade band is their own unit. So Long Drain would have
18 to look at if whether they want a fifth grade beginner
19 band and then a sixth, seventh and eighth grade band or
20 a fifth grade band, a sixth grade band and a seventh
21 through eighth grade band.

22 So that would be a decision that we would make
23 at Long Drain, if that's what happens, to figure out
24 what works best for the teacher at Long Drain. Okay?

25 KORBYN MACE: Yes.

1 MR. McPHERSON: Thank you.

2 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Racquel Ring.

3 RACQUEL RING: A definition of family: A
4 group of persons united by the ties of common
5 characteristics or interests. What defines a community?
6 A group of people with diverse characteristics who link
7 by social ties to share a common perspective and engage
8 in joint action in geographical locations or settings.

9 Three meetings in three high schools have
10 shown the citizens of Wetzel County live by those
11 definitions. No matter which side of this debate you
12 stand on, these communities have still supported one
13 another and, for the most part, respected each other's
14 opinions.

15 This meeting tonight will show that the Short
16 Line community and Valley High School families will also
17 Honor those definitions because no matter the outcome,
18 we care for all the students and all the families in
19 Wetzel County and only want what's best for them all.
20 We would welcome anyone to our school with open arms.

21 My name is Ida Racquel Ring. I'm honored to
22 speak at my alma mater which all three of my children
23 have or currently attend, as well. I'd like to say a
24 big welcome to all of you here tonight from the board
25 office and all the visitors from neighboring

1 communities. I'm a proud graduate of Valley High
2 School, graduating in the class of 1990.

3 I was a student council officer, attending
4 leadership conferences all four years of high school
5 with the student council advised by Mr. Rick Woolery. I
6 was a TSA officer. I attended leadership conferences
7 and competitions, including national competitions all
8 four years of high school advised by Mr. Robert Shaffer.
9 "Sir," as we affectionately called him. I was a proud
10 member of the Valley High School marching band, flag
11 corps, steel drum band and the sax ensemble all four
12 years of high school thanks to Mr. David Morgan. I
13 participated in basketball with Mr. Larry Weekley and
14 Mr. Mark Blair. I was a member of the National Honor
15 Society.

16 I looked forward to learning. I had so many
17 options. Computer-aided drafting, photography, graphic
18 design, shop class. FFA, to include all its classes.
19 Home economics, French, business class, computer skills,
20 upper level classes to include chemistry, physics, trig
21 and statistics, pre-calculus. Jack Dacon was a
22 wonderful teacher that we all love and remember.

23 College English Composition 1 and 2 were
24 offered at Valley High School, in-person teachers.
25 College music. You guessed it, right here in this

1 building, an in-person teacher. I've had every
2 opportunity to be my absolute best when I left Valley
3 High School. A well-rounded, highly educated young
4 adult.

5 On the Saturday that I turned my tassel, I
6 knew I could choose any path, and I would be confident
7 that I could be successful because Wetzel County Schools
8 prepared me for that success. And again, that was 1999.

9 Fast forward, it's 2024. 2024. That's 25
10 years later. My children don't have one-fourth of those
11 options 25 years later. If that is not sounding alarms
12 for everyone in this room, then I'm not sure what would.
13 There are no teachers. There are no opportunities, and
14 the confidence that I had 24 years ago is not felt by
15 today's graduates.

16 Laziness kills ambition. Anger kills wisdom.
17 Fear kills dreams. Ego kills growth. Jealousy kills
18 peace and doubt kills confidence. But if you switch it
19 around: Ambition kills laziness. Wisdom kills anger.
20 Dreams kill fear. Growth kills ego. Peace kills
21 jealousy. And confidence kills doubt.

22 I'm asking you today to do your duty as
23 elected officials. I believe every one of you want a
24 brighter future for our children. If you did not have
25 that goal in mind for every student in Wetzel County,

1 you would not have your jobs and you would not have ran
2 for the board of education.

3 What's the plan? How can education be put on
4 hold for four or five, six years until a new school is
5 built? What opportunities are you providing these kids
6 that have no classes to include core classes like math
7 teachers at Valley High School? A class was created for
8 my daughter. We don't have those options here.

9 Your decision must begin and end with one
10 question: Are all the students in Wetzel County
11 receiving the education the State of West Virginia
12 mandates? Do all four schools in Wetzel County have the
13 same opportunities? I can't imagine that you can answer
14 either one of those questions without saying no. Your
15 only logical choice is consolidation if you consider
16 every single child in Wetzel County Schools.

17 Mishandling people, then avoiding
18 communication is not protecting your peace. It's
19 avoiding accountability. Everyone wants to know. There
20 is too much he said/she said and miscommunication. If
21 you can communicate with us, we will understand things
22 and there won't be all this back and forth. We want
23 Wetzel County Schools to have a brighter path and a
24 better future for everyone. We want to succeed. We
25 want to succeed with you and our kids together. That's

1 what we want for Wetzel County Schools. Thank you.

2 MS. FONNER: Thank you.

3 RACQUEL RING: So the questions were in
4 there are we providing the daily instructions that the
5 State of West Virginia sets forth that says that we must
6 give our students?

7 MS. PORTER: We're trying, but we're not
8 succeeding.

9 RACQUEL RING: Right. So how do we do
10 accomplish that?

11 MS. PORTER: That's our mission right now,
12 is to consolidate, do a better job at that. We have
13 resources, but we are spread way too thin, and I know
14 our county is diverse and the mileage is a lot, but
15 we're not doing the best that we can do right now.

16 RACQUEL RING: So can I just add that in
17 you saying that we are not providing those services, we
18 are recognizing that our kids are having points during
19 their day that they are not getting the education that
20 the State of West Virginia says they should be
21 receiving?

22 MS. PORTER: That's correct.

23 RACQUEL RING: Thank you very much.

24 MS. PORTER: You're welcome.

25 MS. FONNER: Jackie Shepard.

1 JACKIE SHEPARD: Good evening. So I've
2 rewritten what I want to say tonight several times. I
3 haven't been able to attend the other public meetings,
4 but I have watched and listened.

5 One thing that stayed with me watching the
6 meeting at Hundred on Monday was a statement that was
7 made by Mr. Yost, teacher from Hundred, and he just
8 happened to be in my very first, first grade class when
9 I taught at Long Drain School several years ago. He
10 said we need to look at this in a different light or
11 from another perspective. He stated that we all want to
12 work together and do what's best for our students, and
13 he is exactly right. We need to look at this in a
14 different light.

15 Each and every one of our high schools have
16 stand-out students and programs. What every high school
17 does not have is a fully staffed building. This mini
18 consolidation is simply a restructuring of our resources
19 until the new -- until the one new school can be built
20 because all of our students deserve to have the best
21 education we can offer them no matter if they are
22 entering or in high school next year or in five years.

23 What we cannot do is tell our current 9th
24 through 11th graders and our 5th through 8th graders
25 that while we realize there aren't enough qualified,

1 certified teachers to cover your classes throughout your
2 high school years, those that come after you, once we
3 are in the new building, are going to have amazing
4 opportunities. Our current students matter. They also
5 deserve the best we can provide.

6 If it takes a restructuring of our resources
7 to make sure that happens, why wouldn't we do it? No
8 one wants to see any of our communities or students
9 suffer due to restructuring. And with the right leader,
10 I believe the Valley and Hundred communities can come
11 together and provide incredible opportunities, resources
12 and experiences for our students.

13 I don't think teachers will stop teaching
14 because we combine students. Nor do I think parents
15 will stop caring and supporting their students for that
16 reason. I believe our communities will continue to do
17 everything they can to support our schools and students.

18 I'm going to mention Chip Goff. He is family,
19 so I think I can, but he is the mayor of Hundred, and he
20 bleeds for the Hornets. I mean, he absolutely does. I
21 also know how much he has invested in his community and
22 building a strong relationship with Hundred High School.
23 And they've done amazing things. But I also know Chip,
24 and I know that he will continue to do anything he can
25 to support students. And he will have his community do

1 that, and I believe that the people from the Short Line
2 and Valley community will do the same.

3 Mrs. Cecil, I think the name is correct,
4 shared a wonderful idea during the Hundred meeting the
5 other night. She suggested that we get the LSICs
6 together and allow them to collaborate to determine ways
7 to meet student needs, and I think we absolutely should,
8 but we need to do it now. Let's do it for Step 1.
9 Valley and Hundred, Paden City and Magnolia, let's come
10 together and discuss student needs and how we can help
11 meet them and allow our students to get the most out of
12 their high school experience.

13 Hundred High School has actual businesses
14 running out of their school. Why not take Valley
15 students on a tour of their facilities to see what they
16 offer and what they would need to continue growing those
17 businesses at the Pine Grove campus? Allow Hundred
18 students to then tour Valley, with Valley students
19 showing them these facilities and see what rooms or
20 areas would work best to set up their workspace. Our
21 kids are smart. They can work together.

22 Valley's athletic teams made the playoffs this
23 year. Let our athletes show the Hundred students their
24 workout space, gym, football field, band room. Show
25 Hundred students Valley's FFA workspace. Both schools

1 have amazing FFA programs. If they were to join forces,
2 it just excites me to think of what could happen for our
3 students.

4 We also need to start using this as a
5 teachable and equipping moment for our students who are
6 struggling with change. Instead of focusing on their
7 fears, let's start helping them see the positive that
8 can come through change both academically and socially.
9 Isn't that what we, as educators, do? We help students
10 realize their full potential, build their confidence and
11 equip them to do hard things. Our students trust us to
12 be a guiding force in their lives. Why would we
13 reinforce the idea that they can't handle change
14 increasing their fears?

15 I know change is hard, and it can be scary due
16 to dealing with the unknown. But instead of fighting,
17 degrading others and creating fear, let's be proactive.
18 Let's work together for the good of our students. Our
19 kids are going to be fine. Our kids come together for
20 travel sports, 4-H camp, all-county band, the tech
21 center, and they're fine. If we focus on the positive,
22 they will, too. We need change. Our students deserve
23 better.

24 We cannot wait five years. That's the same as
25 telling our current students they don't matter and their

1 educational opportunities aren't as important as those
2 that will come later. Let's work together as adults and
3 give our students the best we have to offer with
4 qualified, certified teachers for all students and
5 communities that love and support them in their
6 endeavors, no matter where they're housed.

7 And I don't have any questions. I'm sorry, I
8 don't have any questions. But I do want to say that,
9 Mrs. Porter, there are a lot of people out there.
10 They're not loud and they're not here, but they do
11 respect you sticking with and being determined to do
12 what's best for our kids. So thank you.

13 MS. PORTER: Thank you.

14 MS. FONNER: Thank you. Justin White.

15 JUSTIN WHITE: Hello, board members. My
16 name is Justin White. I'm a junior at VHS. My concerns
17 is with the parking lot situation. It is far not big
18 enough if you bring Hundred students over here. We're
19 packed now. And there is probably a good bit of
20 students going to drive across the hill instead of ride
21 the long bus ride, which I don't blame them, but I'd
22 like to know how you're going to address this situation.
23 Could we buy more property or what about paving the area
24 behind the greenhouse?

25 I'd also like one consolidation instead of

1 two. It would just make life so much simpler, but
2 that's all I got.

3 MS. FONNER: Thank you.

4 MS. PORTER: Thank you, Justin. Parking is
5 always a concern. As you probably know, we just added
6 parking to New Martinsville School because we were very
7 low on that. So thank you for bringing that to our
8 attention, and I definitely will look into that with
9 Ms. Doty.

10 JUSTIN WHITE: Alrighty.

11 MS. PORTER: Thank you.

12 MS. FONNER: Okay.

13 That is everyone that I see that's signed up
14 during the half hour time. Was there anybody that
15 signed up that I missed? Yay. Okay.

16 Thank you very much for your comments. At
17 this time, since the delegations are over and public
18 comment, I will make the motion for adjournment. Is
19 there a second?

20 MS. NICE: Second.

21 MS. FONNER: It's been moved by Mrs. Fonner
22 and seconded by Mrs. Nice. All those in favor say
23 "aye."

24 * * *

25 (All board members said "aye.")

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MS. FONNER: Motion carries unanimously,
and at 8:04 we are adjourned.

* * *

(Whereupon, this hearing was adjourned at
8:04 p.m.)

* * *

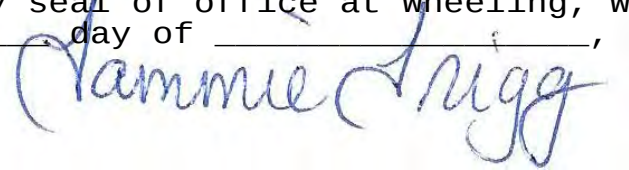
1 THE STATE OF :
2 WEST VIRGINIA : SS: C E R T I F I C A T E
3 COUNTY OF OHIO :

4 I, TAMMIE TRIGG, Registered Professional
5 Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of
6 West Virginia, duly commissioned and qualified, do
7 hereby certify that the proceedings within were by me
8 reduced to stenotype; afterwards reduced to Computer
9 Aided Transcription under my direction and control; that
10 the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the
11 proceedings.

12 I do further certify that these proceedings
13 were taken at the time and place in the foregoing
14 caption specified, and was completed without
15 adjournment.

16 I do further certify that I am not a
17 relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or
18 otherwise interested in the event of this action.

19 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my
20 hand and affixed my seal of office at Wheeling, West
21 Virginia, on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

22 
23 TAMMIE TRIGG, Registered
24 Professional Reporter and
25 Notary Public within and
for the State of West Virginia

My commission expires:
September 22, 2028



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Dear Members of the Board of Education,

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2024

Hello, my name is Raegan Reynolds and I am in 7th grade. I am writing you today as a concerned student, asking you to reconsider the decision to consolidate HHS. While I know you want to do what's best for our education, this plan has serious problems that could hurt us as students more than help us. I want to explain why.

The first problem is the unsafe road conditions. The road to VHS is dangerous. There is a hill on route 20, on the way to VHS, named slim chance for the slim chance of survival if you happen to wreck. This isn't just a normal trip, it's one that is dangerous especially when weather is bad. Our safety should be top priority. Barker run road is also labeled "not suitable for large vehicles." Why should we have to travel this every day?

To add to the problem, there is extended travel time. The bus ride to VHS would take way more than an hour one-way. That's two hours a day sitting on a bus. This would leave us with little time for sports, homework, study time, and quality family time. We would already be tired by the time we get to school and it will be harder to focus and do our best. Not to mention, hungry for breakfast and dinner.

Another bonus to school is being able to participate in sports and extracurricular activities. Students that are already local to VHS would have a unfair advantage because of their close distance to VHS. Extracurricular activities such as band, TSA, FFA, bakery, and sports as examples would be taken away for most students in this direction.

My last concern to you is the loss of school identity in our community. Our school is the heart of our community. It's where we belong and where we take pride of being part of something special. If our school closes, we will lose that connection. We will feel disconnected from where we live, and our sense of belonging.

There is sewer problems, no sprinklers, and flooding problems.

In addition to these concerns, please consider giving our community a chance to find donations, resources, or other needs to keep our school up and going,

Thank you for allowing me to write to you and please consider how these changes could affect students like me.

Raegan Reynolds

7th Grade

The recommendations page was omitted in some of the letters that were printed. If we happened to miss yours, we want you to see the recommendations from the Hundred High School's Local School Improvement Council. Thank you for taking the time to consider these.



Finally, the impact statement lacks strategic clarity and consideration of alternative solutions. We advocate for maintaining our school as an essential community resource that supports student growth, educational quality, and local stability. In conclusion, the Hundred High School Local School Improvement Council would like to present the following recommendations to the Wetzel County Board of Education.

1. Do not close any schools in Wetzel County until you bring together representatives from each high school community to discuss the long term goals and plans for consolidation. This will demonstrate to all schools, communities and tax payers that all students matter.
2. Read carefully our rejection and refutation of the proposed closure of Hundred High School. Please seek clarity and specific details for each school affected.
3. Carefully consider the transportation and safety aspect of the statement. Travel yourself from Hundred High School to Valley High School on the 2 suggested routes illustrated on p. 9 (Descriptive Map).
4. Do NOT close Hundred High School and consolidate it with Valley High School.
5. Continue to encourage, support and recognize Hundred High School, a small rural high school, as an example of excellence and pride for Wetzel County and WV.
6. Let the Local School Improvement Councils in the Wetzel County School System be a part of the conversation concerning the decrease in population of students and staff members.
7. Update the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan for Wetzel County by bringing together representatives from all attendance areas.
8. Create a task force of employees from all attendance areas to discuss the reasons for the shortage of certified teachers and support staff. They can brainstorm ways to attract employees to Wetzel County Schools. This task force will be able to give important insight into staff morale. They have firsthand experience and knowledge that is valuable.
9. To eliminate staff shortages, post all job offerings for Wetzel County Schools on the WV Frontline State Site, establish a close working relationships with all universities that have teacher preparation degrees, and work to provide a culture that values and trusts employees to know what their students need.
10. Reconsider, Hundred High School becoming a 6-12 configuration which allows education to be coordinated between middle school and high school. It would give more opportunities for a streamlined approach to education from middle school to high school.

Please note:

This petition was initiated prior to the October 10th vote by the Wetzel County Board of Education to approve the Impact Statement. It is also important to recognize that of the 197 who signed the petition, only 23 had the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey. Obviously, the survey did not reach all of those who would be impacted. This survey was only available to individuals who use the services of the businesses in the local Hundred and Littleton areas.



Were you
given the
opportunity
to complete
the Thrasher
survey?

Name;

Address:

Name;	Address:	Yes	No
Kayla Payton	10269 Hornet Hwy Littleton WV	—	✓
Tom Gorbis	Hundred, WV	—	—
Deborah Henderson	Hundred WV	—	—
Carolai + Matt Cecil	625 Hornet Hwy Hundred ✓	—	—
Sherri V Tevrow		—	✓
Jamie Smith	Hundred WV	—	✓
Jace Ayler		—	—
Trevor Hostuttler	23755 Mountainer Highway Littleton WV	—	✓
Amenda Vellers	4055 Hornet Highway Hundred	—	✓
Brian Rise	160 Lemley Rd. Littleton WV	—	✓
Michael Miller	90 Francis St Littleton	—	✓
Stephanie Fox	37 Cleveland St Hundred WV 26575	—	✓
Carol Cecil	Hundred WV 26575	—	—
Robin Gray	PO Box 216 Hundred 26575	—	✓
Dustin Zecher	Wadestown, WV	—	✓
Allyce Jones III		—	—
Alan Talk		—	✓
Dave Hostuttler		—	✓

Petition to the Wetzel County Board of Education and Administration:
 We, the undersigned, insist that Hundred High School and Valley High School not be merged or consolidated for the 2025-2026 school year. The travel time and safety issues do not make this a feasible plan. Hundred High School is not in the flood plain and does not have water or sewage problems. The students should not be moved from their home school where they receive support and encouragement from qualified educators and their local community. Many will also lose the opportunity to participate in the extra-curricular activities that broaden their educational experiences.

Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name;

Address:

	Yes	No
Catherine Eastman 286 Ashcamp Metz, WV 26585		✓
Kelly Wolfe Middle Fork Rd Burton WV		✓
Vicki Thrubrick 462 Pennsylvania Ave. Hundred, WV		✓
Anna Gray 3527 Hornet Hwy. Hundred, WV		✓
Janet Sawyer Hundred, WV		✓
Nancy Jagger P.O. Box 227 Hundred	✓	
Morgan J. Gray 788 Rush Run Rd Burton, WV. 26562		✓
Kenna Dennis 99 Rush Run Road Burton, WV. 26562		✓
Donna Shuttone 173 Willey Fork Rd Metz, WV 26585	✓	
Carol Roberts PO Box 247 Littleton, WV 26581		✓

Were you
given the
opportunity
to complete
the Thrasher
survey?

Name;

Address:

Name;	Address:	Yes	No
Sam Ray	Hindus	—	☒
Shuly Bruthen		—	☒
Ham Bruthen		—	☒
Kicara Brown		—	☒
Margaret McMaster		☒	—
Soubreena Norris		—	☒
Lisa H. Powell		☒	—
Sam Longwell		—	—
Sheila Storking		—	☒
Ray Storking		—	☒
Betty Keaton		—	☒
Diana M Phelps		—	☒
Frank Oravich		☒	—
Don Miller		—	☒
Eric K. Yost	Eric K. Yost	☒	—
Royce Zuer		—	☒
Dale Trust		—	☒
Mike Long			☒
Glenda Hinnenman			☒
gill		☒	

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Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name	Address	Yes	No
Phil Goff	104 Stewart St Hundred, WV	—	X
Ron L. Dennis		—	X
Mr. R. G. Clark	P.O. Box 32 Hundred	—	X
Dan McDermott	P.O. Box 251 Hundred	—	X
Steve Hawkins	1596 Pennsylvania Ave	—	X
Sandie Smith		—	X
Donal Wilson		—	X
Michael R. Miller		—	X
Edward Titus		—	X
Ray [Signature]		—	—
Bonnie McElmurry		✓	—
Holly Kellas	1600 Penn Ave Hundred WV	—	X
Chrystal R. Geiger		—	X

Were you
given the
opportunity
to complete
the Thrasher
survey?

Name;

Address:

	Yes	No
<u>Diana Svedden</u> <u>1284 HARPER Rim Rd.</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Evan Morris</u> <u>23180 Mountaineer Hwy.</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Klara Brown</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Michelle DeBolt</u> <u>Lost Road Littleton</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Georgia Metz</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Dolley Metz</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Linda Metz</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Brian Metz</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Jenny Metz</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Sherry Cumberland</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Carrie Tannant</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>Carla Cumberland</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>X</u>
<u> </u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u> </u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u> </u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u> </u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u> </u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

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Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name:

Address:

Name	Address	Yes	No
Johanna Lemasters	P.O. Box 372 Hundred, WV 26575	☐	☒
Bill Smith	2570 RUSH Run Rd. BURTON WV 26562	☐	☒
John A. Gurele	2813 Willey Fork Rd metz, WVA 26585	☐	☒
Sara Price	P.O. Box 184 Hundred WV. 26575	☐	☒
JOHN H Rice	567 Robison R. Dgo Rosedale, W. Va	☐	☒
Ray Stoneking	PO Box 67 Hundred WV 26575	☐	☒
Cassandra Stoneking	PO Box 67 Hundred WV 26575	☐	☒
Taylor Cornett	PO Box 14 Hundred WV 26575	☐	☒
Michelle Cornett	PO Box 14 Hundred WV 26575	☐	☒
Peggy Huston	433 Pennsylvania Ave Hundred WV 26575	☐	☒
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐

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Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name;

Address:

Yes No

Betty Lippencott - stay in Hundred !!

— X

Kyle Quacint - This is awful for the community as well

— X

Emiley Matthews - ~~stay in Hundred~~ Stay in Hundred

— X

Brandon Petruccioli - Stay in Hundred

— X

Rachel Hutton 5938 Big Grove Church

— X

Jina Mcginn

— X

Steve Smith

— X

Anna Yost 6444 Hornet Hwy ^{Hundred WV} 26575

— X

Joyce Smith 225 Old Rail Road Littleton WV

— X

Mark Smith P.O. Box 256 Littleton WV

— X

Robert Smith

— X

Greg Gales 2183 Rush Run Burton

— X

Steve Cady

— X

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Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name;

Address:

Name;	Address:	Yes	No
Brittany DeBalt	PoBox 17 154 Pennsylvania Ave Hundred WV 26575	—	X
Janice Ferrer	287 Rock Camp Rd. Hundred, W.V. 26575	—	X
Judy Conkeldge	1640 Pennsylvania Ave WV 26575	—	X
Jean Crisfield	530 Rock Run Rd. Thacker WV	—	X
Pam Ruff	PO Box 182 Hundred WV	—	X
Rick Bay	PO Box 182 Hundred WV	—	X
John Cottrell	PO Box 204 Rockwell WV 26587	—	X
Ronnie Cottrell	PO Box 204 Rockwell WV 26587	—	X
Nicole & Mandy	963 winery rd Buckhannon WV 26201	—	X
Kathy Moore	Littleton WV	—	X
Dorcas Soles	W.V. 26587 13 MED Ridge Rd Proctor New Freeport PA	—	X
Ashley ysl	Wileyville, WV	—	X
Diana M. Phelps		—	X

Were you
given the
opportunity
to complete
the Thrasher
survey?

Name;

Address:

		Yes	No
Darcy Keller	Hundred	—	✓
Tamara Allison	Willey Fork Rd. Matz, W.V.	—	✓
Michael Peraldo	7352 Hornet Highway	—	✓
Jelisa White	Hundred	—	✓
Brittany Wook	hundred WV	—	✓
Barbara Fordyce	hundred WV	✓	—
Madison Hennen	Hundred WV	✓	—
Camden Bulwanz	hundred WV	✓	—
Spencer Long	hundred WV	✓	—
Rose M. Jagard		✓	—
Therrell	Setty	—	✓
Terrell D. Dutton		—	✓
Katrina Wright	Burton, WV	—	✓
		—	—
		—	—
		—	—
		—	—

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Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name;

Address:

Name	Address	Yes	No
Sarah Wilson	129 Old Railroad Street Littleton, WV	—	X
Jennifer Fisher	123 Long Drive	—	X
Angie White	9553 Hornet Hwy Littleton, WV	—	X
Michael Sh	25946 Mountaineer Hwy Littleton, WV	—	X
Melissa B. Haskins	1991 Rock Camp Rd Hundred, WV	—	X
Archie Myers	2986 Pennsylvania Ave	—	X
Amber Davison	9611 Hornet Hwy	—	X
Jennifer Miller	1	—	X
Caden Redmon		—	X
Franklin Blecker		—	X
Bill Hunter		—	X
James Brack		—	X
Ricky Miller		—	X

Address:

[illegible]

Petition to the Wetzel County Board of Education and Administration:
 We, the undersigned, insist that Hundred High School and Valley High School not be merged or consolidated for the 2025-2026 school year. The travel time and safety issues do not make this a feasible plan. Hundred High School is not in the flood plain and does not have water or sewage problems. The students should not be moved from their home school where they receive support and encouragement from qualified educators and their local community. Many will also lose the opportunity to participate in the extra-curricular activities that broaden their educational experiences.

Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name;

Address:

Name	Address	Yes	No
Buck Beard	19677 mountain Hwy		☒
Chris Flukarty	618 Rush Run Rd. Burton, WV 26562	☒	
William Reynolds	46 3rd St Littleton. WV 26581	☒	
Carl Co	611 Horwats Hwy Hundred	☒	☒
Melvin Flukarty	684 Rush Run Road Burton		☒
Dorance Sue Flukarty	684 Rush Run Rd Burton WV		☒
Sherri L Tedrow	195 Littleton WV		☒
Jody Elbert	1864 Santee run road hundred		☒
Levi VanSiga	1864 Santee run road hundred WV		☒
Joe McEluphy	129 Penn Ave Hundred WV	☒	
PCW	46 Circle Drive Hundred, WV		☒
Dreger / Hosholt	3544 Harriet Hundred WV		☒
Josh Waychoff	11 wadestown Rd wana WV 26590		☒

Address:

[illegible]

Name;

Address:

Were you
given the
opportunity
to complete
the Thrasher
survey?

Name	Address	Yes	No
Joey Wood	16 Anthem Rd Whiteville WV 26581	☒	☐
Robert T. Long	"	☒	☐
Bette Ruth Kragg Weber	56 Pryor Rd. 26562	☒	☐
Toby Burley	99 Tanager Forks RD Metz 26545	☒	☐
Bob Hostetler	161 Carnegie addition Hundred WV	☐	☒
Charles Snyder	2503 Pleasant Hg. Hundred WV	☐	☒
Edna		☐	☒
Anita Weyenburgh	14 Belmont St. Hundred WV	☐	☒
Shirley Huetten		☐	☒
JOHN DRENNEN	477 STYLES RUN METZ WV	☐	☒
Linda Button	Burton WV	☐	☒
Arthur Button	Burton WV	☐	☒
Shirley Doo	Littleton WV Potomac Pk'd's	☐	☒
Bob Bullitt	HUNDRED WV	☒	☐
Donal Smith	Littleton	☐	☒
Marka Smith	Littleton	☐	☒
Tom Powell	Hundred	☐	☒
Michael Horvath		☐	☐
Wanda P.	1000s Hundred Line	☐	☐

No I did not
begin —

Petition to the Wetzel County Board of Education and Administration:
 We, the undersigned, insist that Hundred High School and Valley High School not be merged or consolidated for the 2025-2026 school year. The travel time and safety issues do not make this a feasible plan. Hundred High School is not in the flood plain and does not have water or sewage problems. The students should not be moved from their home school where they receive support and encouragement from qualified educators and their local community. Many will also lose the opportunity to participate in the extra-curricular activities that broaden their educational experiences.

Were you given the opportunity to complete the Thrasher survey?

Name;

Address:

Yes	No
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X
—	X

Cheryl R. May Burton WV

Robin Hewlett Hundred WV

Susan Elie Hundred, WV

Paul D. May Hundred WV

J. Ch. Lumberton Burton, WV

Debbie Tomlin Hundred W.V.

Ray Stonking Hundred, WV

Ray Stonking Hundred, WV

Seth Metts Hundred, WV

Carol Kuhn Littleton

Crystal D. Yeager Hundred WV

Isaac D. Price Hundred WV

Linda Henderson Hundred, WV

Several individuals were involved in creating this rejection letter. I took responsibility for mailing it.

Carol Roberts



Hundred High School
Local School Improvement Council
Letter of Rejection
of the Impact Statement approved by the
Wetzel County Board of Education on October 10, 2024

Contents

- I. Letter of Rejection
- II. Recommendations
- III. Supporting References
 - a. Enrollment
 - b. Flood Maps
 - c. Aerial Report and 4 pages of photos
 - d. Attendance and WV Balanced Scoreboard of Indicators of Performance and Success
 - e. Community Impact
- IV. Pertinent Information
- V. Work Cited

Hundred High School
Local School Improvement Council

Courtnei Cecil, Chairman and parent
Kristi Conaway, parent
Lee Ann Snedden, parent
Shannon Delaney, community business member
Tabitha Davis, community business member
Eric Yost, community business member
Karen Longwell, member of Hundred Town Council
Alana Minor, Sean Snedden and Clinton Yost – Teacher representatives
Waneta Yoho and Sharon Wright- Service Personnel representatives
Carol Roberts, Secretary
Daniel Wilson, Hundred High School, Principal

The Hundred High School Local School Improvement Council rejects and refutes the information presented in the Impact Statement and Supporting Data for Closure of Hundred High School and Consolidation into Valley High School. Additionally, the council wishes to provide recommendations for consideration by the Wetzel County Board of Education for maintaining our community school that supports and provides our students with a quality education. We promote the retention of students and staff in Wetzel County.

(Any reference to page numbers is taken from the Impact Statement and Supporting Data for the Closure of Hundred High School or the documentation indexed in the written material provided by the Local school improvement council)

First, the impact statement fails to provide a coherent plan or vision for the future well-being and success of our students, nor does it demonstrate a clear, data-driven rationale for closure. We will break down each section of the impact statement, illustrating how Hundred High School is the best option for students.

1. Section Enrollment 3.2.a. on pages 4 and 10.

While the information presented about the population appears accurate, it does not include the fact that Hundred High School's feeder school Long Drain School (PK-8) has had an increase in enrollment for the 2024-25 school year. This is of merit to mention since that would impact Hundred High School's population in the future. However, with the uncertainty that has been created over the past 2 years about Hundred High School's future and the lack of a clear plan to consolidate into 1 or 2 new building constructions, a decrease in population has and will occur for both Hundred High School, Long Drain School and Wetzel County Schools. We do not want this to happen.

2. Section Facilities 3.2.b on pages 4 and 10.

First, it is cited in the Impact Statement that Valley High School presents a more viable option compared to Hundred High School. However, according to the Impact Statement and noted in the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) reviewed by the WVDE Office of School Operations and Finance and in compliance with WVBE Policy 6200, both schools need to be brought up to code. Hundred High School requires \$7.8 million in upgrades while Valley High School requires \$10.8 million in renovations.

Second, this same information says that Valley High School with upgrades would better align with future safety standards. As noted on pages 50-51 of the Supporting Data of the Impact Statement, Valley High School's existing building's electrical system is no longer expandable and will only meet current needs. Valley High School's fire protection is compromised with no sprinkler system reported. This is not mentioned in the Impact Statement. Hundred High School has a sprinkler system and no problem is mentioned pertaining to the electrical system at Hundred High School. Therefore, it would be safer at Hundred High School. Additionally, Hundred High School's water and sewage services are provided by the Hundred-Littleton Public Service District. There are no water supply concerns or sewer problems that have been reported or posted. However, the Town of Pine Grove provides these services to Valley High School and there are multiple postings on the Town of Pine Grove's Facebook page concerning water shortage, boil orders and sewer issues. As reported on October 31, 2024, the Town of Pine Grove requested Valley High School be closed to do a severe water shortage. The shortage is a result of their surface water supply being compromised due to the recent drought experienced in our area. Adding additional students next year from Hundred High School, will only increase the demand on their water supply system.

Third, also noted in Wetzel County's CEFP, an evaluation of the existing facility at Valley High School states that the Gym floor and framing have been repaired from Flood Damage. The Gym has exposed batt insulation that is in disrepair on the underside of roof. There is no mention in the Impact Statement that Valley High School is 100% in the Floodplain. Hundred High School is NOT in the Floodplain. (See the floodplain maps) Any construction, expansion or renovation of Valley High School will entail additional time and cost for the Wetzel County Board of Education because of the requirements outlined by the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management through the floodplain management regulations of Wetzel County Emergency Management Office and the Town of Pine Grove. Therefore, it would be safer and less costly for renovations in the future at Hundred High School.

Lastly, in reference to the Section Facilities' Requirements 3.2.b on pages 4, 9, 11, 13, 29 and 30 of the Impact Statement and the SBA Form 134 Data Collection Form. If Hundred High School and Valley High School were to consolidate, the combined enrollment would be 194 students. Hundred High School has a total program capacity of 427 students. Valley High School after consolidation would be 194 students. Valley High School has a 464 student total program capacity. After consolidation, the efficiency utilization of 45% would be greater at Hundred High School than at Valley High School. VHS would be a lower utilization at 42%

efficient. Hundred High School has sufficient space for all educational needs for both populations and would have a higher efficiency utilization.

3. Section Finance 3.2.c on pages 4, 5 and 15.

It states that the county is projected to save \$581,349 annually if Hundred High School is closed and Valley remains open. However, if Valley High School would be closed instead of Hundred High School, the county would be projected to save \$558,973. This would be an additional savings of \$22,376. Hundred High School's anticipated annual cost after closing Valley High School includes: Utilities \$114,305, Personnel \$3,234,605, and Maintenance \$157,715, Transportation \$368,860 and other \$340,000. The annual cost after closing Valley High School would result in a total annual cost of \$4,218,485. (This data was extracted from Finance Table 1, 2 and 3 on p. 15) If the section on Finance is an issue for closing a school than clearly Hundred High School should be the school to remain open.

4. Section Personnel 3.2.d on p. 5

The statements relating to personnel retention lack clarity and do not provide information on how personnel would be provided employment for Wetzel County Schools. It creates an unsure future for employees. Also, the information presented states there will be no net change in professional or service personnel and that they will not eliminate any positions. This statement cannot be proven as true since no formal inquiry has been conducted to determine the loss in the number of employees and students at Hundred High School that will not transition to Valley High School. As explained on p. 20 of the Impact Statement the distance to travel to work or school is a determining factor that cannot and should not be ignored. The loss and retention of students and teachers will determine the need for professional and service personnel. Maintaining the student and personnel population is of utmost importance to Wetzel County Schools' future.

Hundred High School sits at the crossroads of multiple communities. Our central location isn't just a benefit for staff---it's essential for the families the school serves. While some may not favor where we are situated, many others see it as a strength. Our location is centralized, making it accessible to educators from various regions. Hundred attracts employees from several communities that are within a 30-60 minute distance with a better travel commute due to the terrain and condition of the roadways. Additionally, Wetzel County's salary and benefits are more than Marion County, one of the bordering counties. We feel the loss of students and staff in Wetzel County will be increased by closing Hundred High School. We do not want to see this happen.

5. Section Student Transportation 3.2.e on pages 5 and 19.

First, the information in this section does not explain the bus routing and school time changes for the students from Hundred High School and Long Drain School. The students in grades Pre-K through 8 attend Long Drain School and ride the same buses as Hundred High School students. There is no data presented about the effects this change will have on the students at Long Drain School. The students, parents/guardians and staff will be affected. There are no

details about separate buses to being used for Long Drain School students. No starting and ending times for high school students were presented. Obviously, more details need disclosed in order for a decision on closing Hundred High School to be made.

Secondly, the students' travel times will increase to an unreasonable time. It may not be illegal or need a waiver, but the travel times will increase 40-43 minutes from their current travel time. The estimated travel times after closure would be estimated at 78-95 minutes (1 hr. 18 mins to 1 hr. 35 minutes). With no guarantee of an activity bus to allow students the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, the students' chances of participating are decreased. Additionally, if a student from the Hundred area desires to attend the Wetzel County Tech Center, their travel time is again increased due to traveling 14 miles to get to the center. The length in the bus travel time, will affect the time that students arrive home from school, their extra-curricular activity participation and their ability to perform optimally in their academic studies while at school. According to Brookings, 2023 and Cordes, 2021 research, long rides can lead to early wake-up times and late arrivals home, affecting associated with higher stress levels and can negatively affect mental health of students. (Brookings and Cordes)

Third, two different bus routes to travel from Hundred High School to Valley High School are illustrated on a printed map on p. 9 of the impact statement. This map does not provide information pertaining to the geography or condition of the roads presented. The exact directions are not presented. Since no transportation study is required or presented in the Impact Statement or Supporting Data and with a concern for the students' safety on these proposed routes, Hundred High School's Local School Improvement representatives initiated their own investigation. The first and most viable route was to travel south on US 250 (Hornet Highway) to WV-7 West (Mountaineer Highway) to Barker Run Road (a sign is posted "Road Not Suitable for Large Trucks") going south on that road to North Fork Road and travel west to Valley High School. With concerns for the safety of Barker Run Road, the local school improvement council have included an "Aerial Inspection Report" on Oct 26, 2024 of Barker Run Road by Kirby Solutions, LLC. This reported was completed to assess the safety and suitability of the road for school bus travel and usage. Inspection was conducted by using drone video, drone images and phone/camera images. The aerial report, which describes road's conditions, traffic, safety concerns and environmental factors and a selection of the 74 images are available for viewing see supporting references). The Kirby Solutions, LLC drone video and additional images are available upon request.

The second route presented on the map on p. 9 started at Hundred High School that travels south on US 250 (Hornet Highway) then turns west on WV-7 to travel 8.8 miles to Uniontown, turns right onto Four Mile Road and travels to Lavelle Hill road then connecting to Wiley Fork Road which becomes North Fork Road it takes you to Valley High School. Representatives from the local school improvement council traveled the second route to complete an on-road assessment of the road conditions and travel time. WV-7 to Uniontown is 8.8 miles of smooth black top and marked for traffic conditions. Four Mile Road is blacktopped, not a secondary road and has no traffic markings and no guard rails. Lavelle Hill road is a gravel road, hilly and steep, rough surface and no guard rails, in places it was too narrow for two vehicles to pass and steep

drop-offs were visible. This was the most untraveled road and desolate. Wiley Fork Road and North Fork Road were blacktopped and marked for traffic conditions.

Our safety concerns were confirmed because both routes have multiple sharp curves and elevation changes with steep grades impacting travel. The first route is completely blacktopped but heavily traveled by sand and water trucks. The second route is totally unacceptable for travel by a bus. The first route was traveled by the representatives in 35 minutes and the second route was traveled in 48 minutes. The times measured do not include travel from the students' homes and were not by a school bus. The Google Map that was presented on p. 9 displays inaccurate times and lacks any clear description of these routes.

Lastly, the effect on student mental health and well-being is not clear and has not been researched. This is most evident in the bus transportation times and estimated routes on p. 19. Longer school bus rides can negatively impact student attendance, routines, and mental well-being, with evidence indicating that these prolonged commutes are associated with increased absenteeism and disruptions in students' daily schedules. According to research by Cordes, Rick, and Schwartz (2021) from the Annenberg Institute, these factors often lead to diminished academic outcomes, particularly for students who rely on long-distance travel times that not only impede educational engagement but also introduce stressors that may affect students' overall well-being (Cordes, et al., 2021).

6. Section Educational Program 3.2.f on p. 5.

The consolidation of Hundred High School and Valley High School would more likely align itself with Policy 6200 and Policy 6204, providing students with enhance opportunities and success in their academics by having all students attend school at Hundred High School. Hundred High School has a fully certified staff for 2024-25 and has a more likely chance to provide the same in the coming years. Hundred High School has a better location to attract prospective teachers solely because of its central location being a hub to 5-WV and US highways. (US 250 North and South, WV 7 East and West, and US 69 to Pennsylvania) Additionally, it is within 45-50 minutes from 3- Universities (WVU, Fairmont State University and Waynesburg University)

Hundred High School has all required core classes, electives, CTE courses and provides opportunities for students to attend two technology centers (Wetzel County Tech and Marion County Tech). The students have opportunities to enroll virtually for additional high school courses and online with colleges to receive dual credit offerings. As you know, teachers at HHS originated CTE courses by receiving grants. Robotics and the Bakery were originated and created by our school. HHS has Broadcasting and Podcasting equipment that can enhance the education program when a business teacher is re-instated.

Attendance in school is a key factor to the overall educational program for each student. It is an indicator on the West Virginia Balanced Scorecard for all county schools. (See references titled West Virginia Scorecard Indicators) Hundred High School's attendance rate for the current school year to date is 96%. Valley High School's current attendance rate is 86%. Hundred High

School sets a better example for attendance than Valley High School. (See Support References titled Attendance reports) Research indicates that school attendance will be affected by the increase in transportation times. Prolonged bus rides correlate strongly with higher absenteeism, likely due to the mental and physical toll of long rides (Cordes).

7. Section Community 3.2.g on p. 5

Hundred High School and Valley High School are an important part of their communities. Hundred High School is the heart of the Hundred area the communities that surround it. This section does not effectively convey the impact that the closure of Hundred High School will have on employment opportunities and the financial health of the businesses and banking institutions. The community impact reaches beyond Wetzel County to the communities in neighboring counties of Marion, Monongalia, Marshall and Greene County in Pennsylvania. The loss of Hundred High School will negatively affect the property values in Wetzel County. A consequence will be a loss of revenue for the Wetzel County Board of Education in the future.

Hundred High School has 5- Simulated Workplaces that service the community of Hundred and surrounding communities. They are the Covered Bridge Bakery, the Funky Florist, the FFA Greenhouse (Green Hive), the FFA Meat Processing Plant and the most recent one called the Hundred Lumber Company. The existing relationship between the community and the high school will be broken and splintered if closure is approved at this time. The students, staff and community are intertwined. (See supporting references-Community Impact) They rely on each other through volunteer services, economic goods and services, financial support, and social and emotional support. The Simulated Work Places at Hundred High School provide students with the opportunity to earn income when their services are required and goods are sold after school hours. The financial aspect contributes to the local economy.

It has been expressed by some that it is not the obligation of Wetzel County Schools to worry about the effects closure will have on the Hundred area communities. The community impact reaches beyond Wetzel County to Marion, Monongalia, Marshall and Greene County in Pennsylvania. A consequence will be a loss of Wetzel County Board of Education in the future as property based tax income diminishes. The Wetzel County Board of Education knows how important a school is to the community and vice versa. The West Virginia Department of Education finds that it is important by placing this section in the impact statement. The Wetzel County Board of Education needs to reconsider the importance of these community schools.

Enrollment



WETZEL COUNTY SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT REPORT 2024-2025

Second Month

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	EO*	Pre K	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	Total
Long Drain	10	22	22	20	17	16	24	10	17	23	25	206
New Martinsville		92	90	118	76	92	80	72	66	80	75	841
Paden City		16	19	22	17	31	19	20	11			155
Short Line	14	29	46	48	32	33	37	30	32	25	41	367
Magnolia	14											14
TOTAL	38	159	177	208	142	172	160	132	126	128	141	1,583

HIGH SCHOOL	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	Total
Hundred			18	14	17	17	66
Magnolia			67	53	81	76	277
Paden City	26	25	26	16	29	30	152
Valley			42	25	24	31	122
TOTAL	26	25	153	108	151	154	617

DROPOUTS			
Current	Renrolled	Previous	Total
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

COUNTY TOTAL 2,200

Todd E. Barcus
Attendance/Enrollment Services Director

%

Flood Maps

WV Flood Map

VHS



This map is not the official regulatory FIRM or DFIRM. Its purpose is to assist with determining potential flood risk for the selected location.

Flood Info Location

Map created on 9/24/2024

User Notes

Flood Hazard Area Location is **WITHIN** the FEMA 100-year floodplain.

Flood Zone A

Stream Fishing Creek

Watershed (HUC8) Little Musringum-Middle Island (5030201)

Flood Height Flood Height 6b None

Water Depth

Elevation 710.6 ft (Source: FEMA 2018-20) (NAVD88)

Community & ID Town of Pine Grove (ID: 540210)

FEMA Map & Date 54103C0185C; Effective Date: 9/25/2009

Location (lat, long) (39.563982, -80.677314) (WGS84)

Parcel ID 52-11-0002-0078-0000

E-911 Address 44 LUMBERJACK LN, Pine Grove, WV, 26419



Regulatory Floodway



1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Hazard Area
With Base Flood Elevation (BFE)



1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Hazard Area
Without BFE (may have Advisory Flood Heights)



1-Percent-Annual-Chance Future Conditions
(High Risk Advisory Flood Zones)

Download the Full Legend for all flood tool symbols

www.mapwv.gov/flood/map/docs/wv_flood_tool_legend.pdf

Disclaimer:

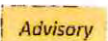
The online map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage sources of small size. Refer to the official Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for detailed flood elevation data in flood profiles and data tables. WV Flood Tool (<https://www.MapWV.gov/flood>) is supported by FEMA, WV NFIP Office, and WV GIS Technical Center.

WV Flood Map

HHS



This map is not the official regulatory FIRM or DFIRM. Its purpose is to assist with determining potential flood risk for the selected location.

H I G H R I S K		Regulatory Floodway
		1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Hazard Area With Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
		1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Hazard Area Without BFE (may have Advisory Flood Heights)
		1-Percent-Annual-Chance Future Conditions (High Risk Advisory Flood Zones)

Download the Full Legend for all flood tool symbols
https://www.mapwv.gov/flood/map/docs/wv_flood_tool_legend.pdf

Disclaimer:

The online map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage sources of small size. Refer to the official flood insurance study (FIS) for detailed flood elevation data in flood profiles and data tables. WV Flood Tool (<https://www.MapWV.gov/flood>) is supported by FEMA, WV NFIP Office, and WV GIS Technical Center.

 Flood Info Location

Map created on 9/24/2024

User Notes

Flood Hazard Area	Location is NOT WITHIN any identified flood hazard area. Unmapped flood hazard areas may be present.
Flood Zone	Out of Flood Zone
Stream	
Watershed (HUC8)	Upper Ohio-Wheeling (5030106)
Flood Height	Flood Height 6a N/A
Water Depth	
Elevation	1039.0 ft (Source: FEMA 2018-20) (NAVD88)
Community & ID	Town of Hundred (ID: 540256)
FEMA Map & Date	54103C0115C; Effective Date: 9/25/2009
Location (lat, long)	(39.678489, -80.454645) (WGS84)
Parcel ID	No Parcel
E-911 Address	

Aerial Report and 4 pages of photos

Aerial Inspection Report

Date of Inspection: October 26, 2024

Inspector: Kirby Solutions LLC

Location: Barker Run Rd

Objective: To assess the safety and suitability of Barker Run Rd for school bus travel and usage.

Road Condition:

- Surface Quality: The road surface shows significant wear, including cracks, potholes, washouts along the shoulder by culverts and guard rails.
- Width: The roads width varies in multiple locations with some areas being too narrow for other vehicles to pass safely.
- Shoulder of the Road: Limited to nonexistent guard rails in major spots of interest including locations where sand trucks had previously been rolled over onto. Washouts in various locations where culvert pipes can be seen and undermined near due to water and erosion issues.

Traffic:

- Heavy Semi Truck Presence: A high frequency of large trucks traveling the road in which has signs labeling at the beginning of Barker Run Rd on the RT 7 Side stating "Road Not Suitable for Large Trucks"

Safety Concerns:

- Line of Site Limitations: Multiple sharp curves and Major elevation changes with steep grades impacting the ability to anticipate oncoming traffic

Environmental Factors:

- Drainage Issues: Wash outs at multiple culvert locations
- Washouts/Slip Areas along shoulder of road
- Wash outs of Guard Rails
- Snowy/Icy conditions in the winter causing slides and wrecks along the way

Conclusion:

The current state of Barker Run Rd presents significant safety concerns for school buses and traffic, primarily due to poor road conditions, heavy semi-truck traffic, and limited visibility in key segments.



DARTDRONES

BADGE:

Aerial Inspection

ISSUED TO:

Nick Kirby

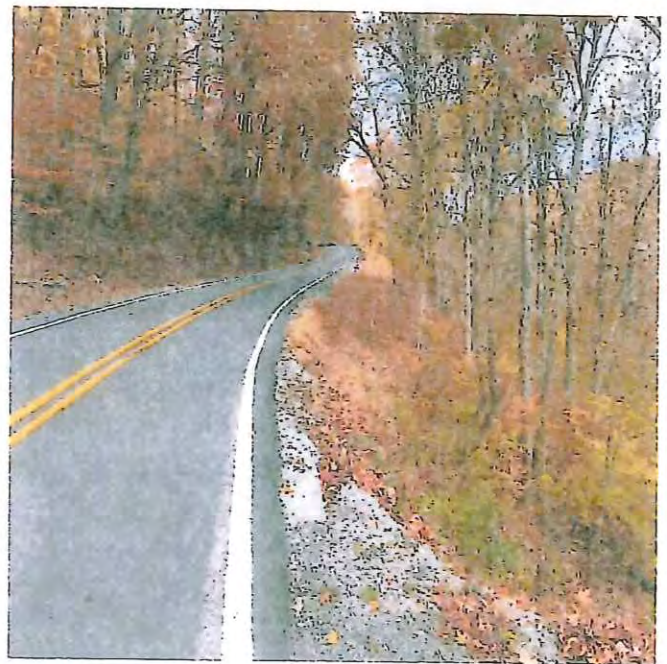
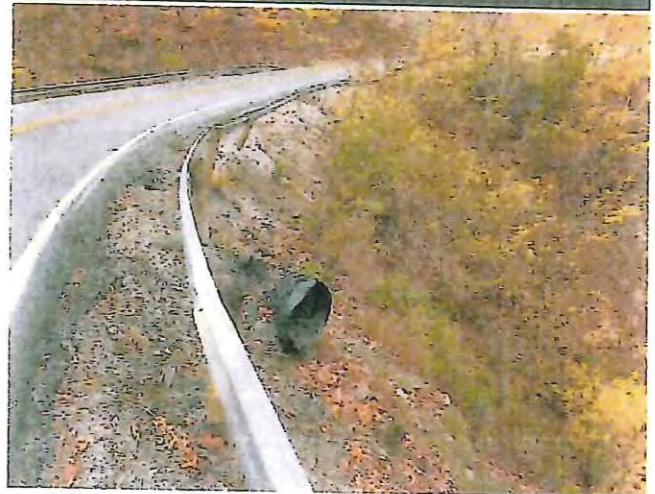
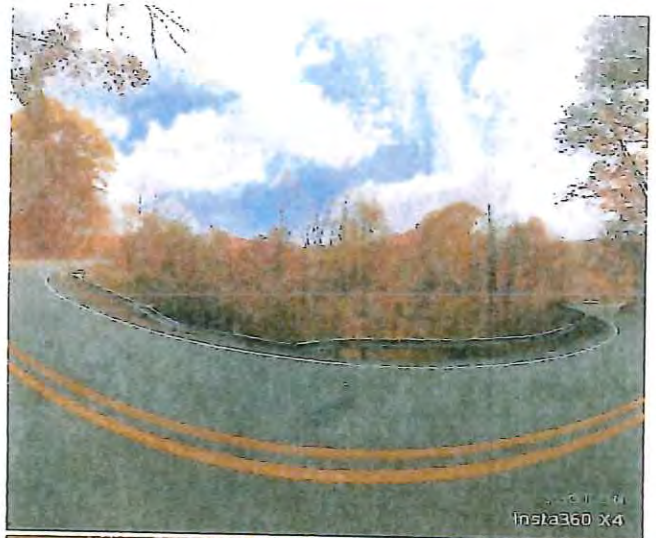
DATE: 07/24/2023

BADGE ID: 157842045

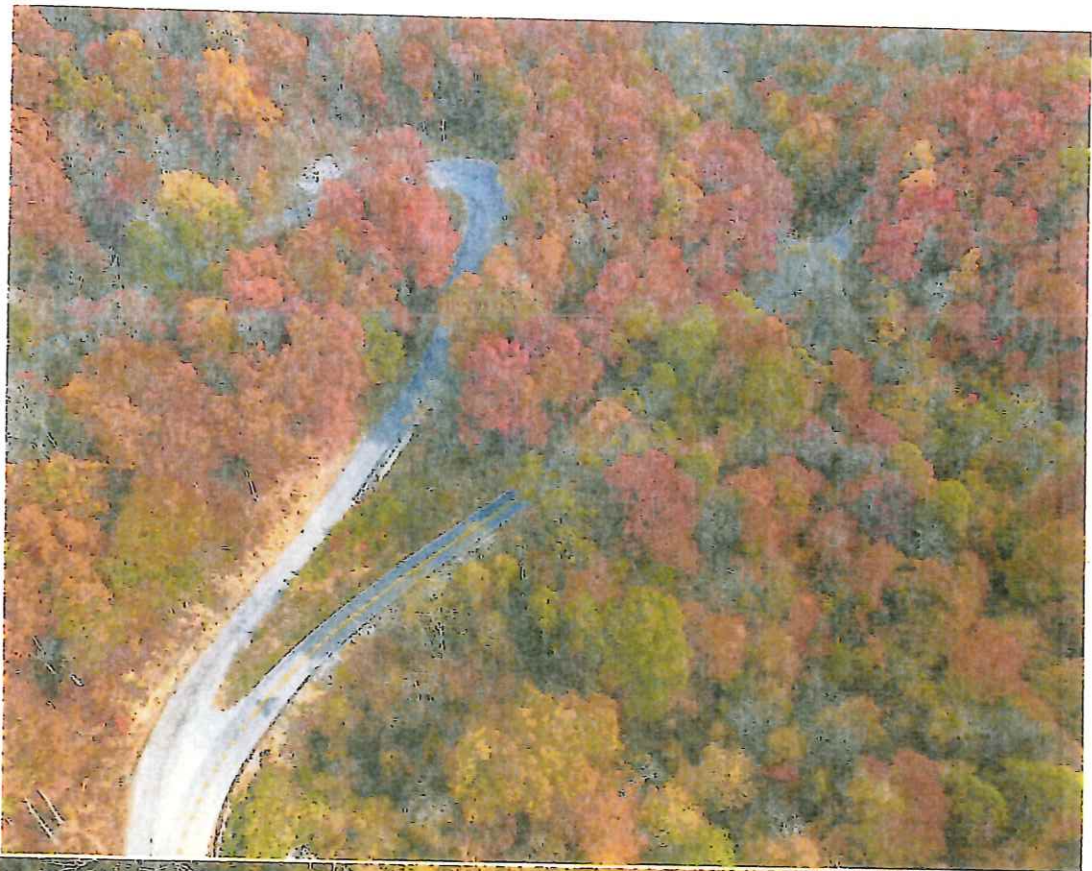


KIRBY SOLUTIONS LLC

Kirby Solutions LLC
10/26/24 Images of
Barker Hill Road







Please notice the amount of truck traffic that is typical on Barker Hill Road on a normal school day. It is apparent that these trucks take not only their lane, but the lane the school buses would need. This is not safe for the students and would increase stress for the bus driver(s).



Attendance and WV Balanced Scorecard of Indicators of Performance and Success

VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Average Daily Attendance Rates

School Month	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*	2022-23	2023-24	2024-2025
1	96%	96%	94%	91%	94%	95%	96%	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%	93%	93%	99%	93%	91%	92%	86%
2	95%	95%	95%	92%	91%	94%	94%	92%	93%	93%	94%	92%	93%	94%	94%	89%	88%	92%	89%
3	93%	95%	95%	86%	93%	92%	92%	93%	92%	92%	93%	92%	92%	91%	99%	89%	90%	90%	
4	93%	91%	90%	87%	91%	94%	94%	91%	91%	91%	92%	88%	96%	93%	88%	87%	87%	88%	
5	93%	96%	94%	92%	96%	95%	94%	95%	94%	89%	94%	95%	91%	90%	94%	91%	93%	92%	
6	94%	91%	94%	95%	92%	94%	92%	91%	91%	91%	91%	87%	91%	93%	99%	93%	90%	89%	
7	94%	92%	90%	94%	93%	93%	93%	91%	93%	93%	92%	91%	92%	90%	93%	89%	88%	90%	
8	93%	93%	91%	91%	94%	93%	92%	93%	92%	91%	92%	92%	92%	N/A	90%	90%	89%	93%	
9	94%	95%	93%	92%	94%	95%	94%	93%	92%	93%	91%	89%	83%	N/A	87%	90%	89%	89%	
10	97%	96%	96%	95%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	97%	95%	90%	97%	N/A	86%	95%	94%	93%	
Total Year	94%	94%	93%	92%	93%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	93%	91%	93%	92%	93%	91%	90%	91%	
Goal	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%

* Schools were closed from March 13-June 5 in 2019-20; COVID-19

*COVID-19 PANDEMIC

HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL

Average Daily Attendance

School Month	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22*	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	95%	93%	92%	92%	94%	95%	93%	95%	95%	95%	93%	95%	94%	96%	99%	88%	93%	93%	96%
2	95%	91%	90%	93%	93%	93%	92%	94%	93%	92%	93%	95%	93%	93%	93%	89%	91%	93%	94%
3	93%	88%	89%	88%	88%	92%	92%	94%	93%	92%	92%	93%	93%	94%	98%	89%	93%	91%	
4	89%	85%	87%	87%	90%	92%	94%	94%	92%	91%	92%	95%	93%	97%	97%	83%	90%	91%	
5	90%	92%	93%	91%	92%	93%	95%	96%	94%	92%	93%	96%	92%	95%	94%	91%	94%	94%	
6	93%	88%	93%	92%	90%	93%	92%	94%	93%	93%	93%	85%	93%	95%	99%	92%	88%	93%	
7	93%	89%	90%	92%	89%	93%	92%	93%	94%	93%	89%	97%	91%	96%	94%	90%	88%	93%	
8	92%	90%	92%	90%	92%	93%	91%	93%	91%	94%	91%	94%	91%	N/A	93%	92%	90%	93%	
9	92%	92%	90%	89%	93%	93%	94%	92%	93%	95%	93%	92%	93%	N/A	91%	93%	91%	90%	
10	94%	94%	94%	92%	96%	96%	98%	97%	98%	98%	96%	93%	98%	N/A	93%	96%	97%	96%	
Total Year	92%	90%	91%	91%	92%	93%	93%	94%	93%	94%	93%	93%	93%	95%	95%	90%	92%	93%	95%
Goal	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	A-F	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%

* Schools were closed from March 13-June 5 in 2019-20; COVID-19

* COVID-19 PANDEMIC

West Virginia Balanced Scorecard Indicators of Student Performance and Success

- » In 2024, counties will be identified as **On Watch, Support**, or **Intensive Support** for each indicator based on three consecutive years of data.
- » A county-level indicator that **Does Not Meet Standard** is designated as **On Watch**.
- » A county-level indicator that **Does Not Meet Standard** and does not show improvement for **TWO** consecutive years will result in the county being designated **Support** for that indicator.
- » A county-level indicator that **Does Not Meet Standard** and does not show improvement for **THREE** consecutive years will result in the county being designated **Intensive Support** for that indicator.
- » For the ELA and Math Achievement indicators, improvement is defined as being **Partially Meets Standard** or above in the corresponding progress indicator. For all other indicators, improvement is defined as progress on an indicator from one year to the next.
- » Any indicator not listed as **On Watch, Support**, or **Intensive Support** received Partially Meets Standard or above and is considered Fully Approved.

Balanced Scorecard Indicators

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| » ELA Achievement | » Behavior |
| » Math Achievement | » Graduation Rate 4-Year |
| » ELA Progress | » Graduation Rate 5-Year |
| » Math Progress | » On-Track to Graduation |
| » English Learners Progress | » Post-Secondary Achievement |
| » Attendance | |

COUNTY		County Operational Effectiveness Indicators of Efficiency				Balanced Scorecard Indicators of Student Performance and Success			
		Needs Assistance Indicators	On Watch Indicators	Support Indicators	Intensive Support Indicators				
A rating of Needs Assistance indicates the county, with assistance from the WYDE, must develop an action plan and monitor the plan's progress toward showing improvement.		A county-level indicator that Does Not Meet Standard.	A county-level indicator that Does Not Meet Standard and does not show improvement for two consecutive years.	A county-level indicator that Does Not Meet Standard and does not show improvement for three consecutive years.					
Upshur***	• ESEA Programs • Special Education • Personnel • Finance	No On Watch indicators identified.	• Math Achievement • Attendance	No Intensive Support indicators identified.					
Wayne	• Special Education	• Attendance	No Support indicators identified.	No Intensive Support indicators identified.					
Webster	Met requirements for all indicators.	• Math Achievement	• Attendance	No Intensive Support indicators identified.					
Metzel	Met requirements for all indicators.	No On Watch indicators identified.	• Attendance	No Intensive Support indicators identified.					
Wirt	• Career and Technical Education • ESEA Programs	• Attendance	No Support indicators identified.	No Intensive Support indicators identified.					
Wood	• Special Education • Finance	• Attendance • Post Secondary Achievement	No Support indicators identified.	No Intensive Support indicators identified.					

Community Impact

Community Impact

First Exchange Bank:

Mini diplomas for every graduating senior
Most improved Senior Award for one male and one female student
Fundraising assistance for students' sports and academic programs
Mentor program
Partner in Education
Classes for banking
Purchase of items from the simulated workplaces operated by students
Use of parking lot for car washes
Used of parking lot for bake sales
Donation for young adults for their community service (clothes, pet supplies, etc.)
HHS backpacks for the 8th grade graduation in preparation for the move to the high school]
Buyer for items sold by students at the Wetzel County Ham, Bacon and Egg Show
Buyer at the Wetzel County Livestock Show and Sale

Union Bank

T-shirts for graduating seniors
Partner in Education
Mentor program
Buyer for items sold by students at the Wetzel County Ham, Bacon, and Egg Show
Buyer at the Wetzel County Livestock Show and Sale
Purchase of items from the simulated workplaces operated by students

Roger Tennant/Tennant Funeral Home

Buyer at the Wetzel H County Livestock Show and Wetzel County Ham, Bacon and Egg Sale
Permits the use of property across from the high school for multiple sports and school-related programs
Fundraising for students' sports and academics
Donations to students' sports and academics

Hundred-Littleton Alumni Association

16 scholarships with more to be added for graduating seniors
\$11,300.00 in scholarships awarded in 2024

Hundred Lumber

Fundraising for the students' sports and academic programs
Work-based opportunities for students
Donations for construction projects

4 Sisters Grocery Store

Fundraising for the students' sports and academic programs
Donations to the students' sports and academic programs
Team dinners for players and coaches during football season
Owners and mothers of the football team have open bills for any players who need food before practice if in need

Green Acres Gas and Grocery

Team dinners for football players and coaches
Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Weekend Backpack program for HHS students in need
Thanksgiving dinners for families of HHS students in need
Clothing drives for winter coats and gloves

Eric Yost (business)

Fundraising for and donations to the students' sports and academic programs
Buyer at the Wetzel County Ham, Bacon, and Egg Show and the Wetzel County Livestock Show and Sale

Hundred Fire Department

Work-based learning opportunities
Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Mock Disaster for students to learn about the consequences of DUI prior to Prom time

Hundred Farm Supply

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Work-based learning opportunities
Buyer at the Wetzel Livestock Show and Sale and the Wetzel Ham, Bacon, and Egg Show and Sale

Conveyance, Inc.

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Work-based learning opportunities

Henderson Farms

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Provides locations for individual students to keep FFA hogs when they do not have places to raise them
Buyer at the Wetzel County Ham, Bacon, and Egg Show and the Wetzel County Livestock Show and Sale

Veterans' Program

Students participate in honoring veterans of the area

WE C.A.R.E.

Work-based learning opportunities
Community service hours

Hundred Area P.R.I.D.E.

Students assist in clean up along the rails to trails
Students plant flowers at the trail head and other places around town

Christmas Around Our Town

Students volunteer at different booths
Fundraising opportunities for students' sports and academic programs
HHS choir performs

Hundred 4th of July

Fundraising opportunities for students' sports and academic programs
HHS band participates in the parade

Town of Hundred

Fundraising for and donations to the students' sports and academic programs
The mayor has served as the Voice of the Hornets for several years

Dairy Dream

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Work-based learning opportunities

Rt. 250 Corner Café

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs

Beauty Unlimited

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs

Dollar General

Fundraising for and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Donation center for the young adults for their community service (clothes, pet supplies, etc.)

Hundred Public Library

Work-based learning opportunities
Fundraising and donations to students' sports and academic programs
Provides resources for students' research

Long Drain School

Hundred High School (HHS) students assist with Outdoor Days and the Community Day by assisting teachers and presenters in helping students participate in the activities
HHS students involve the elementary students in STEAM learning activities
HHS students volunteer to assist with after school programs and activities

Note:

High school students can make a meaningful impact in their communities in various ways which not only benefit the community, but also help students gain skills, build their resumes, and deepen their understanding of social issues. They not only feel they belong but also are likely to take pride in their community. It helps students to feel rooted and supported by their surroundings.

By closing the school, it would be taking away their community support and putting them in a location that will not provide this local support. The Town of Hundred and the surrounding areas care about and support these "country" students from Hundred High School. We want to continue to fulfill our mission to give back and to show them what it is to be part of something bigger than themselves.

The support of the community has been vital in giving HHS students opportunities that they might otherwise have. As a result of the fund raising and donations given by the community businesses and individuals, students have not only had work-based experiences, but have been able to travel to new places and compete successfully at the state and national level. Two of the programs that have been instrumental in this are TSA and FFA. Through TSA, students have traveled to Nashville, Washington, DC, and more recently, Orlando. Community donations and fund raising enabled twenty-four students from HHS and LDS to travel to Orlando to compete last summer and gave some who would be unlikely to be able to visit Disneyworld the opportunity to spend two days there. Several of those teams came home as winners. More recently, HHS students competed in the Culineering competition in Huntington, WV, and brought home a first place win as they have in two of the three years they competed.

Each year, FFA teams and individuals compete at the state level and travel to the national conference in Indianapolis. They learn that they can compete successfully with students from much larger schools in addition to developing teamwork and individual skills.

This small, economically disadvantaged area finds the resources to give these young people experiences that reach far beyond the classroom due to some dedicated and caring teachers and staff.

These opportunities should not be taken away from these students. It must be noted that the students from this community will scatter to four different high schools and will lose the support they currently receive. It will not only be a loss for the community, but for the students as well.

Pertinent Information

b. Oversight Regarding Community Planning

Note policy 6200 and the comprehensive educational facilities plan. The document states:
Each county shall develop a ten-year Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) that addresses the requirements for new construction and major renovations where applicable as described in the following sections. The CEFP not only encompasses new construction and renovations but also is used in school closures, consolidation, and reconfigurations as well as in developing levees and bond calls. All aspects of this plan are to be reviewed and verified for accuracy by LEAs.

Now, this is especially important to consider in the realm of community analysis for the impact of the closure of Hundred High School. Though the Wetzel County Board of Education has done their due diligence in acquiring maps and charts with data to support their claims, we believe they have not effectively and extensively analyzed the community of Hundred and the impact that the closure of the high school would have on the existing businesses and business owners.

On page 27, the impact statement states that the CEFP does not include the closure of HHS and consolidation into Valley High School. We believe that the CEFP should be properly researched and updated before such a plan of this undertaking takes place, especially considering the impact upon our students and communities as well as the magnitude of the financial, physical, and emotional effects.

Note the state policy on consolidation here:

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:

3.2.g.1. the known relationships that exist among the affected schools and their communities;

3.2.g.2. how the existing known relationships could be impacted by the proposed action; and

3.2.g.3. the potential for new relationships that could be developed under the proposed action.

Works Cited

- Bastian, Kevin C. and Sarah Crittenden Fuller. (March 2024). "What new research tells us about elementary and middle school start times". Brookings Institute. <https://brookings.edu>
- Cordes, S.A., Rick, C., & Schwartz, A.E. (2021). *Do long bus rides drive down academic outcome?* Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University.

PLEASE read before you vote...

From Anissa Anderson <andersonortho@hotmail.com>

Date Thu 11/21/2024 12:36 PM

To Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; Christine Mitchell <mcmitchell@frontier.com>; christinenice@gmail.com <christinenice@gmail.com>; co1pres@frontier.com <co1pres@frontier.com>; Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Although I could not attend all of the public meetings, I watched each one on the YouTube live stream. Please do not mistake absence for disinterest. Some people have multiple obligations requiring their time and attention.

I was encouraged by the compassion and logic of many presenters and disturbed by the baseless assumptions and cruel accusations of others.

Some people suggested waiting. Isn't that what created this mess? Think about the next five years.

With consolidation, many — but not all-- of our fundamental challenges will be addressed. More classrooms will have certified teachers. More courses can be offered to students. Teachers will not have to give up their plan periods to cover other classrooms. Savings from closing two high schools can be immediately reinvested in the budget to fund current programs or applied to new *consolidation-related* expenses (uniforms, desks, activity buses). Extracurricular activities will have more participants and expansion of JV and freshmen teams would mean no "cuts" would be needed. Students and personnel will become more confident and hopeful as they cope with change and thrive as a result... which is the best form of education that a student can receive.

Without consolidation, the challenges will remain and possibly worsen to a point that the remedy will cost more... more money, more time, and more frustration. Students will not be receiving a quality education since they will not have certified teachers or the courses will not be offered by the schools. Students won't learn chemistry without a chemistry teacher. Students won't learn physics without a physics teacher. Students won't play football or volleyball if there are no teams. Teachers will be over-worked which will lead to more teachers leaving. Waiting is not a solution... it is a deflection.

Waiting five years to consolidate will negatively affect all of the students currently in our high schools. Waiting would compromise the quality of education for the 837 students currently enrolled in grades 8-12 for the convenience of a small number of students. Every proposed solution would result in some students be inconvenienced, but **the benefit of a quality education will significantly outweigh those inconveniences**.

Students spend a short four years in high school. The inconveniences of travel time, school location, school colors, etc. last only four years. The education they receive will last a lifetime.

Your vote will change lives. Be strong and courageous. Don't stall. Our students have waited too long. Our students deserve action. **Our students deserve BETTER!**

Vote "YES" to give our students a better present AND future. Vote "YES" on the immediate consolidation plan.

Respectfully,

Anissa M. Anderson
New Martinsville, WV

Final Thoughts

From Rachael Graham <rgrahamnmjs@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/20/2024 10:35 PM

To Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; Christine C. Mitchell <christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us>; christinenice@gmail.com <christinenice@gmail.com>; Jimmy Glasscock <jimmy.d.glasscock@k12.wv.us>

Cc Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>; Benjamin McPherson <bmcphers@k12.wv.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rgrahamnmjs@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good evening,

This will (probably) be my final email regarding consolidation as your vote occurs Friday at 9:00 am. I promise to make this one as short as I can.

The only thing that I want each and every one of you to read before voting is the following (you actually heard it at the meeting tonight):

Jackie Shepard spoke this evening, and the quote that I'm going to paraphrase sums up this entire situation for me:

"We can't tell the current 9th through 11th graders and 5th through 8th graders that we don't have the certified teachers or programs they need, but those that come after you, once the new school is built, are going to have amazing opportunities. Our current students matter."

It's time. I'm begging you. Please do not wait on one school. Please make the move now. You are the furthest any board has ever come on this. You have a superintendent that cares about the students and their education and wants to make this county better. There is no time like the present to make this jump.

You heard roughly 120 people speak over the past two weeks, and I will admit most of them were against consolidation. But as of 2023, Wetzel County had 13,890 citizens. What about the 13,770 of us that didn't speak? We want this.

I just want to send my son and daughter to a school system that gives them the education they deserve. One of my closest friends transferred her sixth grader to Tyler County Schools this year. It's incredible. We can get there. We can be that incredible school, even if we are split into two high schools! Please don't force me to make the decision to move my daughter.

I'm begging you to stop cheating our students out of a quality education.
#wewantbetter... now.

Rachael Graham
Exasperated Parent of Two

Second Email:

Good afternoon,

I am writing regarding the previous four meetings that have occurred throughout Wetzel County pertaining to the consolidation. I have also included my previous email below for your reference.

I have listened to each meeting: Magnolia, NMS, PCHS, and Hundred. There are valid points that have been presented against consolidation. These citizens are passionate; they are worried about the kids. I understand that, and I feel empathy towards these parents and children. But I would like to discuss some of the points they've made and present a counterpoint.

1. We have heard many times that if you remove a school from a community, the community will cease to exist. Although I agree that a huge connection exists between school and community, a school being removed should not be the demise of a community. The local government's job is to ensure the community has entities, activities, etc., that would draw citizens in. Looking locally, Moundsville is a community that has a lot to do, but it does not have a high school in city limits. That has not caused Moundsville to fade as they consolidated their schools. As a member of the New Martinsville Junior Sports board, we are not successful because we have a high school. I will not take away from the fact that having the grade school in our town has increased our numbers, but I also like to note that a lot of our players are from Paden City, Hundred, River, and Tyler County. We run a successful program because we are dedicated to our players and their families and want to make their years in youth sports memorable. If a community like Hundred and Paden City are unable to run successful youth programs, draw new businesses, keep the pool open, etc., I don't feel as if removing their high schools are the biggest of their worries.

2. The comments regarding mental health, grandparents raising grandchildren, lack of transportation, etc.: I'm going to lump these discussions into one. As a social worker at my previous job, mental health is very important to me. I have worked with suicidal ideations, homicidal ideations, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, alcoholism, drug addiction, depression, anxiety, and more. I know that these feelings and emotions are valid and should be of concern. I do have concerns regarding the mental health of these high schoolers that are worried about their schools; their feelings are real and should be acknowledged as such. I also know that adversity in life is a lesson that must be learned, though. We all face situations that we disagree with or that make us anxious. How we deal with these situations are the bearing of how we deal in our adult lives. Also, if the kids are having these mental health issues, the parents need to address them with a professional, not the school board and not the superintendent.

I heard many speak about the amount of kids that are living with grandparents or other trusted adults. That is heartbreaking. It's terrible that my generation has become the one that is the least likely to raise their children. But a public school system is responsible for providing a free public education to children. They are responsible for curriculum, ensuring we have qualified teachers, special education, policies, and licensing. At some point in the last ten years, we as a society have lost that vision and have made it the responsibility of the school system to counsel, feed, teach, parent, cloth, and more. I find it alarming the amount of children that don't live with a parent or parents, but it is not the job of

Wetzel County Schools to ensure these kids have adults around them that are capable of conducting adult skills. The same goes for the lack of transportation. I understand lower class, middle class, mental health, etc., can all lead to lack of license, insurance, or vehicle, but it is not Wetzel County School's responsibility to ensure that a family has someone who can provide reliable transportation. At some point, it is for the parents to take accountability. Although I know that won't happen, holding back 300+ children from a better education for the 100 that may have more difficult circumstances isn't working. Saying this statement is not easy for me as I don't ever want a kid to go through these situations, but I have been silent the entire time my children have been in school. I never wanted to say anything to make waves because those kiddos need the extra support. But what about the kids that have the support at home? What about the kids that don't struggle in class? They need this. ALL of the kids need this.

The pleas that I have heard in the last week are all based on emotion, not facts. Yes, it's a hard decision. No, it's probably not a fair one. No, you can't make everyone happy, but it's time. We need certified teachers, we need more programs for successful adults, we need in-person learning, and we don't need NINE school buildings open and operating in Wetzel County. Oil and gas will not be a booming industry forever, and when it dies, we need to be prepared. Please make this decision for the kids, not the parents, not the loud adults with no children, not the people with hometown pride.

I appreciate you all. Each and every one of you. You've sat through roughly 12 hours of speakers, and you have been incredible through each one, even when being screamed at. I applaud your dedication to the county, and I would not want to be in your position. You have my admiration for your strength.

Also, I don't think a train will hit Magnolia High School, and I am also pretty sure the gas plant near Valley High School won't blow up.

Thank you,

Rachael Graham, parent of a kindergartner at NMS and an 11th grader at Magnolia



Original Email:

Dear Board Members,

I am writing regarding the meeting that is going to be held at Magnolia High School. I will probably be there in person, but I will not be signing up to speak as a delegation. The reasoning behind my choice is because I've seen every month the nasty things that are said online about the people that speak out against PCHS or speak in favor of consolidation. I'm not interested in becoming the next social media outrage.

When considering the consolidation, there are some items that I would like you to consider.

I would like to make my opinion very clear: **I am in full support of consolidation, either two schools or one, but I do not fully support the name change/mascot.**

1. Number of Students: There are 626 students in Wetzel County. (The following numbers are based on reports from the National Center for Education Statistics): In PCHS, in grades 7-12, there are 163 students. To be fair, I have taken that number and divided it by six so that we can represent each grade with 27 students. MHS, in grades 9-12, has 343 students; we will be subtracting 15 so as not to count the Pre-K. That is 82 students per grade at MHS.

When the "merger" was announced in the summer of 2024, many of the parents from Paden City were vocal about their children not attending Magnolia High School. Many were enrolling in St. Marys or Tyler County. Even if we take the lower side of these students that won't be attending Magnolia, when consolidated, Magnolia High School **might** receive 80 new students. The number of new students that may possibly go to Magnolia is less than the average per grade at Magnolia currently.

2. Cost: I am currently employed with a company that has discussed and priced a "culture" change or "brand-flip." This has been an ongoing conversation that I have been involved with for many years. I cannot, nor will I attempt to, quote the amount that was given to accomplish a name change, brand-flip, etc. I can say, though, that it was well above a million dollars. This includes all new documentation, mailings, stamps with our logo, name tags, desk plates, and other small items that aren't often considered when thinking about a name change. I believe that getting an estimate of how much each of these "mascot/name" changes is necessary. If the final plan for the county is to have all four schools consolidated, spending over a million dollars for two schools to become one is irresponsible spending. If the plan for the county is to have two schools going forward, creating a new mascot/name for a possibility of 80 students seems to be overkill.

3. Teacher Shortage/Burnout: I've not heard as much about a teacher shortage this year as in the past, but that's only because my son is taking mostly dual credit classes through Northern. Up until this year, my son played Uno a ton in high school. When there wasn't a teacher available, he was sent to the library. I would like to make it known this was NEVER on the principals. It was beyond their control, and I understand that. For the first two years of his high school career, I would say 1/5 or more of it was spent in the library with no teacher.

And I'm sure you know, Wetzel County teachers are burnt out. They're exhausted. From being a teacher, to a social worker, parent, counselor, nurse, event planner, mediator, cook, travel agent, IT, and more, they're tired. Combining these two schools would be a good thing; a great thing, if we're being realistic. The teachers would have breathing room. They can focus more on their students, the curriculum, etc. They would have those others coming from PCHS to lean on, vent to, help, etc. I'm not a teacher, but the people I love most are. And they're incredible. In my career, I can take a day off whenever I need to. I can leave sick. I can go to all of my children's events. And with that, I don't have to worry about making lesson plans, who will cover my classroom, if my students will have a certified teacher, etc. They need help, and the combining of the schools could give them some relief.

4. Opinion/Personal Belief: As the mother of an 11th grader at Magnolia High School and a kindergartner at NMS, I'm just asking for better. I know you've seen it on social media: #wejustwantbetter. My son is almost finished. He has had a really good experience within Wetzel County Schools. He's a 4.0 student, an athlete, and is completing classes through Northern. My daughter is just starting, and I already don't like the projectory she is on. Her class is the first of the COVID babies. She is already struggling because the class is divided by kids that are struggling and have never been in a normal, socialized setting with the kids that are ahead of pace. It's difficult for her teachers to find the balance between these students, but I think this would be an issue anywhere.

What I'm most concerned about is that if the schools are not consolidated (into one or two schools for the entire county), her education is only going to get worse. If there is no progress in Wetzel County, my daughter will not be a part of this school system. I'm sure you hear it all the time: "I will just move my kid." I don't like pulling that card or even contemplating moving her, but I will not allow my kids to be a product of injustice. I will not allow 20-30 loud, disrespectful, nasty people from Paden City to dictate my daughter's education and her future life goals.

I know this email is long, but I had to get it sent to you before the meeting occurs. Please know that the majority of people I know (the silent ones) feel that this is a step forward for our county. Our kids deserve better. All kids: Paden City, Magnolia, Hundred, and Valley. For every loudmouth that disagrees with you or disrespects you is at least 2-3 parents that are so excited for the possibility of a better school system through Wetzel County.

Thank you for your time!

Just a quick note!

From Anita Howell <amhowell@k12.wv.us>

Date Mon 11/18/2024 11:24 AM

To Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

After watching the board meeting Friday evening, I just want to say that you are the strongest lady I think I have ever known. You are doing what is right for the students in Wetzel County, and I am proud to say that we have a superintendent that is strong enough to stand up to the opposition. Thank you for all you do!

*Anita Howell
7/8 Reading and ELA Teacher
New Martinsville School*

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss

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Message to BOE in Support of Consolidation

From Anissa Anderson <andersonortho@hotmail.com>

Date Sun 11/17/2024 9:44 PM

To Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

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From: Anissa Anderson <andersonortho@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2024 5:51 PM

To: Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; Christine Mitchell <mcmitchell@frontier.com>; Christine Nice <christinenice@gmail.com>; Jimmy Glasscock <co1pres@frontier.com>; Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>

Subject: Support for Consolidation

Thank you for your dedication by serving on the Wetzel County Board of Education. Your job is not easy. Your courage is respected and appreciated.

This correspondence is to state **our support of the Superintendent of Wetzel County Schools and the consolidation plan** contained in the impact statement posted on October 11, 2024.

Consolidation needs to begin next school year instead of waiting until a new building is constructed. This plan will give our students and personnel the hope that even better things are coming in the future. If consolidation is delayed for four to five years, the current high school students will have the same or fewer course options. Morale will continue to decrease. Without change, the personnel workload will remain the same or increase which could lead to the exodus of more personnel.

Our daughter describes the problem as similar to four boats that are taking on water with only one maintenance crew to fix all four. If the passengers are combined into two boats, that leaves only two boats needing repair and those repairs can be made quickly and efficiently thus preventing the boats from sinking... while a new boat is on the way. If the passengers are left in the four boats without adequate repairs while waiting on the new boat to arrive, the solitary maintenance crew would not be able to repair the leaks and ultimately each boat would begin to sink. Would it be right... would it be ethical to leave all four boats to sink simply because combining boats would require some passengers to change? When the new boat arrives, the passengers would be better equipped and experienced to handle the change to the new boat.

We should keep the expected changes with this consolidation plan in perspective. Our grandfather's and their classmates spent their last year of high school preparing to be drafted into World War II. Their

younger siblings left high school for the front lines in the Korean Conflict. Our uncles were drafted out of high school to serve in the armed forces in Vietnam. We are grateful that our high school students are not facing the uncertainties and brutality of war. Our high schools students are being given an opportunity to continue their educations safely in their home county... to broaden their educations by unifying with their peers.

We witnessed first hand the beginning of this unification last summer when Magnolia and Paden City volleyball players had joint flex practices. **It was remarkable!** It was not like the adults on social media had predicted or feared. The players were quiet and shy at first but within a few hours began to interact and respond as a team. They encouraged and celebrated each other's efforts. High fives and shouts of support were offered without regard to whether the player was from Magnolia or Paden City. The coaches collaborated and shared duties and responsibilities to make each practice productive.

It was working. It had potential. The girls were hopeful.

It can happen again. The kids are capable. **The kids are more than capable... they are ready!**
Give them the chance. Don't let them sink!

Anissa and Danny Anderson
New Martinsville, WV

Fw: School consolidation

From Benjamin McPherson <bmcphers@k12.wv.us>

Date Fri 11/15/2024 9:25 AM

To Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; christinenice@gmail.com <christinenice@gmail.com>; Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; Christine C. Mitchell <christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us>; co1pres@frontier.com <co1pres@frontier.com>

Cc Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

Received this email this morning. Passing it along.

Ben



"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." Gen. George S. Patton

"There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."— John F. Kennedy

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From: Cindy Lemasters <cindylemasters4@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 8:33 AM

To: Benjamin McPherson <bmcphers@k12.wv.us>

Subject: School consolidation

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in regards to the school consolidation. I am in favor of it because I have 2 grandchildren that attend high school at Magnolia.

For the most part they are getting a satisfactory education but it could be better. The high school is short staffed and they have had to go to 2 classes that are combined into 1 class period together.

There has been non certified teachers that have taught them.

Now for our athletic programs. We don't have air conditioning in the gymnasium when activities such as graduation is held there occasionally and the heat is unbearable.

It is hard to have any home track meets because the high jumpers and pole vaulters have to travel elsewhere to practice because the area is unsafe.

There are not enough students in the county for this many schools. Now is the time to consolidate.

Sincerely,
Cindy Lemasters
1st A Concerned Memaw
2nd An MHS Alumna
Sent from my iPhone

Fw: School Consolidation

From Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

Date Sun 11/17/2024 3:31 PM

To Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; Christine C. Mitchell <christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us>; Christine Nice <christine.nice@k12.wv.us>; co1pres@frontier.com <co1pres@frontier.com>

Cassie R. Porter

Wetzel County Superintendent

Principal of the Year 2023



Educating Individuals for Success

(304) 281-1505 (cell)

crporter@k12.wv.us

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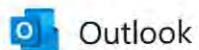
From: Cindy Lemasters <cindylemasters4@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 8:31 AM

To: Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

Subject: School Consolidation

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Idea for a name for the 4 schools consolidate.

From Christian Smith <cjsmith13@stu.k12.wv.us>

Date Fri 10/18/2024 9:43 AM

To Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

My idea is Unity High School. All four high schools would be unifying into one, and I feel as if that name would show that we only want peace with one another.

Christian Smith
Junior@PCHS

Fw: Hundred High School

From Johanna Lemasters <jhlemast@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 10/11/2024 12:34 PM

To Benjamin McPherson <bmcphers@k12.wv.us>; Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>; Paul Huston <phuston@k12.wv.us>; Tammy Chambers <tchamber@k12.wv.us>

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Johanna Lemasters <jhlemast@yahoo.com>

To: Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; bcastilo@k12.wv.us <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us <christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us>; christinenice@gmail.com <christinenice@gmail.com>; Jimmy Glasscock <co1pres@frontier.com>

Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 at 12:31:11 PM EDT

Subject: Hundred High School

Hello,

Once again, I am writing to express my concern about the closing of Hundred High School. I understand that you are to vote on the consolidation of Hundred and Valley on Monday. To date, I have not heard only one reason for the closure of Hundred High School and the students being moved to Valley High. The only reason that has been known is the smaller number of students

In comparison, people have named reasons why Hundred should remain and possibly Valley be the school moved. I will remind you of a few of the positives for Hundred High School

1. Hundred's water and sewage in the Hundred-Littleton PSD is safe and plentiful.
2. The town of Hundred has Emergency Medical Service and Fire protection in place during and after school hours for school events.
3. Hundred High School is not in a flood plain.
4. Hundred High School has an air conditioner and heating system that works.
5. Hundred High School has a fully certified staff.
6. Hundred High School is not close to the Hope Station.
7. The town of Hundred has a police department nearby.
8. The town of Hundred has a county officer, deputy sheriff officer, and town officer all living within five minutes of Hundred High School.
9. Hundred High School is located in an area that would allow for staff attraction.
10. Students in the Hundred area having a doctor appointment would most likely miss a whole day of instruction. This would impact Wetzel County's attendance rate.

Before you vote on closing Hundred High School, please review this list and consider what really is best for the students. Also, think about the travel concerns for Hundred and Valley students going over Barker Run Road.

Consolidation

From stan4@suddenlink.net <stan4@suddenlink.net>

Date Tue 10/8/2024 5:51 PM

To Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; co1pres@frontier.com <co1pres@frontier.com>; Christine C. Mitchell <christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us>; christinenice@gmail.com <christinenice@gmail.com>

Cc Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

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Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I have taught in Wetzel County Schools for seventeen years. My children graduated from Magnolia. My grandchildren will be educated in Wetzel County schools. I feel as if I have a stake in what happens in Wetzel County schools.

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting and so I am writing to express my support for the proposal to consolidate the four high schools into two high schools for the 2025-26 school year. As a member of the community, I believe that this consolidation will bring about numerous benefits, including improved resource allocation, a more comprehensive curriculum, and enhanced extracurricular opportunities for students.

Consolidating the high schools will allow for a more efficient use of resources, which in turn can lead to improved facilities and expanded educational programs. Additionally, a consolidated system can foster a more equitable distribution of resources and staffing, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education and support services.

I am confident that this decision will lead to a more robust and cohesive high school experience for students, ultimately enhancing the overall educational environment in our community. I urge you to carefully consider this proposal and its potential positive impact on our school district.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Danielle Standiford

Wetzel County Schools

From jennifer kolat <jenniferkolat@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 9/16/2024 11:41 AM

To Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

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Dear Ms. Porter,

While I'm sure you have received numerous emails, phone calls, etc, I feel obligated to send an email. I do apologize as I'm sure you're overwhelmed. That is to say if I were in your shoes I'm certain I would be overwhelmed, stressed, tired and likely a bit frustrated. Therefore I will attempt to be brief and to the point.

What is best for the students? Where and how will they flourish the best? Where and how will they become the most well rounded, reach their full potential, prepared for their future (whatever that may be? Not the teachers, the citizens, the alumnus, but solely the students. That should be the concern, in my opinion. A shortage of qualified teachers has led to students spending their time playing video games, playing in the gym or simply "hanging out". Uncertified teachers who lack experience often become child sitters, to no fault of their own of course. It's just reality.

While small schools can and do offer many benefits such as close friendships and one on one teaching. It also lacks diversity and constructive differences of opinion and outlooks on life in general. Students from a school with 70 - 150 students are very easily overwhelmed when it's time to step out into the world. Have they learned how to work independently? How to research on their own to find the answer? How to handle opposition? How to thrive in different environments? How to work to achieve goals when the competition is stronger? Again, I do understand and appreciate the benefits of a small school. The enrollment of our small schools has become a bit alarming in teaching our youth things outside of required subjects.

It has been mentioned that merging schools together will take away the privilege of some students qualifying for participating in high school sports and having that experience. While I understand that concern I would counter with the idea of with the benefits of providing students with the ability to thrive, achieve and experience a winning season. My sons were transferred out of Wetzel County schools solely due to a lack of education they were receiving. Sports were the least of my concern. That is until I witnessed them reach their potential in sports I did not realize the benefits. It instilled a very strong work ethic in them. Both physical and emotional. How to celebrate a win with class and humility and how to accept a loss with dignity while using it as motivation to work harder. I see students here in Wetzel who have never had the opportunity to feel that feeling of accomplishment and success due to what they have put into it. As is life success, you must learn how to overcome and push forward. Are Wetzel

students having these life lessons?

I do apologize for the longevity of this note. Please know that while some are louder than others, there is support on doing what is best for students and not solely for the community. I heard a community member say that larger schools aren't for everyone and only some kids would benefit from it. To which I say, who decides the fate of those kids? Who gets to judge if this one should go to a better school or this one should stay here? I believe in equal opportunity regardless of someone's opinion or what they feel is a student's limitation. Judging them by their background, upbringing is simply wrong.

In conclusion, I know you have a huge weight on your shoulders. I encourage you to step back and imagine your child. What would be best for him or her?

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Kolat

Fw: Concerned Parent from Hundred

From Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>
Date Mon 9/9/2024 1:48 PM
To Cassandra Porter <crporter@k12.wv.us>

I like some of this plan.

From: Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Michelle Reynolds <mreynolds@mountainstatewaste.com>
Subject: Re: Concerned Parent from Hundred

Thank you for your respectful, thoughtful message . I will share your message with Mrs. Porter. You make some excellent points.

Linda

From: Michelle Reynolds <mreynolds@mountainstatewaste.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:43 AM
To: Linda Fonner <lfonner@k12.wv.us>; Brian Castilow <bcastilo@k12.wv.us>; christinenice@gmail.com <christinenice@gmail.com>; co1pres@frontier.com <co1pres@frontier.com>; Christine C. Mitchell <christine.mitchell@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Concerned Parent from Hundred

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Dear Board Members,

I am deeply concerned because Hundred has no representation on the Board of Education. Each member is from another community. With that said, I cannot fathom the distance that Hundred area children will have to travel to get to and from school if we are relocated to Valley. Barker is such an unsafe road to travel on and the amount of time it would take to travel down 20 would be incomprehensible. It is 40 minutes from Hundred High School to the mouth of Route 20 (on a clear day with no well traffic) and another 22 minutes from Rt 20 to Valley. And that is from Hundred High School! That doesn't account for students living further away or on back roads as most do. Unfortunately, most students from our area will be forced to seek transfer to either North Marion or Clay-Battelle (I would be one of them). The grade school has a record number of children this year with over 200 kids enrolled. Hundred High School is easily accessible off Route 250 and Route 7. Keeping kids at Hundred would give a presence at two very separate ends of the county. Could we change the cut-off points around Valley and give students the opportunity to decide whether they attend Magnolia or Hundred based on where they live? To take students from the Hundred area would be more of a burden based on

geographical issues, at the minimum. It seems more ideal to keep Magnolia and Hundred functioning just by where they are located. Valley is very central and can easily go in either direction or be split by location. Lastly, the impact on the community itself since the school is central to encouraging people to live here and if gone, would affect so many. Our students will not have a local community to support them. The extracurricular activities for most would also be taken from us as many parents work in the Fairmont/Morgantown area and the drive is not reasonable. I liked the idea of having the Riverfront school and the country school. Also, our new principal at Hundred High School has been a wonderful addition and has been working hard on revamping our school and revitalizing the sports programs. It has been great to see our community rally around him.

Thank you!



Michelle Reynolds

Director of Finance & Administration

☎ (304) 517 1619 (O) 304 514 1767 (C)

✉ mreynolds@mountainstatewaste.com

🌐 www.mountainstatewaste.com

📍 Mailing: 364 Patteson Drive #306, Morgantown WV 26505

📍 Physical: 108 Bald Hill Road, Mt Morris PA 15349



Date November 22, 2024

Special	Board of Education Office	Linda M. Fonner, President
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF WETZEL, to-wit:**

The Wetzel County Board of Education met in Special Session pursuant to the provisions of SLWV §18-5-4 at the Board of Education. Linda M. Fonner, President of the Wetzel County Board of Education, called for a Special Meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m., on Friday, November 22, 2024, at the Wetzel County Board of Education Office, 333 Foundry Street, New Martinsville, West Virginia. The following members were present:

Brian L. Castilow	Christine Mitchell
Linda M. Fonner	Christine Nice
Jimmy D. Glasscock	Cassandra Porter, Secretary

OPENING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

This Special Session of the Wetzel County Board of Education was called to order by the President of the Board, Mrs. Linda M. Fonner. Mrs. Nice led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CLOSURE OF PADEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL AND ITS CONSOLIDATION INTO MAGNOLIA HIGH SCHOOL AND NEW MARTINSVILLE SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR:

Mrs. Fonner made the motion for approval of the recommendation for the closure of Paden City High School and its consolidation into Magnolia High School and New Martinsville School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Nice and the motion was approved with a 4 to 1 vote:

Mr. Castilow	aye	Mrs. Mitchell	aye
Mrs. Fonner	aye	Mrs. Nice	aye
Mr. Glasscock	nay		

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL AND ITS CONSOLIDATION INTO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR:

Mrs. Fonner made the motion for approval of the recommendation for the closure of Hundred High School and its consolidation into Valley High School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Nice and the motion was approved with a 3 to 2 vote:

Mr. Castilow	nay	Mrs. Mitchell	aye
Mrs. Fonner	aye	Mrs. Nice	aye
Mr. Glasscock	nay		

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE AMENDMENTS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FACILITIES PLAN (CEFP) FOR THE CLOSURE OF PADEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL:

Mrs. Fonner made the motion for approval of the recommendation of the amendments for the Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan (CEFP) for the closure of Paden City High School. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Nice and the motion was approved with a 4 to 1 vote:

Mr. Castilow	aye	Mrs. Mitchell	aye
Mrs. Fonner	aye	Mrs. Nice	aye
Mr. Glasscock	nay		

Date November 22, 2024

Special	Board of Education Office	Linda M. Fonner, President
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE AMENDMENTS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FACILITIES PLAN (CEFP) FOR THE CLOSURE OF HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Fonner made the motion for approval of the recommendation of the amendments for the Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan (CEFP) for the closure of Hundred High School. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Nice and the motion was approved with a 3 to 2 vote:

Mr. Castilow	nay	Mrs. Mitchell	aye
Mrs. Fonner	aye	Mrs. Nice	aye
Mr. Glasscock	nay		

RECESS – A recess was not needed at this time.

PRESENTATIONS:

-American Education Proclamation: Cassandra Porter

Mrs. Porter commemorated the observance of American Education Week with the reading of a proclamation. She noted that November 18-22, 2024 marks the 103rd year for this observance. Following the reading, the Board members signed the proclamation. As an expression of gratitude, all staff will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2024.

-Long Drain School: Jeremy Kelch

Mr. Kelch, Long Drain School Principal, provided the Board with a handout and shared a PowerPoint presentation on a proposal of a back-up plan for the future of Long Drain School (LDS) if the state approves the consolidation of Hundred High School (HHS) into Valley High School (VHS). In his talk, Mr. Kelch proposed moving LDS into the former HHS building starting the 2025-2026 school year. He suggested this could help the community adjust to the loss of the high school. Mr. Kelch discussed the following: safety and accessibility with this move to town; issues at both LDS and HHS; and building layout with the proposed move. He first presented his plan to the Faculty Senate President, Mrs. Fluharty, then to the LDS Leadership Team and then to the staff.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – October 22, 2024

Acting on the Superintendent's recommendation, Mr. Castilow made the motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting, October 22, 2024. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mitchell and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

Personnel Matters:

Retirements:

Jo Beth Simmons Acceptance of retirement from position as Executive Secretary/Elections Coordinator, effective the end of day January 10, 2025.

Resignations:

Derek A. Graham Acceptance of resignation from position as 7/8 girls' basketball Coach at New Martinsville School, effective October 23, 2024.

Nora McDiffitt Acceptance of resignation from position as countywide substitute secretary/coordinator, effective November 1, 2024.

Date November 22, 2024

<u>Special</u>	<u>Board of Education Office</u>	<u>Linda M. Fonner, President</u>
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

Professional Personnel:

Lydia Andlinger Approval for employment as Speech Language Pathologist at New Martinsville School, effective December 2, 2024.

Darren L. Cook Approval for employment as countywide substitute Teacher, effective December 2, 2024.

Kayla Henthorn Approval for change in assignment from countywide substitute Teacher to Special Education Teacher at Paden City High School, effective December 2, 2024.

Jenna Jaskowiak Approval for employment as Speech Language Pathologist Assistant at New Martinsville School, pending background check.

Kathleen Miller Approval for employment as countywide substitute Teacher, effective December 2, 2024.

Alana Minor Approval for change in assignment from Special Education Teacher at Hundred High School to Special Education Teacher at Long Drain School, effective the 2025-2026 school year.

Alyssa Minor Approval for change in assignment from Special Education Teacher at Short Line School to 4th grade Teacher at Short Line School, effective the 2025-2026 school year.

Dillon R. Smittle Approval for employment as countywide substitute Teacher, effective December 2, 2024.

Donna G. Smittle Approval for employment as countywide substitute Teacher, effective December 2, 2024.

Jeana L. Yoho Approval for employment as countywide non-certified substitute Teacher, effective December 2, 2024.

Service Personnel:

Teena Bates Approval for change in assignment from Coordinator of PR/Return-to-Work/Secretary/Attendance at County Office to Executive Secretary and Elections Coordinator/Secretary II/Computer Operator, effective January 13, 2025.

April Daugherty Approval for change in assignment from custodian at New Martinsville School to Cook at Long Drain School, effective pending replacement.

Elizabeth Hall Approval for employment as countywide substitute Cook, effective pending background check.

Shannon L. Hornbeck Approval for employment as countywide substitute Custodian, effective December 2, 2024

Jessica Kelly Approval for change in assignment from countywide substitute Aide to Special Education Aide with Autism at Paden City Elementary, effective December 2, 2024.

Jo Beth Simmons Approval for employment as substitute Coordinator/ Executive Secretary, effective January 13, 2025.

WETZEL COUNTY SCHOOLS

82

Date November 22, 2024

Special Kind of Meeting	Board of Education Office Where Held	Linda M. Fonner, President Presiding Officer
Ray P. Stoneking	Approval for change in assignment from countywide substitute Bus Operator to Bus Operator, Bus #16-2, Kodol/Earnshaw/Rush Run, effective January 1, 2025.	
Stephen T. Tennant	Approval for employment as countywide substitute Custodian, effective December 2, 2024.	
Adriana Walton	Approval for employment as countywide substitute Cook, effective December 2, 2024.	
Samantha Wilkinson	Approval for change in assignment from countywide substitute Aide to Special Education Aide with Autism at New Martinsville School, effective December 2, 2024.	
Waneta Yoho	Approval for change in assignment from evening Custodian at Hundred High School to Head Custodian at Hundred High School, 261-day contract, effective December 2, 2024.	

Extracurricular:

Penelope Baker	Approval for employment as winter Evening Events Coordinator at Paden City High School, effective the beginning of the 2024-2025 WVSSAC season.	
William Bell	Approval for employment as Mentor Teacher – Health/PE at Paden City High School, effective the 2024-2025 school year.	
Amy Cisar	Approval for employment as Mentor Teacher – Emotional Support Specialist at New Martinsville School, effective the 2024-2025 school year.	
Stephanie Fritzman	Approval for employment as LINKS Coordinator at Paden City High School, effective December 2, 2024.	
Jessica Mace	Approval for employment as Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach at Long Drain School, effective the beginning of the 2024-2025 WVSSAC season.	
Eric Piekarski	Approval for employment as Academic Coach at Paden City High School, effective December 2, 2024.	
Jamie Snedden	Approval for employment as winter Evening Events Coordinator at Long Drain School, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 WVSSAC season.	
Elisa Sprowl	Approval for employment as 1 st grade Countywide Leader, effective the 2024-2025 school year.	
Terry Steele	Approval for employment as 3 rd grade Countywide Leader, effective the 2024-2025 school year.	

Leave of Absence:

Approval of request from Kayla Semple for a maternity leave of absence from her position as Math Teacher at Magnolia High School, effective approximately February 18 – April 16, 2025.

Date November 22, 2024

<u>Special</u>	<u>Board of Education Office</u>	<u>Linda M. Fonner, President</u>
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

Approval of request from Joseph Semple for a family medical leave of absence from his position as Special Education Teacher at Paden City Elementary, effective approximately February 18 – February 28, 2025.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED UNDER PERSONNEL MATTERS:

Prior to the motion, Mrs. Fonner requested to pull Darren Cook from the Professional Personnel list to be voted on as a separate item. Mr. Castilow made the motion for approval of the Superintendent's recommendations as outlined under Personnel Matters, with the exclusion of the pulled professional personnel position as mentioned above to be voted on separately. Second to the motion was made by Mr. Glasscock and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

Executive Session:

Mrs. Fonner moved and Mr. Glasscock seconded the motion for unanimous approval to retire into Executive Session, per WV Code §6-9A-4(b-2-A), for the discussion of personnel matters relating to the professional personnel position pulled from the above item. The Board retired in Executive Session at 9:41 a.m. Following the Executive Session, Mrs. Fonner moved and Mrs. Nice seconded the motion for unanimous approval to return to Open Session at 9:48 a.m. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:50 a.m. with the following:

Mrs. Fonner made the motion for approval of the Superintendent's recommendation as outlined under Professional Personnel matters for Darren Cook: employment as countywide substitute Teacher. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mitchell and the motion was approved with a 3 to 2 vote:

Mr. Castilow	aye	Mrs. Mitchell	aye
Mrs. Fonner	nay	Mrs. Nice	aye
Mr. Glasscock	nay		

Ratification of Superintendent's Recommendation:

Executive Session:

Mr. Castilow moved and Mrs. Nice seconded the motion for unanimous approval to retire into Executive Session, per WV Code §6-9A-4(b-2-A), for the discussion of personnel matters. The Board retired in Executive Session at 9:52 a.m. Following the Executive Session, Mrs. Fonner moved and Mrs. Nice seconded the motion for unanimous approval to return to Open Session at 9:58 a.m. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:59 a.m. with the following:

Consideration and possible action on the superintendent's recommendation that an extracurricular employee's unpaid suspension and termination of contract be ratified by the Board:

Mrs. Cassandra Porter, Superintendent, made the recommendation that the Board ratify the recommendation for the unpaid suspension and termination of contract for Thomas Duncan. Mr. Glasscock made the motion to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation for the unpaid suspension and termination of contract for Thomas Duncan. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mitchell and the motion was passed unanimously by the members of the Board.

Date November 22, 2024

<u>Special</u>	<u>Board of Education Office</u>	<u>Linda M. Fonner, President</u>
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

Consideration and possible action on the superintendent's recommendation that a service employee's one-day unpaid suspension be ratified by the Board:

Mrs. Cassandra Porter, Superintendent, made the recommendation that the Board ratify the recommendation for the one-day unpaid suspension for Beth Smith. Mr. Glasscock made the motion to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation for the one-day unpaid suspension for Beth Smith. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Fonner and the motion was passed unanimously by the members of the Board.

Routine Matters:

Chaperones/Volunteers:

Approval of request from the School Principal for the following Chaperones/Volunteers for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Long Drain School:

Sara Price

Magnolia High School:

J. Adam Herrick

Chelsey Milliken

Garrett Cox

New Martinsville School:

Iriaddeth Venegas

Hannah Jones

Bobby Jones

Madison Ash

Karri Davis

Hanna Hall

Amy Bennett

Michael Urbanek

Amy Urbanek

Christine Racer

Alexa Schupbach

Steven Hoagland

Melonie Hoagland

Paden City High School:

Lisa Shreves

Short Line School:

Chelsey Johnston

Shawn Johnston

Work Release:

Approval of request from Jane Beckett, Principal, and Jessica Mace, School Counselor for a senior at Valley High School to be excused every day after 4th period and drive personal vehicle to participate in the Work Release program. Student is currently on track in meeting all graduation requirements.

Commencement Date Revisions:

Approval to change the Commencement dates as follows:

Magnolia High School: from May 22, 2025 to May 29, 2025

Valley High School: from May 23, 2025 to May 30, 2025

Hundred High School: from May 24, 2025 to May 31, 2025

Paden City High School: from May 24, 2025 to May 31, 2025

Out of State Trips:

Approval of request from Melonie Miller, Principal, for Jacob Hoskins to attend the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, IL, December 17-20, 2024. Funded by Mr. Hoskins.

WETZEL COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Date November 22, 2024

Special
Kind of Meeting

Board of Education Office
Where Held

Linda M. Fonner, President
Presiding Officer

Use of Facilities:

Approval of request from Eric Emch, Principal, for the Shortline Lions Club to use the Short Line School kitchen and cafeteria for Breakfast with Santa on December 14, 2024.

Release from Wetzel County Schools:

Approval of requests to be released from Wetzel County Schools for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted.

Lease Agreement:

Approval for continued lease agreement with Huskie Lumber Company, Inc. for property on Route 7 leased from the Huskie Lumber Company (for parking buses in the Hundred Area) beginning October 16, 2024 through October 15, 2025 for \$2,400.00.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED UNDER ROUTINE MATTERS:

Mr. Castilow made the motion for approval of the Superintendent's recommendations as outlined under Routine Matters. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Nice and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Approval for Payment of Bills for the Month of October, 2024 (invoices approved at this meeting are available for review at the Wetzel County Schools' Financial Office); and Approval for Transfers and Increases in the Budget:

Mrs. Fonner made the motion for approval of the Payment of Bills for the Month of October, 2024. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mitchell and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board. There were no Transfers and Increases in the Budget.

FIRST AND SECOND READING OF REVISED WETZEL COUNTY POLICIES:

FIRST READING	SECOND READING	NEW POLICY	REVISED POLICY	DELETE POLICY	NAME OF POLICY	ORIGINATOR
	X		X		GCB: Employee Contracts and Compensation Plans	Jeff Lancaster
X			X		IGB: Alternative Education Programs for Disruptive Students	Todd Barcus
X			X		JEAA: Compulsory School Attendance	Todd Barcus

Approval of First and Second Reading of Revised Policies GCB, IGB, and JEAA as listed above:

Copies of the policies were provided in Board member packets and also located at www.wetzelcountyschools.com for public review. Mrs. Nice made the motion to approve the second reading of Revised Policy GCB and first reading of Revised Policies IGB and JEAA. Second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mitchell and the motion was approved unanimously by the members of the Board.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS:

December 10, 2024 – Regular Meeting at County Office, 6:00 p.m.

WETZEL COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Date November 22, 2024

<u>Special</u>	<u>Board of Education Office</u>	<u>Linda M. Fonner, President</u>
Kind of Meeting	Where Held	Presiding Officer

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Nice made the motion to adjourn this Special Meeting. Mr. Castilow seconded the motion for unanimous approval to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

President

Secretary

DRAFT