

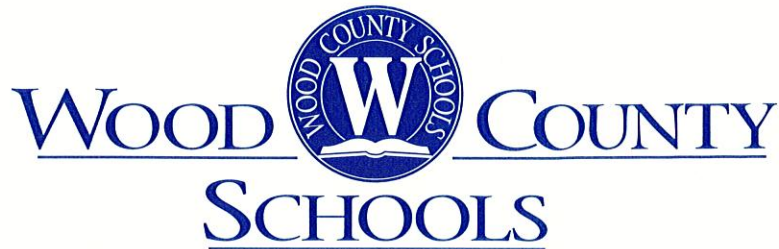
Executive Summary

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

Introduction: The Wood County Board of Education respectfully requests approval for the closure of Fairplains Elementary School and its merger into Martin Elementary 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 Wood County Board of Education requests approval of the following:

- The closure of Fairplains Elementary School and its merger into Martin Elementary 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. Documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time, and hearings were held on October 23, 2024, for Fairplains Elementary School and Martin Elementary School respectively. The Wood County Board of Education voted to approve these closures at their October 24, 2024 board meeting.



November 12, 2024

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

Dear Superintendent Blatt:

The request for consideration is the closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26101, to Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26101. The closure of Fairplains Elementary School would be at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

Wood County Schools Board of Education has completed all requirements for the final closure of Fairplains Elementary. The Wood County Board of Education voted 4-0 to close and merge Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School on October 24, 2024. All required documentation has been completed and submitted.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you need additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christie M. Willis'.

Christie M. Willis, Superintendent
cwillis@k12.wv.us
304-420-9663

**CLOSURE AND MERGER
OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



**Wood County Schools
Under the direction and authority of
The West Virginia Board of Education**

**Public Hearings October 23, 2024
County Board to Vote on Proposal October 24, 2024**

**IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA
FOR THE
CLOSURE AND MERGER
OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Prepared Pursuant to

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

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

**Public Hearings October 23, 2024
County Board to Vote on Proposal October 24, 2024**

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.

Table of Contents

3.1 County Procedures.....	3
3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements.....	4
3.2.a Student Enrollment.....	6
3.2.b. Facilities.....	9
3.2.c. Finance.....	14
3.2.d. Personnel.....	17
3.2.e. Student Transportation.....	22
3.2.f. Student Educational Program.....	24
3.2.g. Community.....	26
3.3. & 3.4. Public Notices and Hearings.....	29
3.5. County Board Actions.....	33
3.6. Superintendent Verification of Board Actions.....	34
Appendix of Supporting Data.....	35

3.1 County Procedures

WVDE Application for school closure and/or consolidation

Wood County

Closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary into existing Martin Elementary

Scheduled Date of Hearings: October 23, 2024

Scheduled Date of County Board Vote: October 24, 2024

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.*

Christie M. Willis

Christie M. Willis
Superintendent

11.12.24
Date:

3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

County Procedures

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

Over the last decade, the Wood County Board of Education has had a decline in student enrollment. In order to ensure that every student in Wood County receives a high-quality education, the Board proposes to consolidate services. The merger of Fairplains Elementary into existing Martin Elementary would not only reduce operating expenses but also enable the county to offer services that are currently beyond its budget. The specific proposal is to merge Fairplains Elementary into the current Martin Elementary, resulting in the closure of Fairplains Elementary School.

Enrollment 3.2.a. (Starting on Page 6)

Wood County has had a 1,929 decrease in population from 2014 through 2024. The enrollment is projected to decrease over the next 10 years in Wood County Schools.

Fairplains Elementary has decreased by 58 students over the past ten (10) years. During the past 10 years, the 2015-2016 school year was the height of enrollment in the past decade at 233 students. Enrollment has been trending to decrease, especially since the 2019-2020 school year. The average decline of Fairplains' enrollment during the last four (4) years is 19 students annually. The enrollment of Fairplains Elementary is 162 students. Fairplains Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 482 students.

Martin Elementary has decreased by 54 students over the past 10 years. The 2016-2017 school year was the height of enrollment in the past decade at 279 students. The current enrollment of Martin Elementary is 225 students. Martin Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 507 students. The combined enrollment of Martin Elementary merged with Fairplains Elementary in 2025-2026 is project to be 389 students.

Facilities 3.2.b. (Starting on Page 9)

Fairplains Elementary School is located 1.4 miles away from Martin Elementary School. Fairplains Elementary School is currently in fair condition and is not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. It has a building utilization rate of 33.6%. Martin Elementary School is in good condition, ADA compliant, and has a building utilization rate of 44.4%. After the merger, Martin Elementary will have a building utilization rate of 82.1%.

Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page 14)

The board is proposing to consolidate services in Wood County in order to provide a high-quality education to every student. The closure of Fairplains Elementary School and merger to Martin Elementary School would save the Board of Education \$861,244.49 annually, including savings on maintenance and operating expenses for aging buildings.

Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page 17)

The Wood County Board of Education has attempted to reduce staff due to a loss in enrollment over the last 10 years to meet the state aid funding formula for professional and service personnel. The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds were utilized for three (3) school years (2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024) to stabilize staff due to enrollment loss during this time period. ARP ESSER funds expire on September 30, 2024. Wood County Schools has decreased staff for the 2024-2025 school year based upon the loss of these funds.

The merger of Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary will result in a reduction of 7.5 professional personnel positions and four (4) service personnel positions while increasing the likelihood students are taught by certified teachers. Wood County Schools will continue to follow the West Virginia Department of Education recommended guidelines on the number of professional employees per grade-level per WV Code §18-5-18a and maintain the number of staff required to deliver the education programs to students. Some staff might be reduced due to the duplication of positions after the merger.

Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page 22)

Martin Elementary is located 1.4 miles from Fairplains. Existing bus routes will transport students to Martin Elementary. The routes will not exceed the thirty-minute guideline as outlined in the WVDE Policy 6200.

Student Educational Program 3.2.f. (Starting on Page 24)

Wood County Schools is dedicated to continuous improvement, preparing students for success in college, careers, and life. The district's mission statement, "Educating Today, Preparing for Tomorrow", emphasizes community collaboration to inspire learning, pursue excellence, and empower students to realize their potential. Wood County Schools is where education thrives in a supportive and forward-thinking environment. The closure of Fairplains Elementary to merge into Martin Elementary will be dedicated to continuous improvement.

The closure of Fairplains Elementary to merge with Martin Elementary will provide the opportunity to benefit educational programming for students. Martin Elementary, after the merger, will continue to serve students PreK through Grade 5. Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary are both Title I schools. Title I funds will continue to provide interventionists for students and a full-time Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal. Fairplains Elementary families who may have a child that would need to be taught in a PreK Special Needs classroom or Autism classroom would have the benefit of availability of these programs at Martin Elementary. The pool at Martin Elementary will be an added educational benefit for Fairplains students who will have access to educational opportunities the pool provides (e.g., swim lessons).

Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page 26)

The impacted schools are located close to each other, therefore Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary both engage with the same community. The receiving school (Martin Elementary) will essentially receive the same community support as the closing school (Fairplains Elementary). Since both affected schools are within 1.4 miles of each other, it is anticipated that the communities or their relationships with the schools will not be significantly affected.

3.2.a Student Enrollment

County Procedures

Enrollment and Population Table

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

Wood County Schools

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total	13,259	13,086	12,860	12,606	12,384	12,216	11,855	11,886	11,674	11,330

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.

Fairplains Elementary School

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total	220	233	217	214	214	224	207	180	167	162

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.

Martin Elementary School

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Total	260	254	279	252	252	250	218	228	207	225

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.

Wood County

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Population	86,569	86,237	86,452	85,643	85,104	84,203	83,518	83,518	82,938	83,340	83,052
Births	1,039	1,018	986	944	919	909	838	786	750	714	678
Deaths	1,045	1,097	1,068	1,108	1,094	1,138	1,112	1,192	1,213	1,234	1,255

Enrollment Table 4

Data Source: West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and census.gov
 Years 2021, 2022, and 2023 are estimated and italicized

Age Composition

Year	5 years or less	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	>85
2014	5,142	10,259	9,691	10,111	10,676	12,501	12,524	9,304	4,815	1,862
2015	5,013	10,179	9,869	9,962	10,514	12,208	12,449	9,433	4,958	1,867
2016	4,902	10,093	9,606	9,986	10,301	11,828	12,457	9,546	5,053	1,871
2017	4,913	9,899	9,416	9,823	10,126	11,543	12,460	9,746	5,271	1,907
2018	4,756	9,811	9,209	9,635	10,005	11,217	12,361	9,819	5,480	1,910
2019	4,606	9,779	9,082	9,539	9,864	10,920	12,264	9,956	5,616	1,892
2020	4,503	9,778	8,979	9,514	9,705	10,741	12,076	10,079	5,672	1,891
2021	4,374	9,698	8,801	9,365	9,543	10,448	12,001	10,208	5,815	1,896
2022	4,245	9,618	8,623	9,216	9,381	10,155	11,926	10,337	5,958	1,901
2023	4,116	9,538	8,445	9,067	9,219	9,862	11,851	10,466	6,101	1,906

Enrollment Table 5

Data Source: West Virginia Bureau for Public Health
 Years 2014, 2021, 2022, 2023 are estimated (*italicized*)

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

Fairplains Elementary

Year	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034
Grade PreK	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grade K	22	22	22	21	21	21	20	20	20	20
Grade 1	25	22	22	22	21	21	21	20	20	20
Grade 2	21	25	22	22	22	21	21	21	20	20
Grade 3	17	21	25	22	22	22	21	21	21	20
Grade 4	27	17	21	25	22	22	22	21	21	21
Grade 5	29	27	17	21	25	22	22	22	21	21

Enrollment Table 6

All years except 2024-2025 are estimates.

Martin Elementary

Year	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034
Grade PreK	36	36	36	36	35	35	35	34	34	34
Grade K	37	36	36	36	36	35	35	35	34	34
Grade 1	38	30	36	36	36	36	35	35	35	34
Grade 2	30	38	30	36	36	36	36	35	35	35
Grade 3	32	30	38	30	36	36	36	36	35	35
Grade 4	33	32	30	38	30	36	36	36	36	35
Grade 5	32	33	32	30	38	30	36	36	36	36

Enrollment Table 7

All years except 2024-2025 are estimates.

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.

Wood County Schools enrollment is projected to decline over the next 10 years. Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary have a trending decline in enrollment following the pattern of the district. The determination of enrollment was made by reviewing the past 10 years of enrollment trends for Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary, the certified October 1st enrollment for the past three (3) years, and the most recent census data for the county.

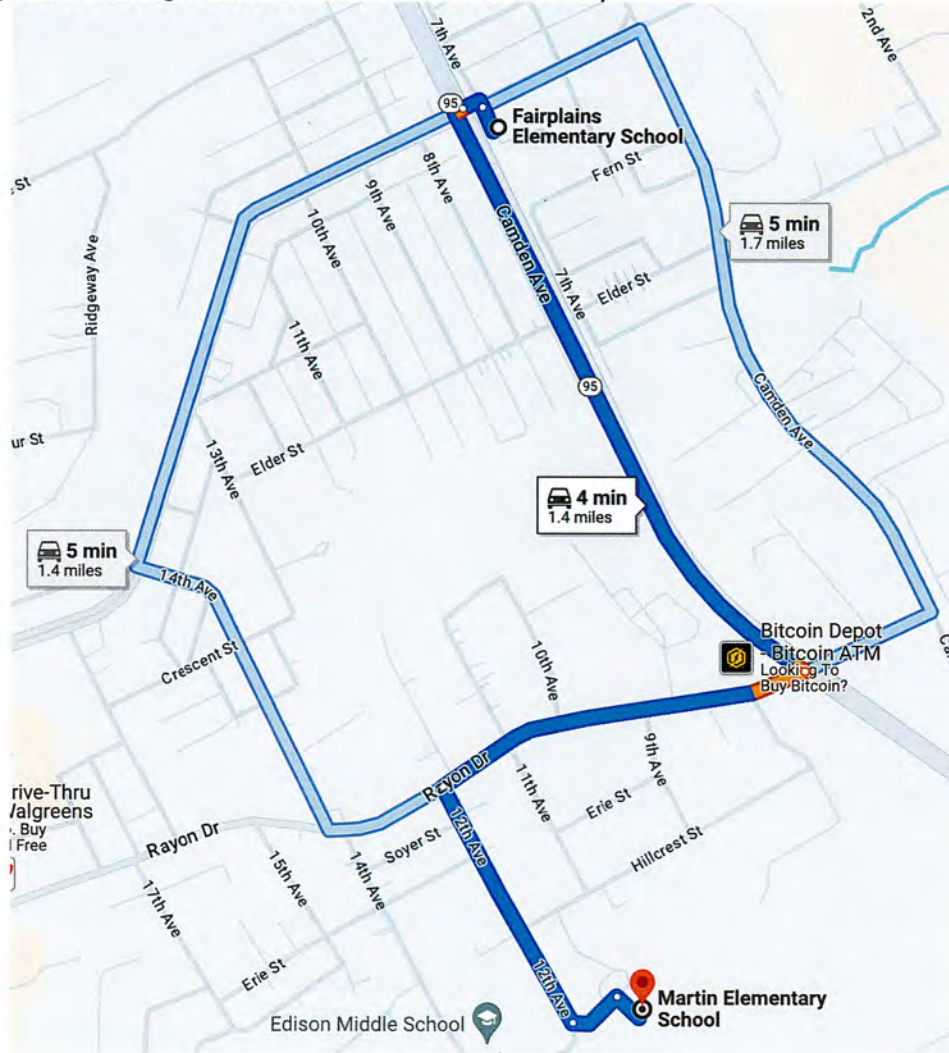
3.2.b. Facilities

County Procedures

Descriptive Maps

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

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



Map 1

The dark blue line shows the distance from Fairplains Elementary to Martin Elementary (1.4 miles). Camden Avenue and Rayon Drive are a portion of the bus route to Martin Elementary.

The light blue line with the street labeled Broadway Avenue is part of a bus route that will transport Martin Elementary students.

School	Grade Config.	Enrollment Before/After Action	Utilization Before/After Action	Distance to Fairplains Elementary	Distance to Martin Elementary
Closing Fairplains Elementary	PreK - 5	Before – 162 After - 0	Before – 33.6% After – 0%		1.4 miles
Receiving Martin Elementary	PreK - 5	Before – 225 After - 389	Before – 44.4% After – 82.1%	1.4 miles	

Facilities Table 1

After action enrollment is based on 2025-2026 projections.

Written Facility Condition Description

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

Fairplains Elementary is a two-story facility built in 1948, spanning 32,867 square feet. The Fairplains cafeteria was upgraded in 1972. There were classroom renovations in 1953 and 1957. Fairplains is a dated building with asbestos. In 2001, there were three (3) 1985 era classroom portables transported to Fairplains Elementary and access can only be gained by going outside of the school building.

Fairplains Elementary relies on a boiler system converted from coal to gas in the 1960s. There are two (2) sets of boilers at Fairplains Elementary, one (1) is the old Columbus unit and one (1) is a hydro therms installed in 1972, both are outdated and inefficient. The electrical service at Fairplains is 230V 3PH which is also not up to new facility standards; new facilities are 480V. Fairplains Elementary utilizes city water and city sewer. Cooling is provided by window AC units that do not provide proper ventilation.

Additionally, Fairplains lacks a secure entrance for visitors to enter the school. There are two (2) stairways to the upstairs of the school, however there is no elevator. Fairplains Elementary is not ADA compliant.

Martin Elementary is a 59,618 square foot, single-story facility built in 1985 with a swimming pool. There have been no additions to the original Martin Elementary School and there is no asbestos. Martin Elementary is ADA compliant and utilizes city water and city sewer. The roof of the school was replaced in 2017-2018. In 2020, the school facility received lighting upgrades to LED. New Lockinvar boilers are at Martin Elementary. Martin Elementary has 480V/277V electrical service. Ceiling tile replacement is in progress at Martin Elementary. Martin Elementary will have a secure entrance in the fall of 2024.

Martin Elementary has a pool that has been reconditioned with the addition of a salt-water treatment system and dehumidification system. The pool area has new LED lighting and a new pool heater.

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.

The most recent Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) was used to plan and develop facility improvements at Martin Elementary School. Fairplains Elementary is a PreK through Grade 5 school. Martin Elementary School has sufficient space for PreK through Grade 5 classrooms. The instruction at Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary aligns with Policy 2510. Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary are equipped with a wireless network to support daily use of technology by students, teachers, and staff. The planning phase for this merger has accounted for the appropriate staff to support the students with a whole child focus.

Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary are both Title I schools. Currently, the Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal splits time between Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary. The merger will provide the fiscal resources for one (1) full-time Curriculum and Instruction Principal to ensure academics are a priority.

The number of students attending Martin Elementary after the merger will increase therefore an additional assistant principal will be hired. The additional assistant principal will provide another administrator to be available for chairing Student Assistant Teams (SAT) meetings and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings.

Title I and levy funds will be utilized to provide eight (8) interventionists.

Fairplains Elementary nor Martin Elementary have a full-time counselor or full-time music teacher. After the merger, there will be one (1) full-time counselor and one (1) full-time music teacher at Martin Elementary.

Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary share a School Based School and Home Services Consultant. After the merger, there will be one (1) full-time School Based School and Home Services Consultant at Martin Elementary.

Unlike Fairplains Elementary, Martin Elementary is ADA compliant.

School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations

<i>School</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Building Capacity</i>	<i>Utilization %</i>
Closing – Fairplains Elementary	162	482	33.6%
Receiving - Martin Elementary School (Projected #)	389	474	82.1%

Facilities Table 2

Martin Elementary enrollment is based on 2025-2026 projections.

Utilization Calculation Sheet

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

See Appendix for this Documentation

Required Services and Barrier-free Environments

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

Fairplains Elementary School is not ADA compliant. It is a two-story facility with no elevator. To enter the gymnasium or cafeteria from inside the school building, utilizing stairs is required.

Martin Elementary is ADA accessible throughout the entire building including restrooms.

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

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

Wood County Schools is working to have facilities that are ADA compliant. Martin Elementary is ADA compliant. Fairplains Elementary is not ADA compliant.

Wood County Schools is also working to ensure all schools have secure entrances. Martin Elementary is going to have a secure entrance constructed in the fall of 2024. The addition of this secure entrance will result in a more secure facility. Fairplains Elementary does not have a secure entrance.

Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary have the grade configuration of Prekindergarten through Grade 5.

Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary are both Title I schools. With the merger of Fairplains Elementary into Martin Elementary, Title I funds will be utilized to provide one (1) full-time Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal, Interventionists, and one (1) full-time School Based School and Home Services Consultant. Currently, Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary share the Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal, and School Based School and Home Services Consultant.

Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action

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

Additions, renovations, or replacements are not required or proposed to Fairplains Elementary School for closure.

Additions, renovations, or replacements will be completed at Martin Elementary or are currently in progress to accommodate Fairplains Elementary. In 2020, the facility lighting was upgraded to LED. A secure entrance is being built at Martin Elementary in fall 2024 which will be finished before the merger and an HVAC upgrade throughout the school will be completed. The merger will create a need for a space for the music room; a few office walls will be removed to create a space for the music room prior to the merger.

The Future of Closed Facilities

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

The property where the current Fairplains Elementary School is located will be utilized as a warehouse location for Wood County Schools.

School Building Authority of WV (SBA)

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

The closure of Fairplains Elementary and its merger with Martin Elementary is not contingent upon SBA funding.

3.2.c. Finance

County Procedures

Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings

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

Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost

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

Fairplains Elementary School

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$70,461.47
<i>Personnel - Instruction</i>	\$930,186.81
<i>Personnel - Student Support</i>	\$91,845.72
<i>Personnel - Staff Support</i>	\$50,650.64
<i>Personnel - School Admin</i>	\$178,410.82
<i>Personnel - Maintenance</i>	\$120,325.64
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$26,842.19
<i>Transportation</i>	\$93,009.00
<i>Other</i>	\$17,786.10
<i>Total</i>	\$1,579,518.39

Finance Table 1

Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost

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

Martin Elementary School

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$87,871.54
<i>Personnel - Instruction</i>	\$1,864,102.91
<i>Personnel - Student Support</i>	\$169,681.97
<i>Personnel- Staff Support</i>	\$78,065.19
<i>Personnel – School Admin</i>	\$173,748.59
<i>Personnel - Maintenance</i>	\$173,416.61
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$70,932.43
<i>Transportation</i>	\$152,879.00
<i>Other</i>	\$24,274.23
<i>Total</i>	\$2,794,972.47

Finance Table 2

Anticipated Annual Cost after Action

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

Martin Elementary School

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$87,871.54
<i>Personnel - Instruction</i>	\$2,275,357.22
<i>Personnel – Student Support</i>	\$189,137.69
<i>Personnel – Staff Support</i>	\$128,715.83
<i>Personnel – School Admin</i>	\$290,467.41
<i>Personnel – Maintenance</i>	\$189,568.25
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$70,932.43
<i>Transportation</i>	\$251,196.00
<i>Other</i>	\$30,000.00
<i>Total</i>	\$3,513,246.37

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:

Fairplains Elementary School and Martin Elementary School

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost or Savings</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$70,461.47
<i>Personnel – Instruction</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$518,932.50
<i>Personnel – Student Support</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$72,390.00
<i>Personnel – Staff Support</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$0.0
<i>Personnel – School Admin</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$61,692.00
<i>Personnel – Maintenance</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$104,174.00
<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$26,842.19
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Cost</i>	\$5,308.00
<i>Other</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$12,060.33
<i>Total</i>	<i>Savings</i>	\$861,244.49

Finance Table 4

Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

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

Martin Elementary – Three (3) offices will need to have walls torn down in order to make a space for a music room. The estimated cost is \$50,000.

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.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Unrestricted General Current Expense Fund Balance</i>	<i>Approved Levy Estimate</i>	<i>Percentage of Approved Levy Estimate</i>
2023	8,737,899	110,561,654	7.90%
2022	10,343,683	108,968,089	9.49%
2021	9,651,495	112,477,424	8.58%
2020	6,024,420	113,691,992	5.30%
2019	4,807,327	105,570,220	4.55%

Finance Table 5

3.2.d. Personnel

County Procedures

Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes

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

Personnel – An analysis of the effect of the proposed closure of Fairplains Elementary and the merger with existing Martin Elementary.

Professional Position Title	Fairplains Number Employed 2024-2025	Fairplains Number Employed 2025-2026	Martin Number Employed 2024-2025	Merged Fairplains/ Martin Number Employed 2025-2026	Difference Employed After Merger
Principals	1	0	1	1	-1
C&I Assistant Principal	.5	0	.5	1	0
Assistant Principal	0	0	0	1	+1
Nurses	1	0	1	1	-1
PreKindergarten Teachers	1	0	3	4	0
Kindergarten Teachers	1	0	2	3	0
Grade 1 Teachers	1	0	2	2	-1
Grade 2 Teachers	1	0	2	3	0
Grade 3 Teachers	1	0	2	3	0
Grade 4 Teachers	2	0	2	2	-2
Grade 5 Teachers	2	0	2	3	-1
Physical Education Teachers	1	0	1	1	-1
Library Teachers	.5	0	1	1	-.5
Music Teachers	.5	0	.5	1	0
Interventionists	4.5	0	3.5	8	0
Special Ed. Multi-Cat Teachers	2	0	2	3	-1
Special Ed. Autism Teacher	0	0	1	1	0
Special Ed. Speech	1	0	2	3	0
Special Ed. Adaptive P.E. Teachers	0	0	2	2	0
Special Ed. OT/PT	0	0	6	6	0
Counselor	.5	0	.5	1	0
School Based School and Home Services Consultant	.5	0	.5	1	0
Total Professional Personnel	22	0	37.5	52	-7.5

Service Position Title	Fairplains Number Employed FY 2024	Fairplains Number Employed FY 2025	Martin Number Employed FY 2024	Merged Fairplains/ Martin Number Employed FY 2025	Difference Employed After Merger
Secretaries	1	0	1	1	-1
Custodians (8 hour)	2	0	3	4	-1
Cooks (8 hour)	2	0	2	4	0
Cooks (4 hour)	0	0	1	0	-1
Austism Aides	0	0	3	3	0
PreK Aides	1	0	3	4	0
Kindergarten Aides	1	0	2	3	0
Grade 1 Aides	1	0	2	2	-1
Grade 2 Aides	1	0	2	3	0
Adaptive P.E. Aides	0	0	2	2	0
Personal Care Aides	0	0	6	6	0
Total Service Personnel	9	0	27	32	-4

Personnel Table 1

Staffing based on August 5, 2024, enrollment.

Personnel data are cumulative utilizing full-time equivalency (FTE) and include half-time positions in the total.

The Interventionists are contingent upon anticipated levy and federal funding.

Fairplains Elementary – Current School Personnel Data Chart					
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse	School Based School and Home Services Consultant
<i>Number of professional personnel currently employed at the affected school</i>	1.5	17.5	.5	1	.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary	
<i>Number of service personnel currently employed at the affected school</i>	2	4	2	1	

Personnel Table 2

Personnel data are cumulative utilizing full-time equivalency (FTE) and include half-time positions in the totals.

Although there are 19 separate teachers which amounts to 17.5 FTE, three (3) are at Fairplains Elementary part-time: Library (0.5), Music (0.5), and an interventionist (0.5).

Martin Elementary Total – Current School Personnel Before Proposed Action					
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse	School Based School and Home Services Consultant
<i>Total number of professional personnel currently employed at affected school</i>	1.5	32	.5	1	.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary	
<i>Total number of service personnel currently employed at affected school</i>	3	20	3	1	

Personnel Table 3

Personnel data are cumulative utilizing full-time equivalency (FTE) and include half-time positions in the totals.

Of the four (4) cook positions which amount to three (3) FTE, two (2) cook positions are 8-hour positions and two (2) cook positions are 4-hour positions.

Martin Elementary and Fairplains Elementary – Current Schools Personnel Before Proposed Action					
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurses	School Based School and Home Services Consultant
<i>Total number of professional personnel currently employed at the affected school</i>	3	49.5	1	2	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretaries	
<i>Total number of service personnel currently employed at the affected school</i>	5	24	5	2	

Personnel Table 4

Personnel data are cumulative utilizing full-time equivalency (FTE) and include half-time positions in the totals.

Of the six (6) cook positions, which amount to five (5) FTE, four (4) cook positions are 8-hour positions and two (2) cook positions are 4-hour positions.

Martin Elementary - Total Personnel Anticipated After Proposed Action					
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse	School Based School and Home Services Consultant
<i>Total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school upon the completion of the merger</i>	3	43	1	1	1
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary	
<i>Total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school upon the completion of the merger</i>	4	23	4	1	

Personnel Table 5

Personnel data are cumulative utilizing full-time equivalency (FTE) and include half-time positions in the totals.

Of the four (4) cook positions at Martin Elementary, all four (4) will be 8-hour positions after the merger.

Martin Elementary – Anticipated Net Change After Proposed Action					
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse	School Based School and Home Services Consultant
<i>The anticipated net change in professional personnel due to the proposed merger</i>	+1.5	+11	+0.5	0	+0.5
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodian	Secretary	
<i>The anticipated net change in service personnel due to the proposed merger</i>	+1	+3	+1	0	

Personnel Table 6

Personnel data are cumulative utilizing full-time equivalency (FTE) and include half-time positions in the totals.

Of the four (4) cook positions at Martin Elementary, all four (4) will be 8-hour employees after the merger.

(Post Merger) Martin Elementary School – Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary					
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse	School Based School and Home Services Consultant
<i>Decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Decrease that will occur through a reduction in force</i>	0	-6.5	0	-1	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodian	Secretary	
<i>Decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0	
<i>Decrease that will occur through reduction in force</i>	-1	-1	-1	-1	

Personnel Table 7

There are three (3) administration positions affected by the merger, two (2) principals and one (1) Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal. After the merger, there will be one (1) principal, one (1) assistant principal, and one (1) Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal at Martin Elementary.

There are six (6) cook positions affected by the merger. There are four (4) 8-hour cook positions and two (2) 4-hour cook positions prior to the merger. After the merger, there will be four (4) 8-hour cooks at Martin Elementary.

Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary each have one (1) full-time nurse. There will be one (1) nurse at Martin Elementary after the merger.

With the merger of Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary, there are 6.5 teaching positions that will be eliminated by the merger: Grade 1 (1), Grade 4 (2), Grade 5 (1), Physical Education (1), Library (.5), and Multi-categorical (1).

Due to the lack of need of a Grade 1 classroom at Martin Elementary, there is a reduction of one (1) aide position after the merger.

3.2.e. Student Transportation

County Procedures

Analysis of Anticipated Transportation Time Changes

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

Current and Differences of Travel Times

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

Fairplains Elementary School

Route	Community	Current Travel Time	Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
Route 245	Camden Ave and Broadway Ave	10 Min	15 Min	5 Min Increase

Transportation Table 1

*Students will not be expected to cross any major roads (e.g., Rt. 95) to Martin Elementary

Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

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

Martin Elementary School

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
Route 245	Camden Ave and Broadway Ave	15 Min	0 Min	No
Route 190	Camden Ave and Edgelawn Area	15 Min	0 Min	No

Transportation Table 2

*A waiver of WVBE Policy 4336 is only required for elementary school routes that have a one-way transportation time greater than 30 minutes.

Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

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

There are no such neighboring county public schools.

3.2.f. Student Educational Program

County Procedures

Analysis and Assurance of Consideration

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

Wood County Schools has monitored academic growth of both Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary Schools. Wood County Schools will ensure student learning will continue to be the focus and educational programming will support academic progress.

On the General Summative Assessment (GSA) administered during the 2023-2024 school year, Fairplains Elementary students scored 43.8% proficient in Mathematics, 42.5% proficient in English Language Arts, and 20% proficient in Science.

On the GSA administered during the 2023-2024 school year, Martin Elementary students scored 56.1% proficient in Mathematics, 54.9% proficient in English Language Arts, and 38.5% proficient in Science.

Fairplains Elementary School has Title I funding adequate to fund a half-time (.5) Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal. Martin Elementary has Title I funding adequate to fund a half-time (.5) Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal. The merger of Fairplains Elementary School and Martin Elementary School into one student body will allow Title I funds to support one (1) full-time 215-day Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal.

Fairplains Elementary School has Title I funding adequate to fund a half-time (.5) School Based School and Home Services Consultant. Martin Elementary has Title I funding adequate to fund a half-time (.5) School Based School and Home Services Consultant. The merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School into one student body will allow Title I funds to support one (1) full-time School Based School and Home Services Consultant.

Fairplains Elementary School and Martin Elementary School are Title I Schools. Fairplains Elementary has 4.5 interventionists and Martin Elementary School has 3.5 interventionists. Four (4) interventionists are paid with Title I funds at Fairplains Elementary and two (2) are paid with Title I funds at Martin Elementary. Martin Elementary has one (1) interventionist position that is paid for partially with Title I funds and the other half is paid with school improvement funds. Each school has a half-time interventionist which is shared between the two (2) schools and paid with county funds. With the merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School, there will be eight (8) interventionists to continue to support students' academic needs in math and reading.

Fairplains Elementary School has a half-time (.5) counselor. Martin Elementary has a half-time (.5) counselor. With the merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School, the students will have access to one (1) full-time counselor at Martin Elementary which will provide the students with stability and foster relationships with families.

Fairplains Elementary School has a half-time (.5) music teacher. Martin Elementary has a half-time (.5) music teacher. With the merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School, the students will have access to one (1) full-time music teacher at Martin

Elementary which will be beneficial to the academic programming for the students at Martin Elementary after the merger.

Fairplains Elementary School has a half-time (.5) librarian. Martin Elementary has one (1) full-time librarian. With the merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School, the students will have access to one (1) full-time librarian at Martin Elementary which will be beneficial to the academic programming for the students at Martin Elementary after the merger.

Fairplains Elementary School does not have a PreK Special Needs class. Martin Elementary School does have a PreK Special Needs class which will be a valuable addition for Fairplains Elementary students who may need this program.

Fairplains Elementary School does not have an Autism class. Martin Elementary School has one (1) Autism class which will be a valuable addition for Fairplains Elementary students who may need this program.

In adherence with Policy 2419, Special Education students will have access to programs including multi-categorical, Autism, PreK Special Needs, Adaptive Physical Education, Speech, Physical Therapy, and/or Occupational Therapy, as prescribed in the students' Individualized Education Plans.

For student safety, Martin Elementary will have a secure entrance constructed in the fall of 2024. Fairplains Elementary does not have a secure entrance.

In consideration of the closure of Fairplains Elementary School, the following policies have been considered in the planning of the educational programs at Martin Elementary School.

Affected School Name(s)

Fairplains Elementary School and Martin Elementary School

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

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

Christie M. Willis
Superintendent

9.18.24
Date:

3.2.g. Community

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

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

Identify Schools: Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary

Fairplains Elementary is located 1.4 miles from Martin Elementary, about a 29-minute walk or a 4-minute drive. The current enrollment at Fairplains Elementary is 162 students.

Fairplains Elementary was opened in 1945 and was a highly populated elementary school for many years serving the community well. Citizens in the community remember when Fairplains served a robust number of students as an elementary school serving students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 6. Unfortunately, the economy is one (1) factor impacting the enrollment at Fairplains Elementary. At one time, there were three (3) companies formerly in the vicinity of Fairplains which provided jobs in the community: AB Chance, Viscose, and Ames. All three of these businesses are no longer in operation.

Fairplains Elementary has been well supported by local businesses and those local businesses will be asked if they would like to support Martin Elementary in partnership with the merger of Fairplains Elementary into Martin Elementary.

Currently, Peoples Cartage, Camden Clark Medical Center, Ritchie Regional Health Centers, and the Building Trades are integral to the local economy and have developed strong ties with Fairplains Elementary. Their support ranges from volunteering and providing resources that enrich the educational experience for students or providing basic needs. Parkersburg Plumbing provides backpacks and shoes for students attending Fairplains Elementary as needed. The needs of the Fairplains Elementary students will continue to exist after this merger and the intention will be to provide avenues for these businesses to be able to continue their generous support.

Wood County Schools is aware that some families of Fairplains students do not have vehicles to transport students to Martin Elementary. Wood County Schools will provide transportation for students from the Fairplains district to Martin Elementary. Transportation will also be provided for families from the Fairplains district to Martin Elementary for Title I family involvement activities.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg (WVUP) significantly contributes to Fairplains Elementary as a partnership school. WVUP has had a partnership with Martin Elementary in the past and will be afforded the opportunity to connect to Martin Elementary following the merger to continue partnership activities for the students. The educational initiatives enhance learning outcomes and provide valuable hands-on experiences for future educators while providing learning opportunities for students.

Martin Elementary and Fairplains Elementary are both participants in the foster grandparent program. This program will continue at Martin Elementary after the merger.

Martin Elementary has served the Wood County community since 1985. The school was built to be ADA compliant. There are approximately 70 students who attend Martin Elementary out-of-district. Martin Elementary is adjacent to Edison Middle School. The two (2) schools share an entrance road.

Martin has three (3) business partners: Bosley's Rental and Supply, Peoples Bank, and Dudley's Florist.

Wood County Society has used the pool for adaptive aquatics and for senior water aerobics in the evenings. Also, Wood County Society uses Martin Elementary School during the summer months for their summer speech program. Martin Elementary also provides a space for Energy Express during the summer months.

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

Identify Schools: Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary

With the closure of Fairplains Elementary, there will be the potential for new relationships to be developed. The communities have the potential to take what they were doing well with their schools and expand on their strengths to affect a greater number of students. New relationships with more families, a larger community, and more business members can be cultivated and consolidated.

Fairplains Elementary has been well supported by local businesses and these local businesses will be asked if they would like to support Martin Elementary in partnership with the merger of Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary.

Currently, Peoples Cartage, Camden Clark Medical Center, Ritchie Regional Health Centers, and the Building Trades are integral to the local economy and have developed strong ties with Fairplains Elementary. Their support ranges from volunteering and providing resources that enrich the educational experience for students or providing basic needs. Parkersburg Plumbing provides backpacks and shoes for students attending Fairplains Elementary as needed. The needs of the Fairplains students will continue to exist after this merger and the intention will be to provide avenues for these businesses to be able to continue their generous support.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg (WVUP) contributes significantly to Fairplains Elementary as a partnership school. WVUP has had a partnership with Martin Elementary in the past and will be afforded the opportunity to connect to Martin Elementary following the merger to continue partnership activities for the students. The educational initiatives enhance learning outcomes and provide valuable hands-on experiences for future educators while providing learning opportunities for students.

Martin Elementary has strong business partnerships that will be afforded the opportunity to embrace the Fairplains Elementary community in the merger which will forge new relationships and opportunities for the students, staff, and businesses. The principal at Martin Elementary intends to have a "welcome to the neighborhood" theme to provide a warm invitation to the Fairplains school community which will include business partnerships.

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

Identify Schools: Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary

The consolidation of Fairplains Elementary with Martin Elementary presents an opportunity to forge new relationships and strengthen community bonds. While the closure of Fairplains Elementary undoubtedly brings challenges, merging with Martin Elementary opens avenues for collaboration, innovation, and shared resources that can benefit both students, staff and the broader community.

Bringing together two (2) school communities allows for the pooling of talents, resources, and expertise from educators, staff, and parents. This consolidation can lead to enriched educational programs, expanded extracurricular activities, and enhanced support services for students. Collaborative efforts can foster a sense of unity and shared purpose among students and families from both former school communities.

Moreover, the combined efforts of alumni from both Fairplains and Martin Elementary, who may now have a shared stake in the success of the consolidated school, can contribute to a renewed sense of community pride and engagement. Alumni networks can play a crucial role in supporting fundraising efforts, advocating for educational initiatives, and preserving the heritage and traditions of both schools within the new entity.

In conclusion, while the closure of Fairplains Elementary brings about challenges and changes, the consolidation with Martin Elementary opens doors to new possibilities for community building, educational enrichment, and collective support for students. Embracing this opportunity with a spirit of collaboration and optimism can lead to a brighter future for all involved.

3.3. & 3.4. Public Notices and Hearings

County Procedures

Notice of Public Hearing(s)

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

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

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

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

Typed Copy of Legal Advertisement

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follow:

- **LOCATION:** Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- **LOCATION:** Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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 11:00 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 11:00 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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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 Wood 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. Each speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless, in accordance with Board Policy 1000, the President reduces that time limit to provide all persons wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with six (6) copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, before noon on October 21, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Fairplains and Martin Elementary Schools.

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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Fairplains Elementary School and merge it into existing Martin Elementary School at its meeting at Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, West Virginia, on October 24, 2024, beginning at 8:30 p.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 October 29, 2024.

Christie M. Willis,
Superintendent
Wood County Board of Education

First Run: September 30, 2024
Second Run: October 7, 2024
Third Run: October 14, 2024
Fourth Run: October 21, 2024

Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice

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

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

Identify Schools: Fairplains Elementary School (closing) and Martin Elementary School (receiving)

First Run: September 30, 2024

Second Run: October 7, 2024

Third Run: October 14, 2024

Fourth Run: October 21, 2024

Qualified Newspaper Name: Parkersburg News and Sentinel

See Appendix for this Documentation

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

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

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

See Appendix for this Documentation

3.5. County Board Actions

County Procedures

County Board Vote(s)

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

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

Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)

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

Wood County Schools will be amending its CEFP to account for this change.

School Building Authority of WV

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

The closure is not contingent upon SBA funding.

3.6. Superintendent Verification of Board Actions

County Procedures

Date(s) of public hearings:

Closing School: Fairplains Elementary School on October 23, 2024

Receiving School: Martin Elementary School on October 23, 2024

Date of county board approval:

October 24, 2024

Wood County requests the West Virginia Board of Education approve the following

Closure and Merger of Fairplains Elementary into the existing Martin Elementary School.

Checkmark each section and sign below:

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

Christie M. Willis

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

Christie M. Willis
Superintendent

11.12.24
Date:

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

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

County: Wood School: Fairplains Elementary Current Enrollment: 162

Classroom Types	Number of Classroom Types	X	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PreK	1	X	20	=	20
Kindergarten	3	X	23	=	69
Grade 1	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 2	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 3	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 4	3	X	28	=	84
Grade 5	3	X	28	=	84
Totals:	19		174		482

Program Utilization ($\frac{162}{\text{Current Enrollment}}$ divided by $\frac{482}{\text{Total Program Capacity}}$) times 100 = 33.6 %
 Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 33.6 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

Instructions for Calculating Building Program Utilization

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

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

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

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

County: Wood School: Martin Elementary Current Enrollment: 225

Classroom Types	Number of Classroom Types	X	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PreK*	3	X	20/15/10	=	45
Kindergarten	3	X	23	=	69
Grade 1	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 2	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 3	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 4	3	X	28	=	84
Grade 5	3	X	28	=	84
Totals:	20		174/169/164		507

*Currently, there are three (3) PreK rooms with the potential to hold 30 students. However, two (2) are being utilized for PreK special needs with enrollment max capacity of 10 and 15 students.

Program Utilization ($\frac{225}{\text{Current Enrollment}}$ divided by $\frac{507}{\text{Total Program Capacity}}$) times 100 = 44.4 %
 Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 44.4 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

Instructions for Calculating Building Program Utilization

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

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

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

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

County: Wood School: Merged Martin Elementary Projected Enrollment: 389

Classroom Types	Number of Classroom Types	X	Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity	=	Total Program Capacity
PreK*	4	X	20/15/10/20	=	65
Kindergarten	3	X	23	=	69
Grade 1	2	X	25	=	50
Grade 2	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 3	3	X	25	=	75
Grade 4	2	X	28	=	56
Grade 5	3	X	28	=	84
Totals:	20		174/169/164/174		474

*There will be four (4) PreK rooms with the potential to hold 80 students. However, two (2) will be utilized for PreK special needs with enrollment max capacity of 10 and 15 students.

Program Utilization (389 divided by 474) times 100 = 82.1 %
 Projected Enrollment Total Program Capacity Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 82.1 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

Instructions for Calculating Building Program Utilization

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

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

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

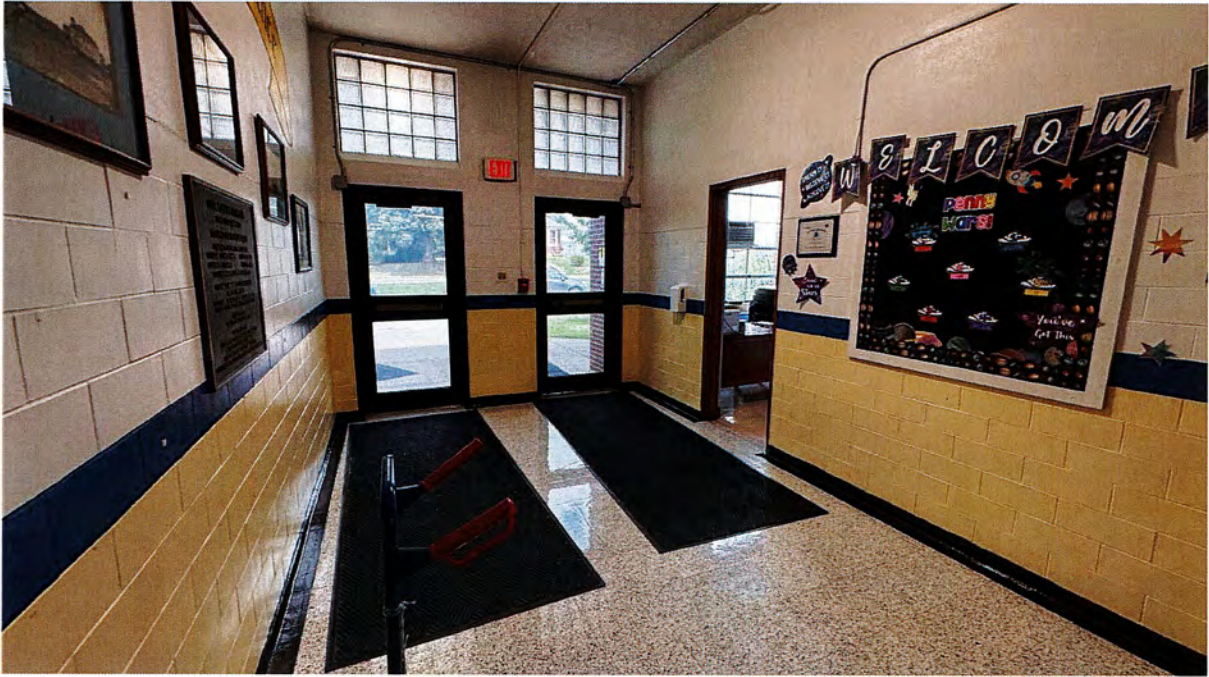
LEA ID: 096207	Assessment Date: 7/8/2019
County: Wood	Total Gross Square Feet: 30880
Facility Name: Fairplains Elementary School	Original Year of Construction: 1948

Individual School Utilization Analysis										
Classroom Type	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft.	Portables	Location (City, St)	Max Students Per Room	X	Total Program Capacity	Utilization Calculation
Lowest Grade Level:	PK	PK - 5	2	30,880	4	Parkersburg, WV				
Highest Grade Level:	5	76								
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)	Max Students Per Room	X	Total Program Capacity	Utilization Calculation			
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)	2			20		40	ES	Current Enrollment		
Kindergarten (Full Day)	2			20		40	ES	207		
General Purpose Classroom	8			25		200	ES, MS, HS	Total Program Capacity	294	
Computer Lab	n/a			25		0	MS, HS			
Art Lab	n/a			25		0	MS, HS			
Music Classroom	n/a			25		0	MS, HS			
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a	n/a	0		0	ES, MS, HS			
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)	1			6		6				
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)				12		0				
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)	0			12		0				
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)	1			8		8				
Special Education Classroom	0			6		0	ES, MS, HS	Utilization Calculation	70%	
Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a			20		0	MS, HS			
Physical Education	n/a			50		0	MS, HS			
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a			25		0	MS, HS	Desirable Utilization	85%	
Business Education	n/a			25		0	MS, HS			
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a			25		0	MS, HS			
Totals	14	0	0			294		Difference	-15%	

FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY



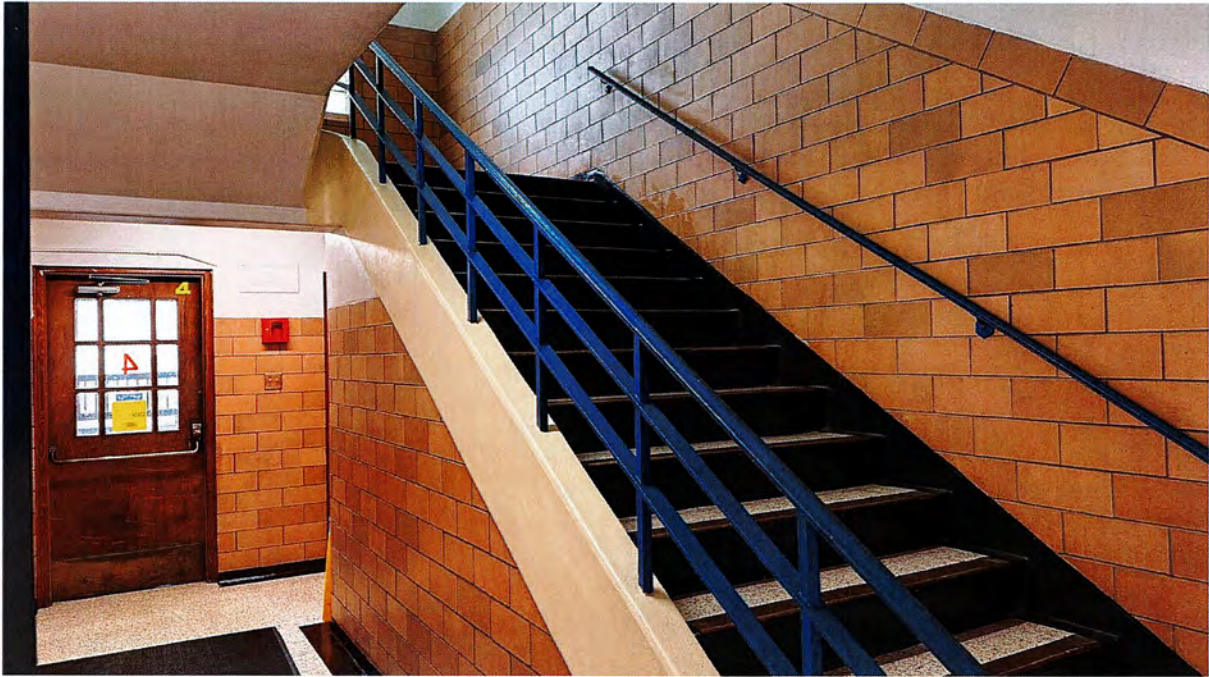
Front Entrance



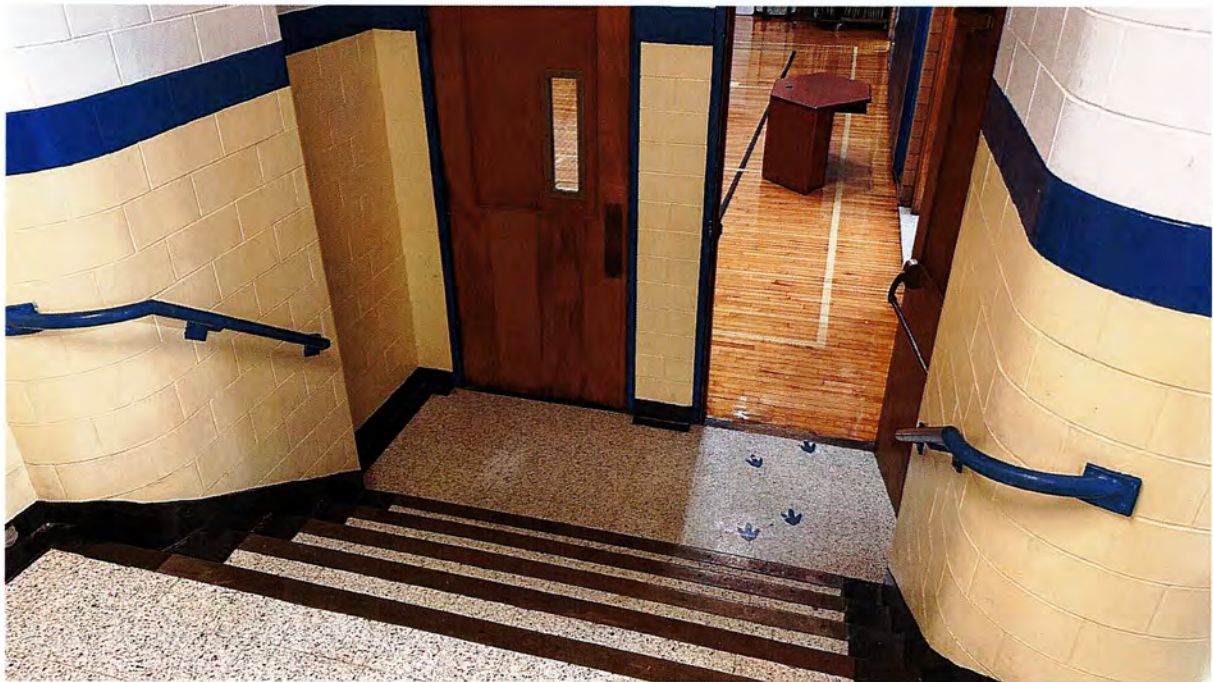
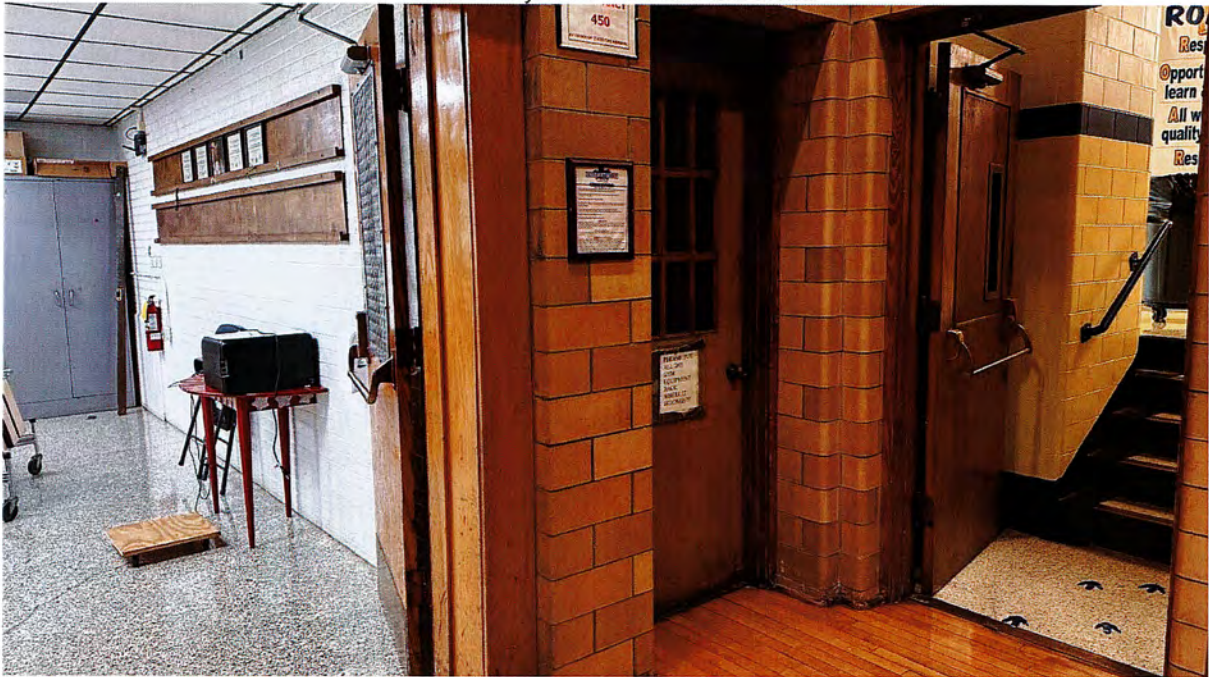
Office



Stairway



Stairs to Gymanasium and Cafeteria



Classrooms





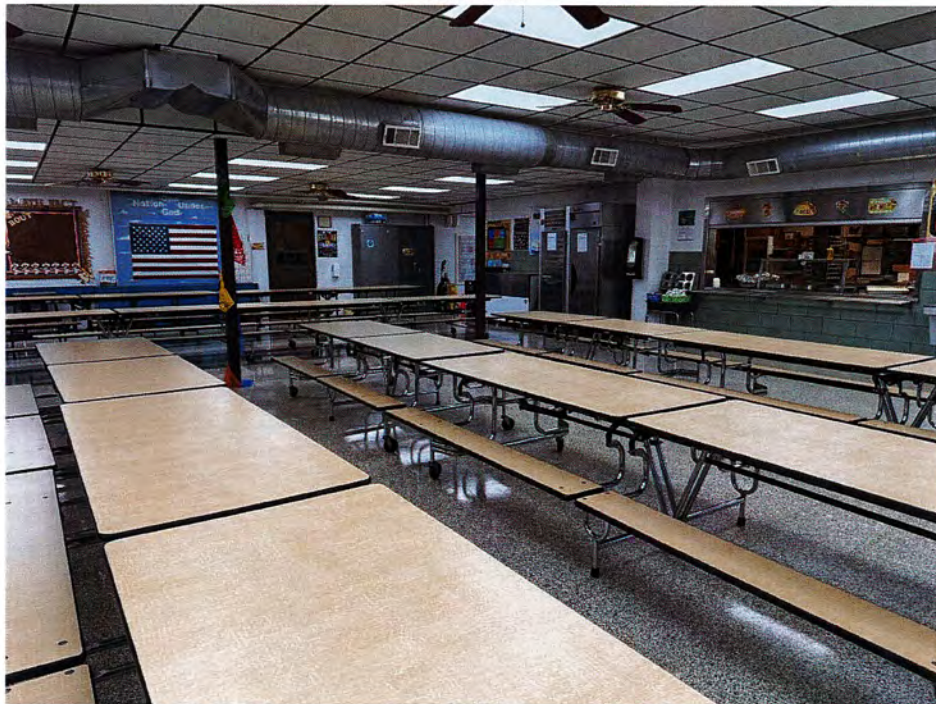
Hallway



Gymnasium



Cafeteria

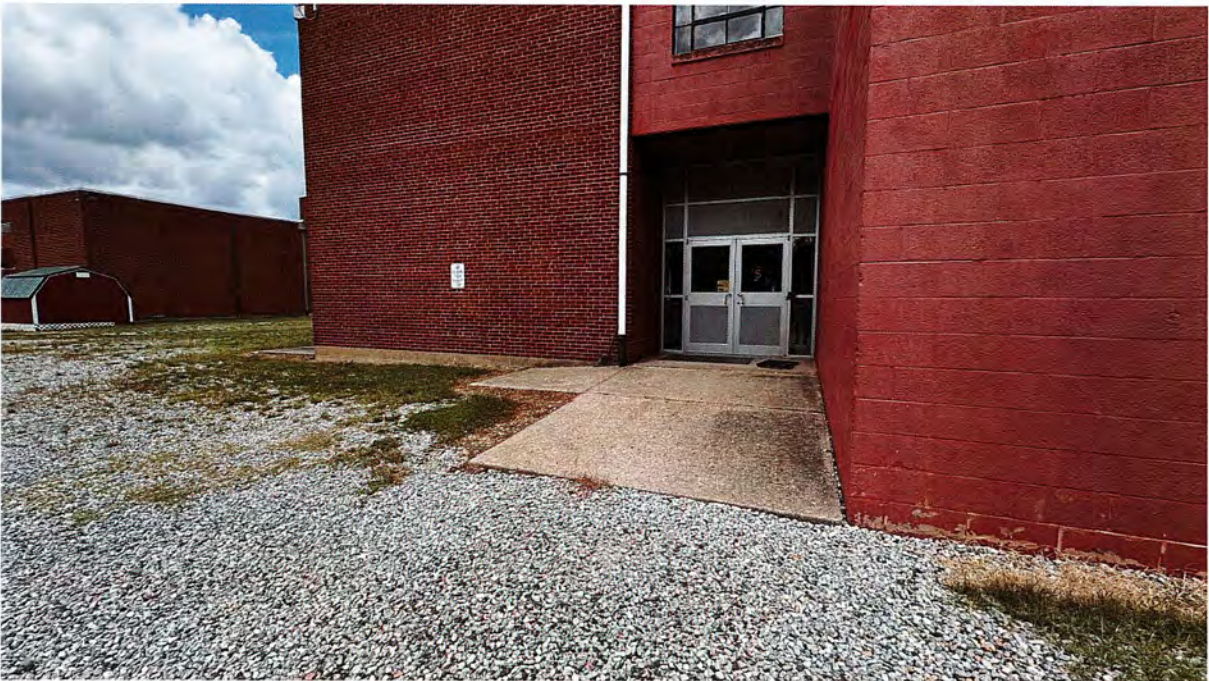


Exterior



Exterior





Playground



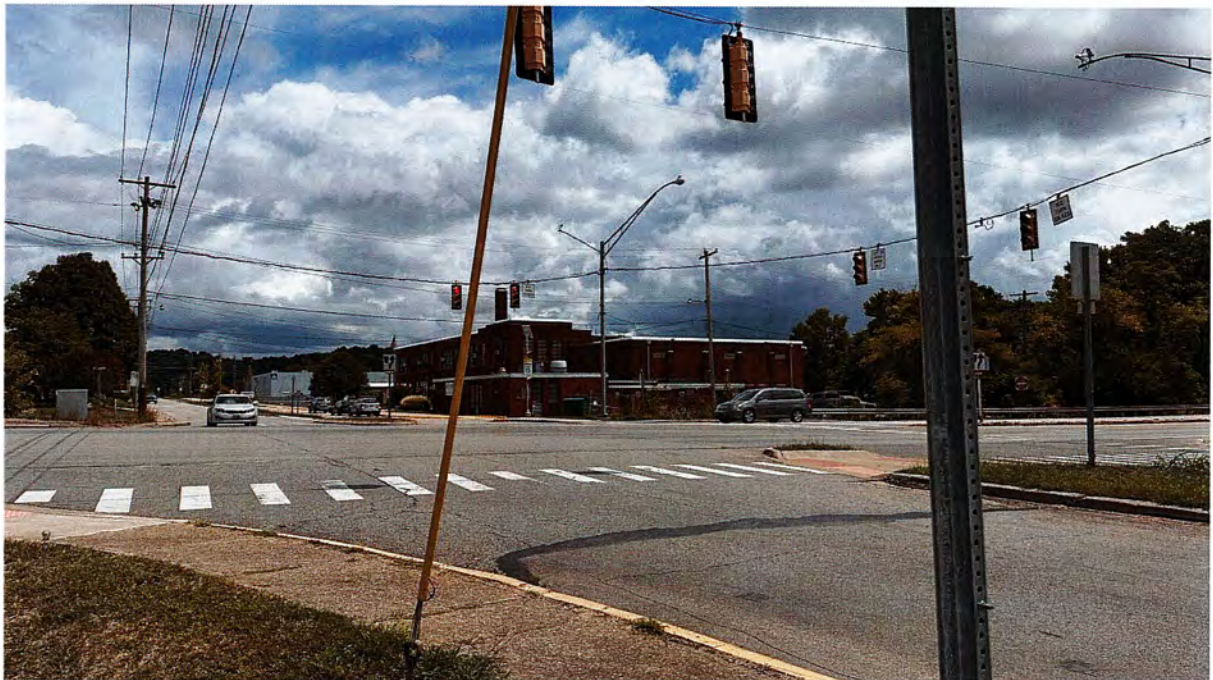
Portables



Portables



School Location



MARTIN ELEMENTARY



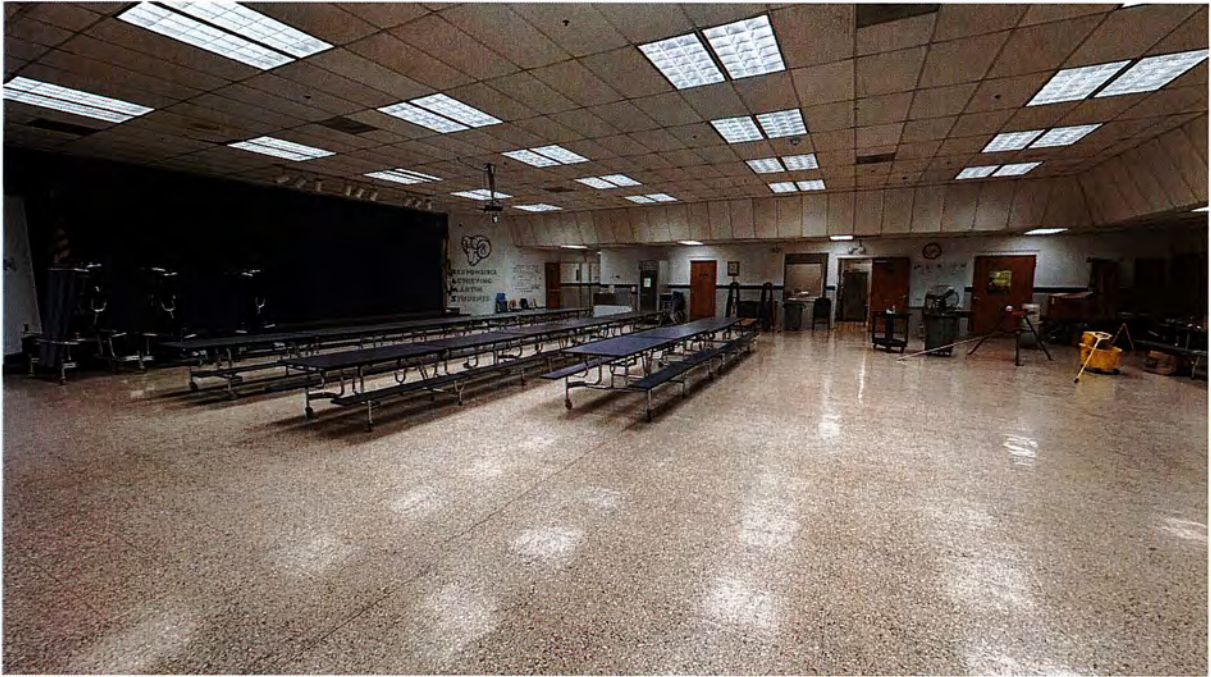
Drop Off Loop



Drop Off Loop



Cafeteria



Gymnasium



Playground #1



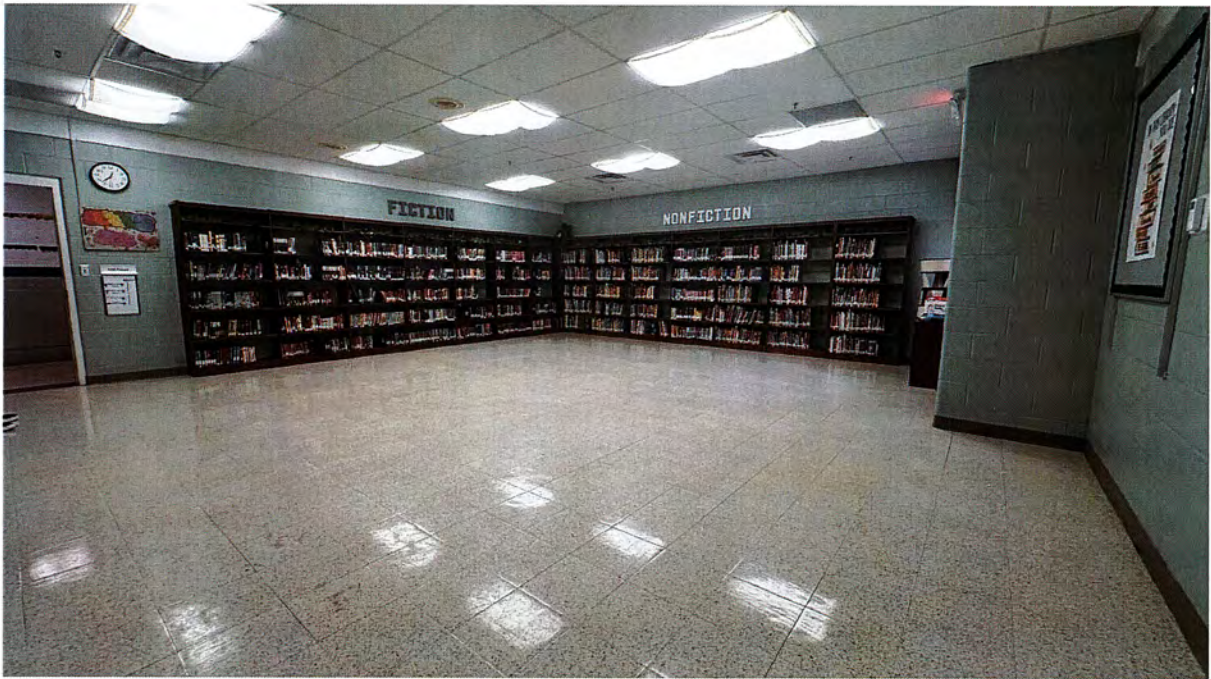
Playground #2



Classroom



Library



Gymnasium



Hallway



ADA Compliant Restroom



Pool



Pool



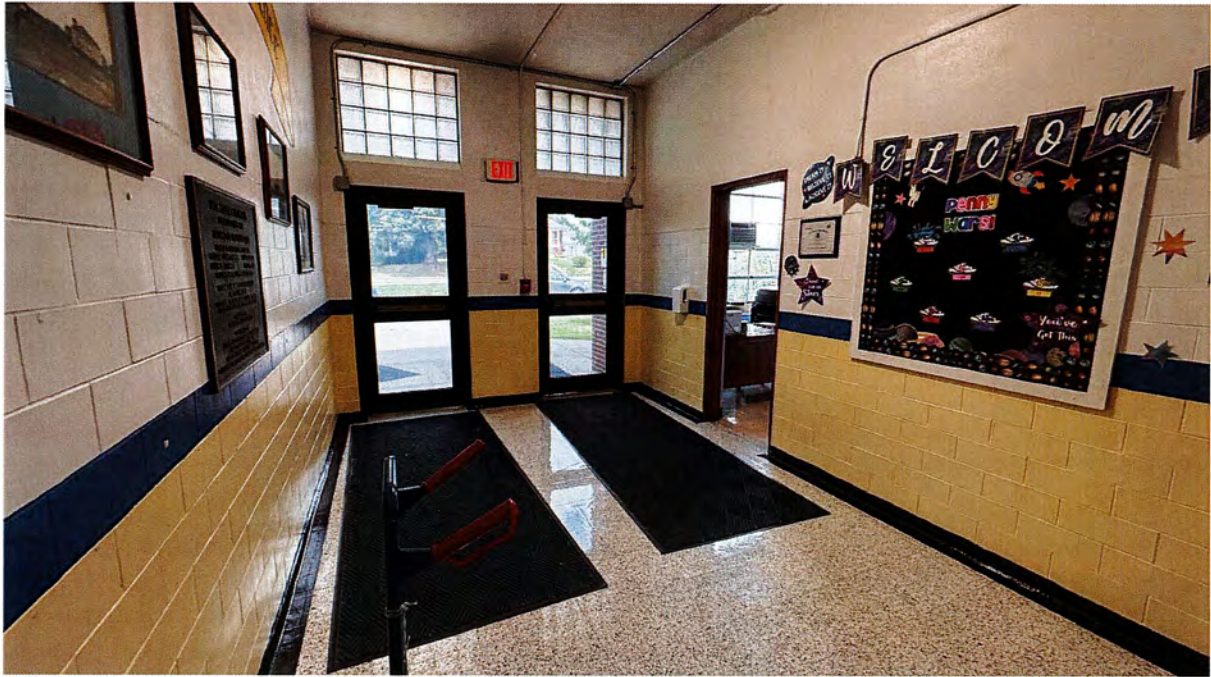
Pool Mechanical Room



FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY



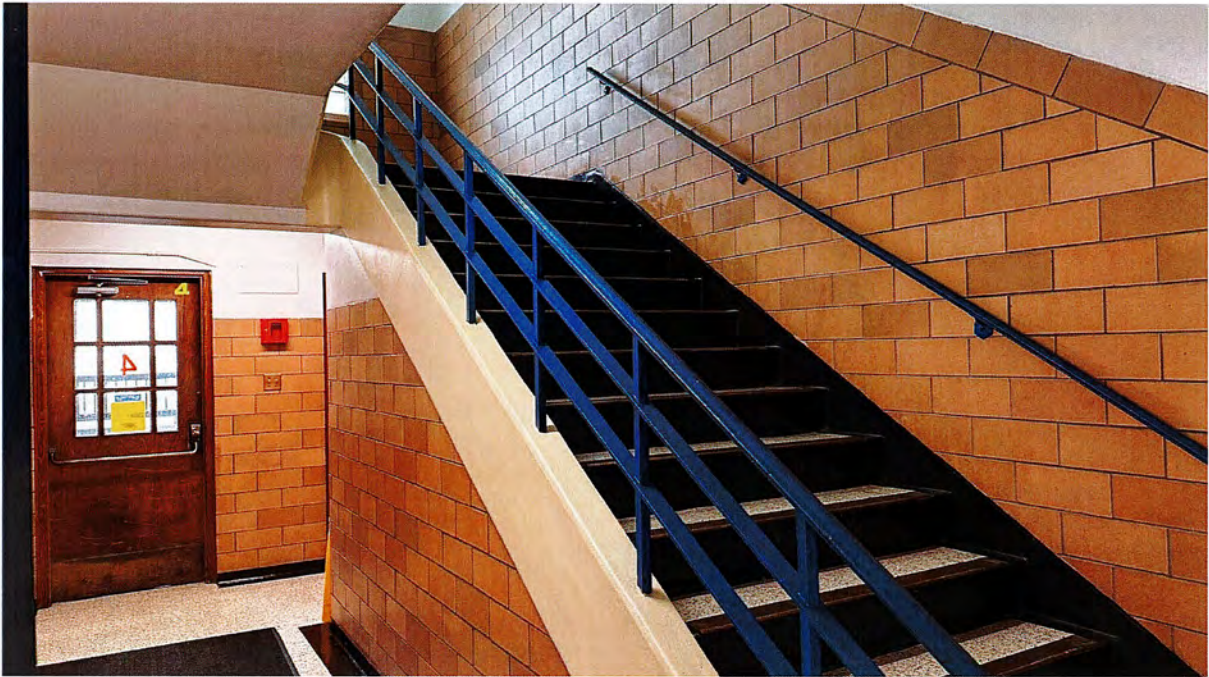
Front Entrance



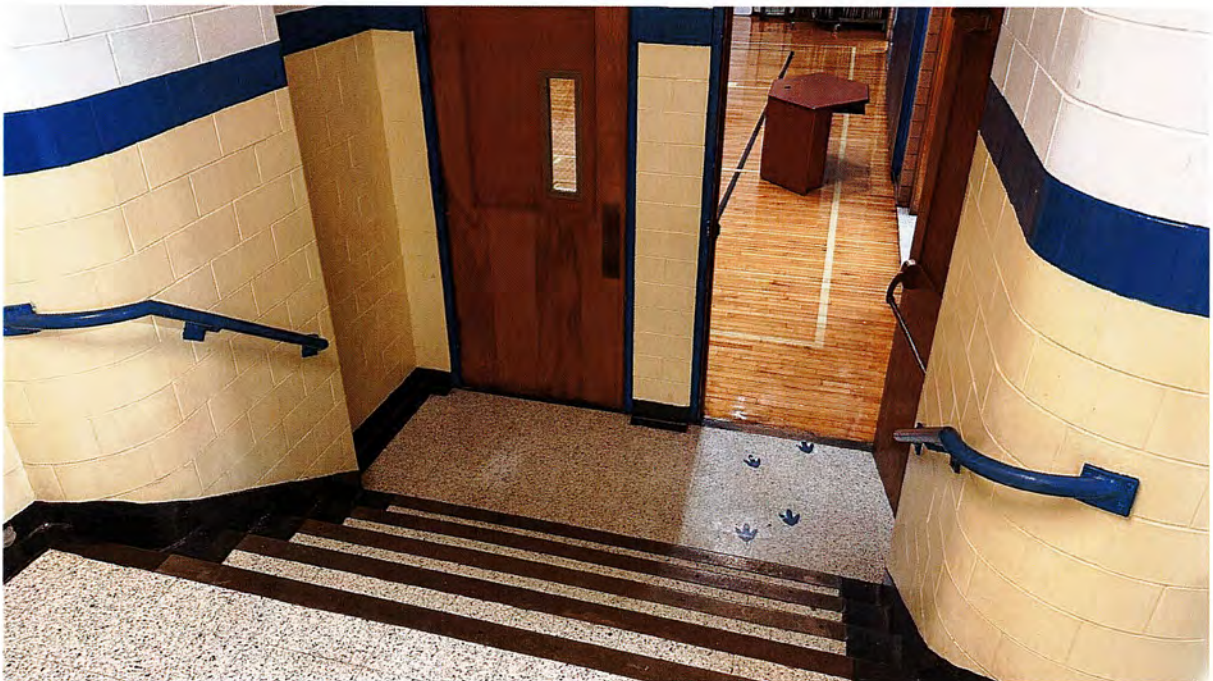
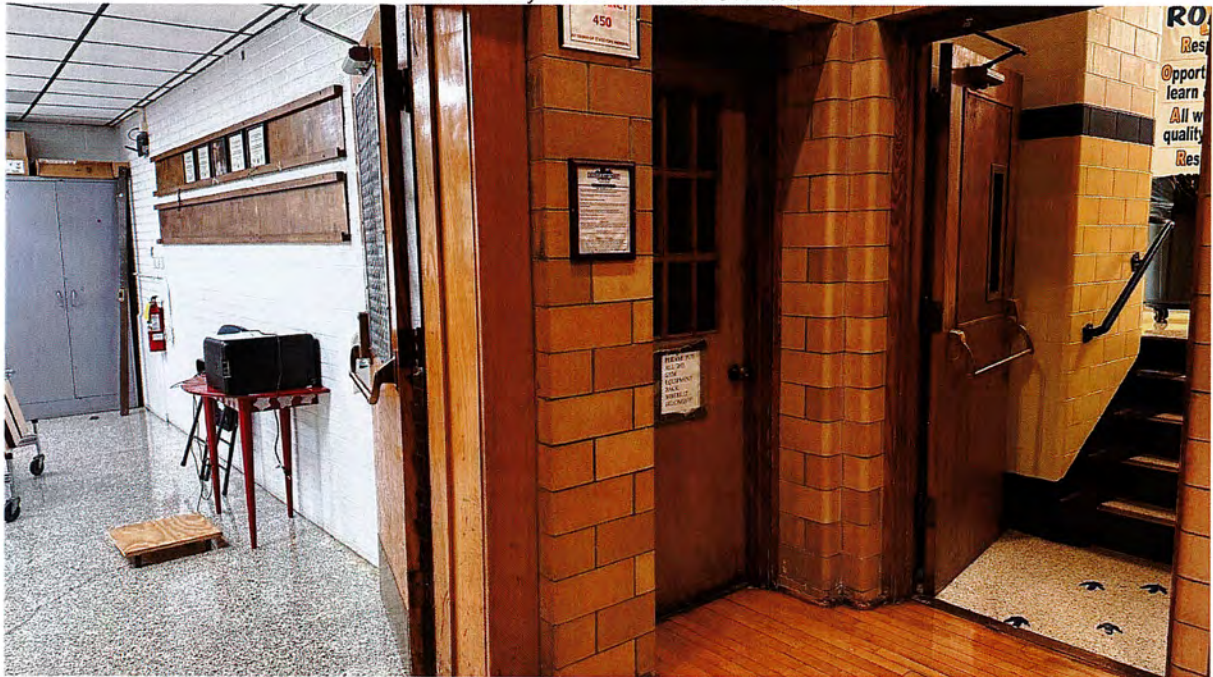
Office



Stairway



Stairs to Gymanasium and Cafeteria



Classrooms





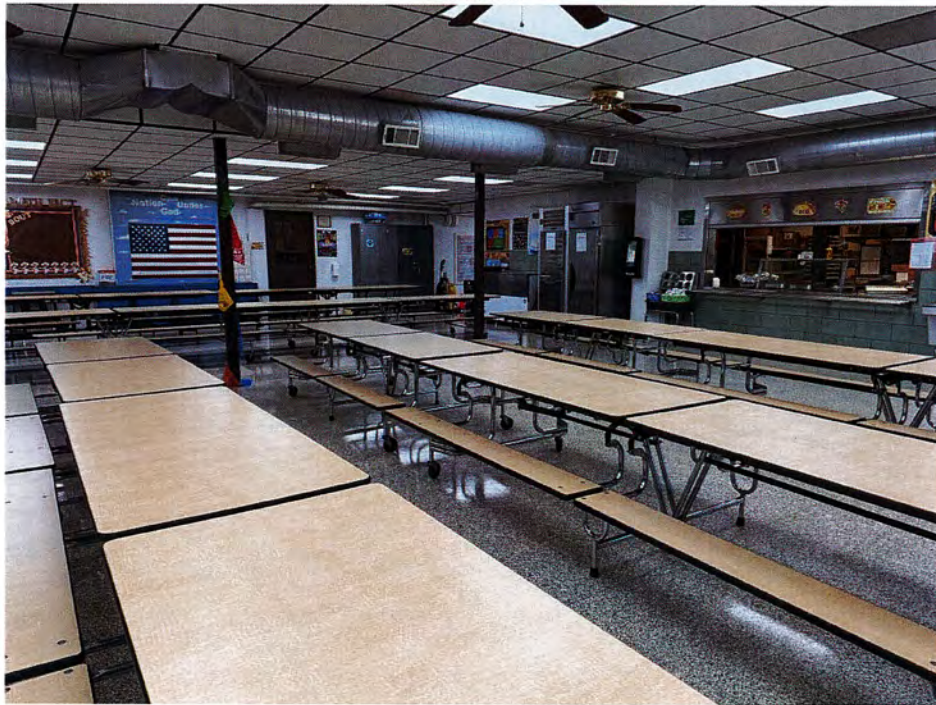
Hallway



Gymnasium



Cafeteria

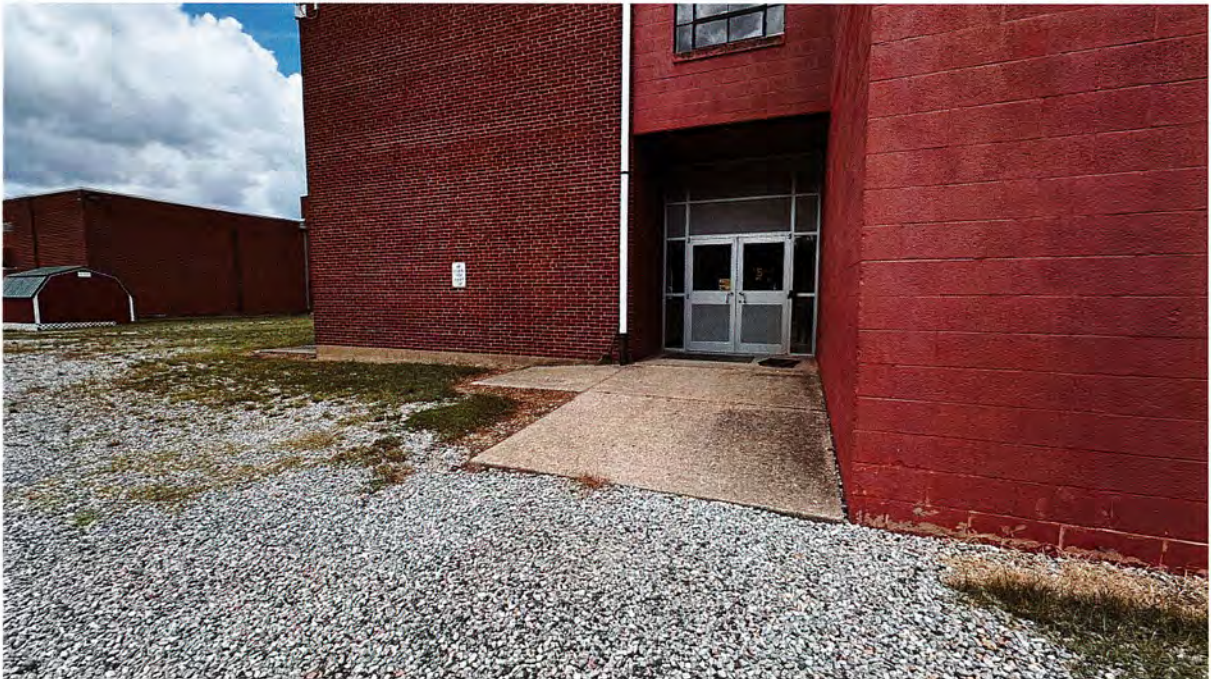


Exterior



Exterior





Playground



Portables



Portables



School Location



MARTIN ELEMENTARY



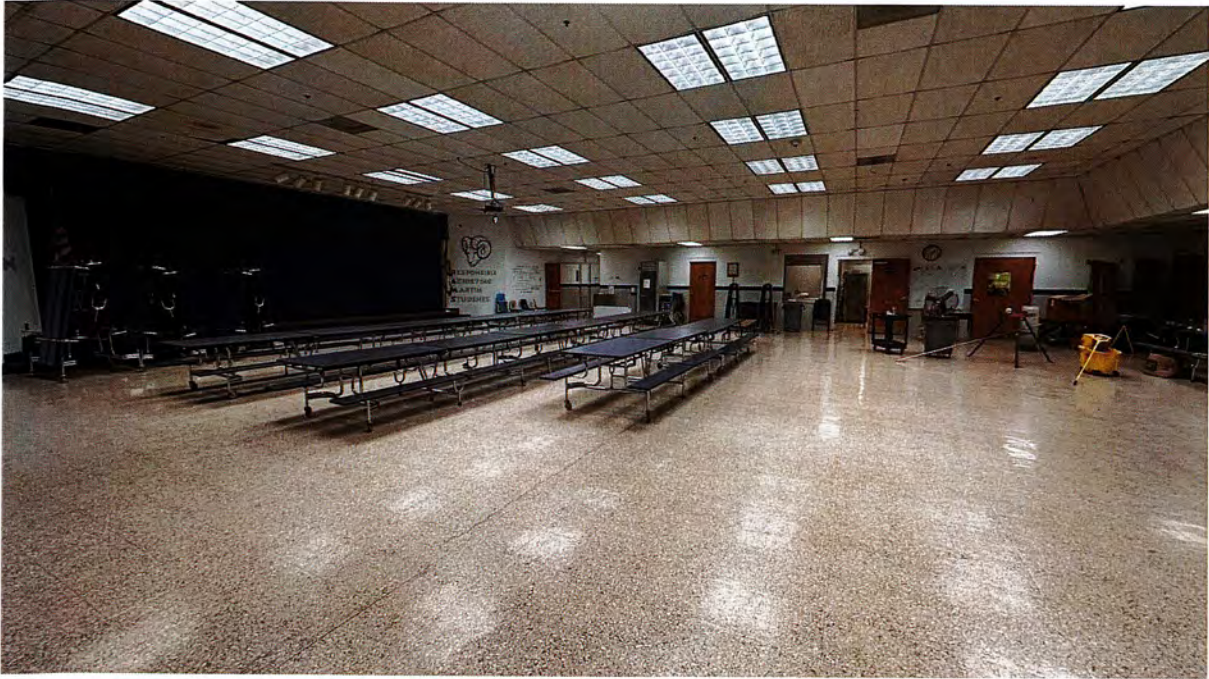
Drop Off Loop



Drop Off Loop



Cafeteria



Gymnasium



Playground #1



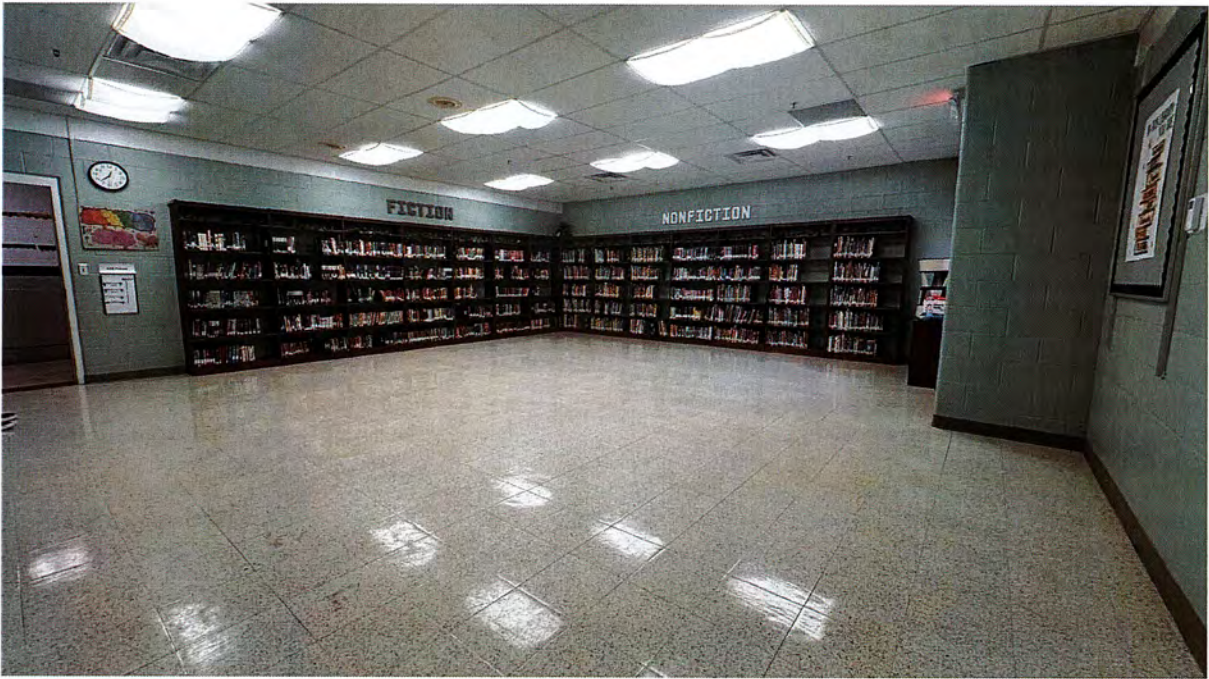
Playground #2



Classroom



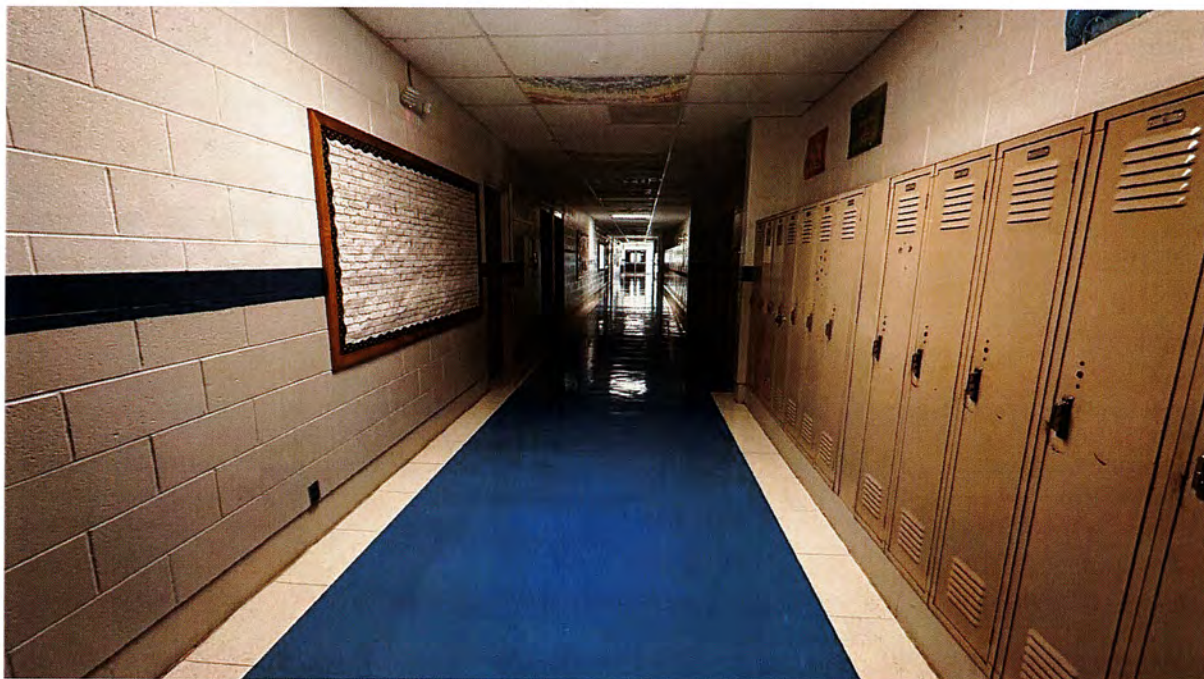
Library



Gymnasium



Hallway



ADA Compliant Restroom



Pool



Pool



Pool Mechanical Room



Full AE Firm Name
County Name
Campus Name
Campus Type
School Code

Picketing Associates
Wood
Fairplains Elementary School
Elementary School
096207

Original Construction Yr. 1948
Assessment Date 07/08/13
Current Enrollment 207



Pavements			
System	Material	Year Installed if different from Building	Notes
Pedestrian Pavements	Concrete	2015 3 - Average	15,590 New Paving off Site paid for by City Walkable Fund
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt	2010 2 - Below Average	15150 8700SF of Parking off Site, but other areas Pooling, Drainage Issues.

Permanent Buildings			
Record Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Year Built	Notes
1 South Zone	Classroom	1948	30,880
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Total GSF:			30,880

Record Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement (Y/N)	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	Message
1 South Zone	Classroom	1948	Yes, Partially	30,880	Y	3	
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
Total GSF:					30,880		

Portable Buildings			
Record Building Name	Year Installed	GSF	Message
1 Library Building	1990	2,220	
2 Storage Building 1	1990	130	
3 Storage Building 2	1990	130	
4 Storage Building 3	1990	130	
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Total GSF:			2,610

Overview of Findings

New roof system is currently being installed for a Partial/Majority of Building

Parking area in need of repair near covert and drainage issues, but portion of Parking owned by city.

New Sidewalks installed in 2016 by City of Parkersburg adjacent to property for Walkable City Initiative.

Several classrooms were having 9x9 flooring abated from school.

Two of the four boiler systems were replaced within the existing housing of the original coal heating system.

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

Building Gross Square Feet	South Zone	Year Built Basement (Y/N)	1948	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	3
	30,880		Y		

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes
Conveying Systems				Not Present	
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average	
Electrical - Lighting			1990	3 - Average	
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs			1985	3 - Average	
Electrical - Service and Distribution			1972	3 - Average	
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial		2010	3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal		2000	3 - Average	Two Exterior Boiler Room Doors need to be replaced.
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Single Pane, Fixed, All frame types			3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection			1995	3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				Not Present	
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units					
HVAC - Distribution System				3 - Average	
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems			1972	3 - Average	2 boilers replaced within existing housing of original system. New Boiler for New addition.
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				3 - Average	
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Exposed			3 - Average	Lower Floors original Building have Plaster Ceilings in good condition.
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Vinyl Composition Tile			3 - Average	Areas recently abated and some currently under construction.
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU			3 - Average	

28 of 29 systems have been evaluated

Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution					3 - Average	
Plumbing - Fixtures	Manual				3 - Average	Original and consider replacing with Automatic valves
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage					3 - Average	
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer					3 - Average	
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Membrane, Mech. Fast			2019	4 - Above Average	Currently under construction/replacement Partial/Majority replacement
Security System				2000	3 - Average	
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:	096207	Assessment Date:	07/08/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	30,880
Facility Name:	Fairplains Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1948

Energy Indexes

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

Source (Units)

	<u>Consumption per Year</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	300,480
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--	
Natural Gas (Decootherms)	3,272
Coal (Tons)	
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)	
Propane (Pounds)	
Used Oil (Gallons)	
Wood Chips (Tons)	
Other (specify)	
Amount:	
Units:	

Conversion (BTU/Unit)

	3,412		Total BTU
	1,037,000		1,025,279,827
	1,000,000		-
	24,000,000		3,272,000,000
	138,874		-
	21,600		-
	125,000		-
	16,500,000		-
			-

Total BTU: 4,297,279,827
Energy Utilization Index (EUI): 139,161

Worksheet Links:
[Campus Information](#)

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

LEA ID:	096207	Assessment Date:	07/08/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	30,880
Facility Name:	Fairplains Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1948

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	City
Actual Acres:	2.95
Useable Acres:	2.64
Site adequate for expansion:	Yes
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	94%
% site in flood plain:	6%
Site Remarks:	
Overall Site Condition:	3-Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:	
Overall Drainage Condition:	drain at front of parking city fixed 2015 3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:	No
-------------------------	----

Adequacy of Parking:

3-Average
Portion of Parking off Property. Issues with Drainage and Grade
3-Average

Parking Remarks:
Overall Parking Condition:

Bus Loading

Bus Loading Adequate:

Yes
Issues with walking due speed of traffic. Bus Loading on Street
3-Average

Bus Loading Remarks:
Overall Bus loading Condition:

Access Roads

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

3-Average
3-Average
New Sidewalk off Property
3-Average

Access Roads Remarks:
Overall Access Road Condition:

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

Adequacy of Playcourts:

3-Average
3-Average
3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:	3
Voltage:	208/120
Amps:	1600
Electric Utility Company:	
Main Service Feed into Building:	
2005 fixed power	
3-Average	

Electrical Service Remarks:

Overall Electrical Service Condition:

Fuel Sources:

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

Fuel Sources Remarks:

Overall Fuel Sources Condition:

Water Sources:

Public:	Yes
Well:	No
Water Line Size (inches):	3
Water Utility Company:	Parkersburg Utility Board

Public:

Well:

Water Line Size (inches):

Water Utility Company:

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

LEA ID:	096207	Assessment Date:	07/08/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	30,880
Facility Name:	Fairplains Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1948

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet

Building Structures:

Type:	Load Bearing Masonry
Building Structures Remarks:	
Overall Building Structure Condition:	3-Average

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):	11,413
Wood Joists (floor area SF):	
Slab on Grade (floor area SF):	19,471
Other (specify) / Floor area SF:	
Floor Structure Remarks:	
Overall Floor Structure Condition:	3-Average

Roof:

Roof Structure:	Steel Joists
Roof Structures Remarks:	

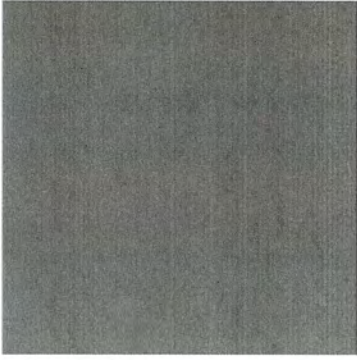
Overall Roof Condition:

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
- Other (specify):

Yes
Yes
No
No

3-Average
3-Average

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

3-Average

Technology Assessment:

- Teacher Training:
- Software Use:

3-Average
3-Average

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

3-Average
3-Average
3-Average

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:
Overall Technology Condition:

School Access Safety Audit:

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

3-Average
3-Average
3-Average
2-Below Average
4-Above Average
3-Average
distance from excavation zone. Regular security Audits
3-Average

Safety Remarks:
Overall Access Safety Condition:

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

LEA ID:	096207	Assessment Date:	07/08/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	30880
Facility Name:	Fairplains Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1948
Design Capacity Enrollment:	294		

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			\$ -	
Windows	EACH			\$ -	
Doors/Frames	EACH	2	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	

SQ FT				\$ -	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT			\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	LS	1	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	Window Replacement
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ 505,000.00

3. Renovations, Interior

Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
SQ FT			\$ -	
Floor Covering			\$ -	
Patch & Painting			\$ -	
Ceiling Finish			\$ -	
Plumbing			\$ -	
Heating/Ventilating			\$ -	
Air Conditioning			\$ -	
Lighting			\$ -	
Wiring			\$ -	
Fire Alarm			\$ -	
Communication System			\$ -	
Technology			\$ -	
Interior Doors			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')			\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ -

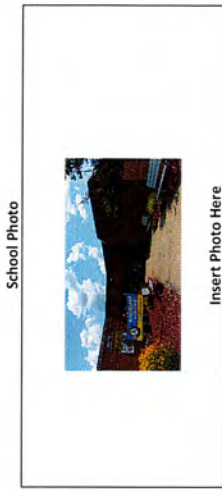
4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment

Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
SQ FT			\$ -	
Administration (ES, MS, HS)			\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)			\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)			\$ -	
Primary (ES)			\$ -	
Media Center (ES)			\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)			\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)			\$ -	
Health Education (MS, HS)			\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)			\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)			\$ -	

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
School Code

Original Construction Yr.
Assessment Date
Current Enrollment



Pavements				Notes	Message
System	Material	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	SF	
Pedestrian Pavements	Asphalt		3 - Average	32,365	Not Shared with Edison MS
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt		3 - Average	137,040	Shared with Edison MS

Permanent Buildings									
Record Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Include building in Assessment	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement (Y/N)	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	Message	
1 South Zone	Classroom	Y	1985	No	59,155	N	2		
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
Total GSF:									59,155

Portable Buildings				Message
Record Building Name	Year Installed	GSF		
1 Storage Building	2000	130		
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

9			
10			130
Total GSF:			

Overview of Findings	
Issues with Pool structure partially repaired and currently under construction as well as various fixtures rusted scheduled to be replaced.	
New Cooling System installed in 2016.	
Various Masonry and Mortar issues along perimeter of building needing to be addresses.	
Roof System in Good condition, but Standing Seam Metal Roof has lost paint on South Facing Side.	
Site access and traffic needs to be addressed in coordination with Edison MS.	

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

Building Gross Square Feet	South Zone	Year Built Basement (Y/N)	1985	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	2
	59,155		N		

29 of 29 systems have been evaluated

System

System	Material	Count	Year installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes
Conveying Systems				Not Present	
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average	
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent			3 - Average	Lighting Fixtures rusting in Pool area.
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				3 - Average	
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average	
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial		2005	3 - Average	Electrical Panel near pool area rusting.
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Single Pane, Fixed, All frame types			3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection			2015	3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				3 - Average	new sprinkler heads installed in pool area
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				Not Present	
HVAC - Distribution System				3 - Average	
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				3 - Average	
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems			2016	4 - Above Average	majority new
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile		2005	3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Vinyl Composition Tile		2010	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, Mech. Fast			2010	3 - Average	
Security System				2005	3 - Average	
Technology Infrastructure				2015	3 - Average	new wifi access points

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

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	096238	Assessment Date:	07/24/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	59,155
Facility Name:	Martin Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1985

Energy Indexes

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

Source (Units)

	<u>Consumption per Year</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	630,863
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--	
Natural Gas (Decootherms)	2,026
Coal (Tons)	
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)	
Propane (Pounds)	
Used Oil (Gallons)	
Wood Chips (Tons)	
Other (specify)	
Amount:	
Units:	

Conversion (BTU/Unit)

	3,412		Total BTU
	1,037,000		2,152,592,877
	1,000,000		-
	24,000,000		2,026,000,000
	138,874		-
	21,600		-
	125,000		-
	16,500,000		-
Amount:			
Units:			

Worksheet Links:

Total BTU: 4,178,592,877
Energy Utilization Index (EUI): 70,638

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

LEA ID:	096238	Assessment Date:	07/24/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	59,155
Facility Name:	Martin Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1985

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	City
Actual Acres:	68.1
Useable Acres:	68.1
Site adequate for expansion:	Yes
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	Yes
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	0%
Site Remarks:	Sharing parcel with Edison MS. new road egress at rear regarding state requirements
Overall Site Condition:	3-Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:	
Overall Drainage Condition:	3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:	Yes
-------------------------	-----

Adequacy of Parking:

4-Above Average

new parking area added 2019 before. Edison shares parking. Also issues after school events with edison

4-Above Average

Parking Remarks:

Overall Parking Condition:

Bus Loading

Bus Loading Adequate:

Yes

Bus Loading Remarks:

Overall Bus loading Condition:

3-Average

Access Roads

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

2-Below Average

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

3-Average

Access Roads Remarks:

before a d after school issues with edison

Overall Access Road Condition:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

3-Average

Adequacy of Playcourts:

3-Average

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

3-Average

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:	3
Voltage:	277/480
Amps:	800+500
Electric Utility Company:	Mon Power
Main Service Feed into Building:	Underground
Electrical Service Remarks:	(1) Meter but two feeds tied 120/208(500A) + 277/480(800A).
Overall Electrical Service Condition:	3-Average

Fuel Sources:

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

Water Sources:

Public:	Yes
Well:	No
Water Line Size (inches):	6
Water Utility Company:	Parkersburg Utility Board

Water Sources Remarks:
Overall Water Sources Condition:

3-Average

Sewage Systems:
Public:
Septic:
Other (Specify):
Public Service District (PSD):

Yes
No
Parkersburg Utility Board
3-Average

Sewage System Remarks:
Overall Sewage System Condition:

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

LEA ID:	096238	Assessment Date:	07/24/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	59,155
Facility Name:	Martin Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1985

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet

Building Structures:

Type:

Load Bearing Masonry	
Minor masonry mortar issues at lintels for entries at rear of building	
3-Average	

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition:

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

2,091	
54,886	
2178	Pool
issues with pool structure leaking. Partially repaired and under construction.	
3-Average	

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

Roof:

Roof Structure:

Roof Structures Remarks:

Steel Joists	
some areas in pool area storage roof structure rusted heavily	

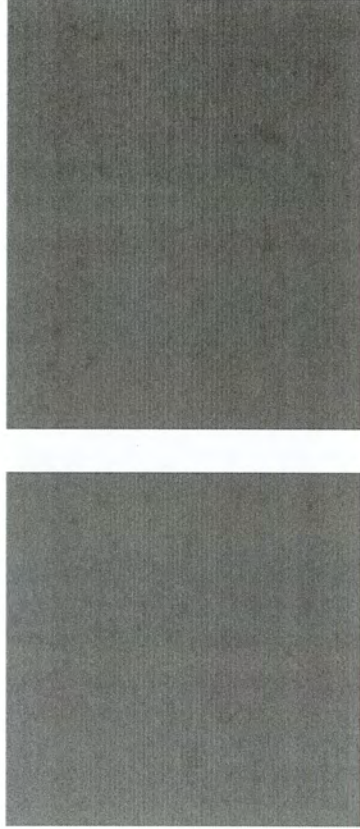
Overall Roof Condition:

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
- Other (specify):

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

3-Average

Technology Assessment:

- Teacher Training:
- Software Use:

3-Average

3-Average

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

LEA ID:	096238	Assessment Date:	07/24/19
County:	Wood	Total Gross Square Feet:	59155
Facility Name:	Martin Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1985
Design Capacity Enrollment:	449		

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				\$ -	
2. Renovations, Exterior					
Wall Structure	SQ FT	800	\$ 20.00	\$ 16,000.00	Various Masonry Issues
Floor Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT			\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Windows	EACH			\$ -	
Doors/Frames	EACH			\$ -	
Roofing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Coping/Parapet	LIN 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')	SQ FT	900	\$ 307.00	\$ 276,300.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Subtotal of Building Additions (SQ FT)		900			
Circulation	30%	270	\$ 307.00	\$ 82,890.00	
Sub-Total				\$ 359,190.00	

SAFE SCHOOL ENTRANCE

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH			\$ -	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT			\$ -	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL			\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				\$ -	

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

Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6

\$ 950,190.00

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees

Item Cost	Remarks
\$ -	
\$ 66,513.30	
\$ 66,513.30	

%	Quantity
7.0%	\$950,190.00

Sub-Total

8. Miscellaneous

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

Survey
Soil Inv.
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')

Sub-Total

\$ -

9. Contingencies

Item Cost	Remarks
\$ -	
\$ 57,011.40	
\$ 57,011.40	

%	Quantity
6.0%	\$950,190.00

Sub-Total

\$ 57,011.40

Grand Total Project Cost

\$ 1,073,714.70

Worksheet Links:

- [Campus Information](#)
- [Building_1](#)
- [Building_2](#)
- [Building_3](#)
- [Building_4](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):

Energy Utilization Index:	70,638
Current Enrollment:	251
Program Capacity:	449
Utilization Calculation:	56%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Special Meeting

Bailey Board Room
6:00 pm
Doors open at 5:30 pm

1. Opening of Meeting

Subject : A. Call to Order
Meeting : Sep 17, 2024 - Special Meeting
Category : 1. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural

Subject : B. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
Meeting : Sep 17, 2024 - Special Meeting
Category : 1. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural

Subject : C. Roll Call
Meeting : Sep 17, 2024 - Special Meeting
Category : 1. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural

2. Delegations/Public Comments

Subject : A. Delegations/Public Comment
Meeting : Sep 17, 2024 - Special Meeting
Category : 2. Delegations/Public Comments
Access : Public
Type : Information

Public Content

1120.2.10 MANNER OF ADDRESSING THE BOARD AND TIME LIMITS

1. Any citizen may appear and address the board during the Delegations portion of any meeting. Persons who desire to address the board at a Special Meeting may only discuss the topic(s) that are on the agenda of that meeting.
2. Persons who desire to address the board are encouraged to meet with appropriate school personnel prior to addressing the board.
3. All persons who desire to address the board at a Regular Meeting or a matter identified within the stated purpose of a Special Meeting as a Delegation must register with the Superintendent no later than fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of any regular or special meeting. They may do so at the Superintendents office during regular business hours. The Superintendent or the Superintendents designee will also be available to accept registrations at the place of the meeting, beginning thirty minutes before the meeting starts. The following information must be provided to the Superintendent by persons who desire to address the board: name, address or phone number, a concise statement of the subject to be addressed, a list of Wood County personnel who have been involved in the matter, and a statement indicating the desired action of the board.

Category :

4. Closing of Meeting

Access :

Public

Type :

Procedural

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follow:

- **LOCATION:** Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- **LOCATION:** Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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 11:00 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 11:00 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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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

Wood County Schools

2023-2024

Sunday, October 1, 2023

	Pre-K	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Totals
Services Wood County															23
Wood County Schools															
Blennerhassett Elementary	44	81	77	80	78	79	88								527
Criss Elementary	32	37	38	37	30	44	40								258
Emerson Elementary	21	59	62	67	65	66	66								406
Fairplains Elementary	20	21	21	16	28	31	25								162
Franklin Elementary	47	34	46	37	35	24	42								265
Gihon Elementary	38	39	32	44	16	30	46								245
Greenmont Elementary	21	34	29	44	39	30	37								234
Jefferson Elementary	56	79	76	100	93	61	68								533
Kanawha Elementary	33	47	38	43	44	32	43								280
Lubeck Elementary	37	53	58	57	63	57	57								382
Madison Elementary	41	36	40	45	40	32	39								273
Martin Elementary	39	37	32	27	27	32	28								222
Mineral Wells Elementary	41	60	85	64	78	74	83								485
Neale Elementary	39	51	47	68	46	56	66								373
Vienna Elementary	38	44	37	48	45	40	38								290
Williamstown Elementary	56	79	86	80	78	69	93								541
Blennerhassett Middle								175	177	168					520
Edison Middle								180	196	192					568
Hamilton Middle								131	153	131					415
Jackson Middle								155	158	164					477
Van Devender Middle								93	103	94					290
Parkersburg High											404	447	385	320	1556
Parkersburg South High											355	369	339	322	1385
Williamstown High											91	96	94	86	639
Summit Success Center															
Wood Co Voc Tech															
Caperton Center															
Totals	603	791	807	861	811	760	862	828	883	843	845	914	815	726	11349

	Pre-K	Kindergarten	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Totals
Services Wood County			3	4	6	3	3	3				1			23
Wood County Schools															
Blennerhassett Elementary School	44	81	77	80	78	79	88								527
Criss Elementary School	32	37	38	37	30	44	40								258
Emerson Elementary School	21	59	62	67	65	66	66								406
Fairplains Elementary School	20	21	21	16	28	31	25								162
Gihon Elementary School	38	39	32	44	16	30	46								245
Greenmont Elementary School	21	34	29	44	39	30	37								234
Jefferson Elementary Center	56	79	76	100	93	61	68								533
Kanawha Elementary School	33	47	38	43	44	32	43								280
Lubeck Elementary School	37	53	58	57	63	57	57								382
Madison Elementary School	41	36	40	45	40	32	39								273
Mineral Wells Elementary School	41	60	85	64	78	74	83								485
Neale Elementary School	39	51	47	68	46	56	66								373
Vienna Elementary School	38	44	37	48	45	40	38								290
Williamstown Elementary School	56	79	86	80	78	69	93								541
Franklin Elementary Center	47	34	46	37	35	24	42								265
Martin Elementary School	39	37	32	27	27	32	28								222
Blennerhassett Middle School								175	177	168					520
Edison Middle School								180	196	192					568
Hamilton Middle School								131	153	131					415
Jackson Middle School								155	158	164					477
Van Devender Middle School								93	103	94					290
Parkersburg High School											404	447	385	320	1556
Parkersburg South High School											355	369	339	322	1385
Williamstown High School								91	96	94	86	97	91	84	639
Summit Success Center															
Wood Co Voc Tech Ctr															
Caperton Center For Applied Technology															
Totals	603	791	807	861	811	760	862	828	883	843	845	914	815	726	11349

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT COUNT MATRIX REPORT

	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	
Blennerhasset Elementary School	41	73	85	79	85	80	80								523
Criss Elementary School	33	39	32	47	36	33	42								262
Emerson Elementary School	12	42	59	59	62	65	68								367
Fairplains Elementary School	20	21	25	22	20	25	29								162
Gihon Elementary School	48	38	43	40	44	21	35								269
Greenmont Elementary School	23	34	37	27	42	39	30								232
Jefferson Elementary Center	45	59	79	66	86	85	51								471
Kanawha Elementary School	33	40	47	38	44	40	30								272
Lubeck Elementary School	38	60	57	53	57	65	58								388
Madison Elementary School	51	33	34	34	44	32	32								260
Mineral Wells Elementary School	44	58	67	86	63	79	72								469
Neale Elementary School	41	59	48	43	73	49	50								363
Vienna Elementary School	37	45	41	41	44	43	39								290
Williamstown Elementary School	63	70	79	90	84	84	77								547
Franklin Elementary Center	36	34	32	43	41	37	26								249
Martin Elementary School	42	33	39	32	34	36	34								250
Blennerhasset Middle School								186	184	175					545
Edison Middle School								191	178	192					561
Hamilton Middle School								168	135	155					458
Jackson Middle School								143	140	150					433
Van Devender Middle School								68	83	97					248
Parkersburg High School											369	396	395	351	1,511
Parkersburg South High School											355	369	348	321	1,393
Williamstown High School								103	94	101	108	88	98	89	681
Wood Co Voc Tech Ctr											15	56	96	134	301
Caperton Center For Applied Tech	607	738	804	800	859	813	753	859	814	870	847	954	997	942	11657

ⓘ District certification must be completed by [10/19/2024]. Choose Certified Data from the dropdown and click the 'Certify Collection' button when the totals are correct.

Data Collections [Details] [Submit / Certify] Enrollment | All Schools | Totals | 11138

All Schools [v] October Collection for Selected FY [v] Current Data [v]

Enrollment
11138

FTE
10991.316

Excluded
542

Special Education
2493

English Learners
80

Low SES
6241

Title I Low SES
6227

Homeless
419

Unenrolled
1517

	Pre-K	Kindergarten	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Totals
Services Wood County	3	6	6	2	3	11	5	2			1		1		40
Wood County Schools															
Blennehassett Elementary School	41	72	87	76	85	79	82								522
Crisis Elementary School	37	40	34	46	37	31	42								267
Emerson Elementary School	2	44	60	59	63	65	68								361
Fairplains Elementary School	20	21	25	22	20	25	27								160
Gilbon Elementary School	45	37	43	38	43	20	35								261
Greenmont Elementary School	23	33	38	25	41	39	30								229
Jefferson Elementary Center	54	61	77	60	84	87	52								475
Kanawha Elementary School	34	38	47	36	41	39	30								265
Lubeck Elementary School	36	60	54	53	57	64	57								381
Madison Elementary School	54	32	33	36	46	31	32								264
Mineral Wells Elementary School	43	57	67	85	62	79	72								465
Neale Elementary School	39	58	48	44	70	47	51								357
Vienna Elementary School	39	42	41	41	44	42	39								288
Williamstown Elementary School	63	66	80	93	84	84	75								545
Franklin Elementary Center	53	34	30	43	42	36	24								262
Martin Elementary School	41	33	42	32	32	36	34								250
Blennehassett Middle School							185	178	171						534
Edison Middle School							186	177	188						551
Hamilton Middle School							162	131	153						446
Jackson Middle School							140	138	151						429
Van Devender Middle School							68	83	93						244
Parkersburg High School										364	397	384	346	1491	
Parkersburg South High School										353	354	346	320	1373	
Williamstown High School										102	107	88	96	676	
Summit Success Center															
Wood Co. Voc. Tech. Ctr												1	1	2	
Caperton Center For Applied Technology															
Totals	627	734	812	791	854	815	755	845	802	856	825	840	828	754	11138

**CLOSURE AND MERGER
OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

The specific proposal is to merge Fairplains Elementary into the current Martin Elementary, resulting in the closure of Fairplains Elementary School.

Fairplains Elementary enrollment has decreased by 58 students over the past ten (10) years. Over the past 10 years, the height of Fairplains Elementary's enrollment was during the 2015-2016 school year at 233 students. Fairplains Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 482 students. The program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is a capacity of 482 students. With a student enrollment of 162 students, the program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is 33.6%. The desirable program utilization for a school is 85%.

Martin Elementary enrollment has decreased by 54 students over the past 10 years. The 2016-2017 school year was the height of enrollment in the past decade at 279 students. When the impact statement and supporting data information was compiled there was an error. The enrollment on July 22, 2024, was 223 students and not 225 students at Martin Elementary as stated in the document. I want to put new information on the record for the Board tonight. As of October 23, 2024, the enrollment at Martin Elementary was 254 students. The October enrollment number would increase the existing program utilization as stated in the impact book from 44.4% to 50%.

The current enrollment as of Friday, October 23, 2024, at Fairplains Elementary was 160 students. To put on the record this evening a new program utilization rate utilizing the October 23 enrollment, the projected total enrollment of a merged Martin Elementary School would change from 389 to 414 students. This would change the program utilization rate from 82.1% to 87.3%.

The merger of Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary will result in a reduction of 7.5 professional personnel positions and five (5) service personnel positions.

Martin Elementary is located 1.4 miles from Fairplains. Transportation will be provided to current Fairplains Elementary students to Martin Elementary. The routes will not exceed the thirty-minute guideline as outlined in the WVDE Policy 6200.

Fairplains Elementary School is not compliant with the American Disabilities Act. Martin Elementary School is ADA compliant. Martin Elementary will have a secure vestibule constructed this school year.

The closure of Fairplains Elementary School and merger to Martin Elementary School would save the Board of Education \$861,244.49 (eight hundred sixty-one thousand, two hundred

fourty-four dollars and forty-nine cents) annually. This cost savings is needed as a result of declining enrollment. Wood County Schools will have less funding for next school year as our most recent full-time equivalency enrollment number has dropped by 176 FTE to 10,991; this is the number used in the state funding formula.

5—Legals

5—Legals

5—Legals

5—Legals

5—Legals

5—Legals

15—Special Notices

40—Realtors

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 24-0658-G-390P

MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program Filing for 2025

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On July 31, 2024, Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer) filed its annual Application for approval of an Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program for 2025 (2025 IREP) with revised IREP rates for 2025, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k...

In its Application, Mountaineer forecasts capital investment for calendar year 2025 of \$74 million as part of its multi-year plan. The 2025 IREP covers several categories of plant asset replacements and improvements, including mains, service lines, measurement and regulator stations, and house regulators...

Mountaineer proposes to increase IREP revenues by \$8.9 million, an overall revenue increase of approximately 2.80%. The IREP investments included in this filing reflect plant additions made or projected to be made from 2023 to 2025. The increased rates are requested to be effective January 1, 2025.

Table with 3 columns: Type of Customer, Increase, % Increase. Rows include Residential, Commercial, Large Commercial, Industrial, and Wholesale.

(*) Percentage Increases for Large Commercial and Industrial customers assume transport customers purchase their natural gas at the same price as the Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment rate.

The increases shown above are compared to the rates currently in place and are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here.

The Commission set a procedural schedule, including a hearing date on the Application that will begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 4, 2024, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within 15 days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY

Sept 30

Contractor submitting a bid for a public improvement construction contract shall provide an affidavit of compliance that the Contractor has a written plan for a drug-free workplace policy.

Prepared and submitted by: John A. Williams, Esq. Legal Advt West Virginia, Inc. 327 Ninth St. Parkersburg, WV 26101 (304) 455-5700 ext. 2916

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF VAN-DEVENDER MIDDLE SCHOOL INTO JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold three (3) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close VanDevender Middle School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School at that time, as follows:

LOCATION: VanDevender Middle School, 918 31st Street, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Hamilton Middle School, 3501 Cadillac Drive, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, WV DATE AND TIME: October 24, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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 a public hearing is not completed by 11:00 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.

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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- for the hearing at VanDevender Middle School, on October 25, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
for the hearing at Hamilton Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
for the hearing at Jackson Middle School, on October 23, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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.

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HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may be encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials concerning the proposals.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with six (6) copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, before noon on October 17, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing VanDevender, Hamilton and Jackson Middle Schools.

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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close VanDevender Middle School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School, at its meeting at Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, West Virginia, on October 24, 2024, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Christie M. Willis, Superintendent Wood County Board of Education

Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

at least

Sept 23, 30

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follows:

LOCATION: Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

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FINAL ACTION

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- for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Christie M. Willis, Superintendent Wood County Board of Education

Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

And if appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that the plaintiff has used due diligence to ascertain the residence or whereabouts of the defendant(s) without ef-

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may be encouraged to register at the hearing location for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials concerning the proposals.

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Christie M. Willis, Superintendent Wood County Board of Education

Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

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5-Legals

5-Legals

5-Legals

5-Legals

5-Legals

5-Legals

15-Special Notice

40-Realtors

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF VAN-DEVENDER MIDDLE SCHOOL INTO JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DATE AND TIME: October 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 24, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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If a public hearing is not completed by 11:00 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.

ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES

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for the hearing at Jackson Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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HEARING PROCEDURES

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SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals. If the material, with six (6) copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, before noon on October 17, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing VanDevender, Hamilton and Jackson Middle Schools.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

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Christie M. Willis, Superintendent, Wood County Board of Education

Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follows:

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DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
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DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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 11:00 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.

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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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.

Christie M. Willis, Superintendent, Wood County Board of Education

Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

Parkersburg, WV 26101

Defendant

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 09/30/24.

/s/; Paulina Yearego

Magistrate Court Clerk

HEARING PROCEDURES

For a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of a public hearing, persons may be 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 Wood 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. Each speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless, in accordance with Board Policy 1000, the President decides that time limit to provide all persons wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals. If the material, with six (6) copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, before noon on October 21, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Fairplains and Martin Elementary Schools.

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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

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Christie M. Willis, Superintendent, Wood County Board of Education

Sept 30, Oct 7, 14, 21

Parkersburg, WV 26101

Defendant

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 09/30/24.

/s/; Paulina Yearego

Magistrate Court Clerk

And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that the plaintiff has used due diligence to ascertain the residence or whereabouts of the defendant(s) without effect.

It is ordered that TERRY L. ARCHER do serve upon Magistrate Waters, magistrate, whose address is 401 2nd Street Suite 12 Parkersburg WV 26101, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before November 16th, 2024, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against TERRY L. ARCHER at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 09/30/24.

/s/; Paulina Yearego

Magistrate Court Clerk

Oct 7, 14

CURTIS L. GRAHAM & KELLEY GRAHAM

1715 23rd St

City of Parkersburg

PO Box 1627

Parkersburg WV 26102

Plaintiff

Civil Action

No. 24-M54C-01392

DAVID & KATHERINE LIPSCOMB

1619 19th St

Parkersburg, WV 26101

Defendant

The object of the above entitled action is to obtain judgment in the amount of \$1262.55 plus court cost and interest from the date of judgment against the defendant(s).

And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that the plaintiff has used due diligence to ascertain the residence or whereabouts of the defendant(s) without effect.

It is ordered that DAVID & KATHERINE LIPSCOMB do serve upon Magistrate Waters, magistrate, whose address is 401 2nd Street Suite 12 Parkersburg WV 26101, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before November 15th, 2024, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against DAVID & KATHERINE LIPSCOMB at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 09/30/24.

/s/; Paulina Yearego

Magistrate Court Clerk

Oct 7, 14

CURTIS L. GRAHAM & KELLEY GRAHAM

1715 23rd St

City of Parkersburg

PO Box 1627

Parkersburg WV 26102

Plaintiff

Civil Action

No. 24-M54C-01583

DAVID & KATHERINE LIPSCOMB

1619 19th St

Parkersburg, WV 26101

Defendant

YETZER at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 10/1/24.

/s/; Paulina Yearego

Magistrate Court Clerk

Oct 7, 14

WVLegals

https://wvlegals.com

This website is a public service made possible by The Parkersburg News and Sentinel and West Virginia Press. All legal ads published in The Parkersburg News and Sentinel are also published on the website at NO additional cost. This easy to use website is designed to assist citizens who want to know more about the actions of local, county and state governments as well as events occurring in the local and state court systems.

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

State laws forbid discrimination on the sale, rental or advertising of real estate based on factors in addition to those protected under federal law.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Before responding to any advertisement requesting that money be sent or invested, you may wish to investigate the company and offering. The Parkersburg News & Sentinel cannot assume any responsibility for the validity of the offerings advertised within the classified pages. For more information and assistance regarding the investigation of Business Opportunities, The Parkersburg News & Sentinel urges its readers to contact the Better Business Bureau.

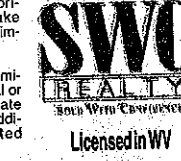
PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate



Debby Tanner, Salesperson 304-488-7016 Licensed in WV & OH Douglas & Company Real Estate For results that move you. Susan Burfield, Broker

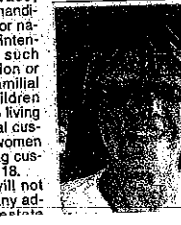


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Traci Norman, Salesperson SWC Realty Call: 304-615-4774 Office: 304-485-2569

SWC Realty is one of the fastest growing independent real estate agencies in the country.



SWC Realty, Inc. email: inorman@swcrealty.com

5-Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS... PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF VAN DEVENDER MIDDLE SCHOOL INTO JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL... WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION... The Wood County Board of Education will hold its regular meeting on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 1301 13th Street, Parkersburg, WV. The agenda includes the proposed closure and merger of Van Devender Middle School into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School. Public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the same date. Board members include: Chair - Christine M. Willis, Superintendent; Vice Chair - [Name]; Members - [Names].

5-Legals

ALMADOVAR do serve upon... 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 Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 1301 13th Street, Parkersburg, WV. The agenda includes the proposed closure and merger of Van Devender Middle School into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School. Public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the same date. Board members include: Chair - Christine M. Willis, Superintendent; Vice Chair - [Name]; Members - [Names].

5-Legals

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5-Legals

Civil Action No. 24-M54-01560... Gregory J Yetzer... Plaintiff... The object of the above entitled action is to obtain judgment in the amount of \$1126.73 plus court cost and interest from the date of judgment against the defendant(s). And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that the plaintiff has used due diligence to ascertain the residence or whereabouts of the defendant(s) without effect. It is ordered that GREGORY J YETZER do serve upon Magistrate Purkey, magistrate, whose address is 401 2nd Street Suite 12 Parkersburg WV 26101, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before November 18th, 2024, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against GREGORY J YETZER at any time thereafter. A copy of said complaint can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

5-Legals

Schedule a FREE Leaf-Filter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-295-2840... PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company - 888-217-5559 or visit www.Life5plus.info/wv... SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and 1600 Off for a limited time! Call today. Financing available. Call SafeStep 1-844-803-1282... PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES with Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry leading comprehensive warranty 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-855-609-1433... GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-368-9004 today... WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 6 FREE Burgers ONLY \$9.99. Call 1-877-460-6356 and mention code 77318CKG or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe637... NOTICE All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination. State laws forbid discrimination in the sale, rental or advertising of real estate based on factors in addition to those protected under federal law. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. Before responding to any advertisement requesting that money be sent or in-

40-Realtors

SWC REALTY Soak With Confidence... Angela Florence Salesperson SWC Properties... Cell: 304-916-6096 Office: 304-485-2569... SWC Realty is one of the fastest growing independent real estate agencies in the country. SWCrealty.com. Scott Cavine/Broker... Debby Tanner, Salesperson 304-488-7016 Licensed in WV & OH Douglas & Company Real Estate For results that move you. Susan Burfield, Broker... Geni Astorg, Salesperson RE/MAX 2510 Murdoch Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26104 304-488-0698 cell gastorg46094@gmail.com Licensed in WV Paula McHenry, Broker... Linda Masters, Owner/Broker OH & WV (740) 350-1452 MVM Benchmark

155-Help Wanted

their marketing efforts. Responsibilities: • Selling daily newspaper, magazine, and digital advertising to active and new businesses using verbal and written skills • Provide good customer service • Follow through to maintain long-term client relationships • Manage multiple priorities across a variety of platforms Qualifications: • Basic computer knowledge • Positive attitude • Organized and detail-oriented • Ability to self-generate leads • Strong problem solving and decision making abilities • Communicate effectively with peers, superiors and customers in written and verbal form • Maintain dependability and professionalism • Ability to multi-task and work efficiently under tight deadlines • Results oriented and high achiever Compensation: • Mileage Reimbursement Health, Dental and Visc Insurance • Paid time off • Sickleave • 401K • Hourly Pay \$12 plus bonus and commission Work Schedule • Daily, Monday - Friday • Hours: 8a.m. - 5p.m. • Most major weekend and holidays off The Marietta Times is part of Ogdens Newspapers Inc. Founded in 1890 Ogdens Newspapers has since grown to over 40 daily newspapers, along with a number of weeklies and a magazine division - stretching from New York to Hawaii. If you are looking to evolve, grow and deliver custom solutions, please apply by Sept. 6. Multi-Media Consultant The Parkersburg News and Sentinel and The Marietta Times are seeking a full or part time Inside Sales Multi-Media Consultant. This position focuses on developing revenues from new advertisers and growing revenue from existing advertisers. This position is ideal for those looking for an opportunity to help local businesses succeed in their marketing efforts. Responsibilities: • Selling daily newspaper, magazine, and digital advertising to active and new businesses using verbal and written skills • Provide good customer service • Follow through to maintain long-term client relationships • Manage multiple priorities across a variety of platforms Qualifications: • Basic computer knowledge • Positive attitude • Organized and detail-oriented • Ability to self-generate

Civil Action No. 24-M54-01560 Gregory J Yetzer 1137 Lynn St Parkersburg, WV 26101 Defendant

The object of the above entitled action is to obtain judgment in the amount of \$1126.73 plus court cost and interest from the date of judgment against the defendant(s). And it appearing by an affidavit filed in this action that the plaintiff has used due diligence to ascertain the residence or whereabouts of the defendant(s) without effect.

It is ordered that GREGORY J YETZER do serve upon Magistrate Purkey, magistrate, whose address is 401 2nd Street Suite 12 Parkersburg WV 26101, an answer or other defense to the complaint filed in this action on or before November 18th, 2024, otherwise judgment by default will be taken against GREGORY J YETZER at any time thereafter.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court 10/17/24. /s/ Paulina Yearago Magistrate Court Clerk

10-Happy Ads

WVLegals https://wvlegals.com

This website is a public service made possible by The Parkersburg News and Sentinel and West Virginia Press. All legal ads published in The Parkersburg News and Sentinel are also published on the website at NO additional cost. This easy to use website is designed to assist citizens who want to know more about the actions of local, county and state governments as well as events occurring in the local and state court systems.

15-Special Notice

HEALTH/MEDICAL DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs. Is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to the entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

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Linda Masters, Owner/Broker OH & WV (740) 350-1452 MVM Benchmark

Parkersburg WV 26102 2nd Street Suite 12 Parkersburg WV 26101, an answer or other defense to the complaint

5 - Legals

5 - Legals

5 - Legals

5 - Legals

15 - Special Notice

15 - Special Notice

40 - Realtors

160 - Sales Help

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF VAN-DEVENDER MIDDLE SCHOOL INTO JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold three (3) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Van-Devender Middle School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year...

LOCATION: VanDevender Middle School, 918 31st Street, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Hamilton Middle School, 3501 Cadillac Drive, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, WV DATE AND TIME: October 24, 2024, at 7:30 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.

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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close VanDevender Middle School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle School, at its meeting at Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, West Virginia, on October 24, 2024, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

for the hearing at Van-Devender Middle School, on October 25, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

for the hearing at Hamilton Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

for the hearing at Jackson Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTO JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follows:

LOCATION: Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hilltop Street, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 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.

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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendent's proposal to close Fairplains Elementary School and merge it into existing Martin Elementary School at its meeting at Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, West Virginia, on October 24, 2024, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 26, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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.

for the hearing at Jackson Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTO JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follows:

LOCATION: Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hilltop Street, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 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.

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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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

for the hearing at Jackson Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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 be 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 Wood 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. Each speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless, in accordance with Board Policy 1000, the President reduces that time limit to provide all persons wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

LOCATION: Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hilltop Street, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

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for the hearing at Jackson Middle School, on October 29, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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.

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DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-1167 today!

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SAFE STEP NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-403-1282

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES with Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is a violation of the above. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-688-8777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

JOBS

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 877-635-0244. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at Career-Technical.edu

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WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process. Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-249-3126

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-1167 today!

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SAFE STEP NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-403-1282

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES with Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading



Linda Masters, Owner/Broker OH & WV (740) 350-1452 MCV Benchmark Realty, LLC Welcome Home! Email: MCVBenchmark Realty@gmail.com



95 - Houses for Rent

WALKER WV Off Rt 50-36R, 26th, home 20 acres, secluded, beautiful countryside \$2100/mo, plus utilities plus deposit. Call 304-588-6902

100 - Unfurnished Apts.

1 Bedroom Garage Apt 1 bath, living, kitchen & access to garage Southside Parkersburg \$550 month, plus utilities Smoke and Pet Free No HUD 304-451-7864

155 - Help Wanted

Sales Executive The Parkersburg News & Sentinel is looking for a self-motivated, energetic individual for our sales team. You would be responsible for representing our company to existing and potential customers.

Key duties include building relationships and promoting sales of products and services through personal and/or telephone contact.

Woeffer: * An aggressive salary plus commission * Full-time position * Medical, dental and vision available * Monday-Friday * Vacation, 401k, paid holidays

If you are looking for a fun but challenging career e-mail your updated resume to: Inorthcraft@newsandsentinel.com

Garage-Hummage Sales Call 1-304-485-1891, Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to place your ad.

335 - Parkersburg City

2213 Harrison Ave, Fri 10:25 & Sat 10:28, 8a-5p. Quilting, cross-stitch, yarn & bobbin lace. Plus other items. MAP IT!

ADD - Doves

Multi-Media Consultant The Parkersburg News and Sentinel and The Marietta Times are seeking a full or part time inside Sales Multi-Media Consultant. This position focuses on developing revenues from new advertisers and growing revenue from existing advertisers. This position is

Multi-Media Consultant Selling daily newspaper, magazine, and digital advertising to active and new businesses using verbal and written skills. Provide good customer service. Follow through with maintain long-term client relationships. Manage multiple priorities across a variety of platforms. Qualifications: Basic computer knowledge. Positive attitude. Organized and detail-oriented. Ability to self-generate leads. Strong problem-solving and decision-making abilities. Communicate effectively with peers, superiors and customers in written and verbal form. Maintain dependability and professionalism. Ability to multi-task and work efficiently under tight deadlines. Results oriented and high achiever. Compensation: Mileage Reimbursement Health, Dental and Vision Insurance. Paid time off. Sick leave. 401k. Hourly Pay \$12 plus bonus and commission. Work Schedule: Daily, Monday-Friday. Hours, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Most major weekend and holidays off. The Marietta Times is part of Ogden Newspapers, Inc. Founded in 1890, Ogden Newspapers has since grown to over 40 daily newspapers, along with a number of weeklies and a magazine division stretching from New York to Hawaii. If you are looking to evolve, grow and develop custom solutions, please apply by submitting your resume no later than Oct. 25th.

Garage-Hummage Sales Call 1-304-485-1891, Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to place your ad.

335 - Parkersburg City

2213 Harrison Ave, Fri 10:25 & Sat 10:28, 8a-5p. Quilting, cross-stitch, yarn & bobbin lace. Plus other items. MAP IT!

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Angela Florence Salesperson SWC Properties Call: 304-916-6096 Office: 304-485-2569 SWC Realty is one of the fastest growing independent real estate agencies in the country. SWC Realty.com Scott Caynes/Broker

Angela Florence Salesperson SWC Properties Call: 304-916-6096 Office: 304-485-2569 SWC Realty is one of the fastest growing independent real estate agencies in the country. SWC Realty.com Scott Caynes/Broker

bid sale. News/Sentinel: October 14, 2024 and October 21, 2024 Lender: Wesbanco Bank, Inc.

Date: September 17th, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Justin M. Reber, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT


RECIPIENT

9/17/2024
DATE

Christie M. Willis
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 17, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, RONALD E. TICE, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Ronald E. Tice

RECIPIENT

9/17/24

DATE

Christie M. Willis

DELIVERED BY

Date: September 17, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Sarah A. Townsend, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Sarah A. Townsend

RECIPIENT

Sept 17, 2024

DATE

Christie M. Nellis

DELIVERED BY

Date: September 17, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Judith Johnson, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Judy Johnson
RECIPIENT

9-17-2024
DATE

Christie M. Willis
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 17, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Rick Olcott, have received one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School and one (1) copy of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Richard L. Olcott
RECIPIENT

9/17/24
DATE

Christie M. Nellis
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 18, 2024

Hamilton
LSIC
Chair

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Nikki Dye, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Nikki Dye
RECIPIENT

9-18-24
DATE

Kaleb Lawrence
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 18, 2024

Jackson
LSIC
Chair

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Cherish George, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Cherish George
RECIPIENT

9/18/24
DATE

Christie M. Willis
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 18, 2024

VanDreuder
Middle
LSIC
Chair

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, John R. Sprouse, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of VanDevender Middle School into Hamilton Middle School and Jackson Middle School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

John R. Sprouse
RECIPIENT

09/18/24
DATE

Christie M. Willis
DELIVERED BY

Date: September _____, 2024

Fairplains
Elementary
LSIC
Chair

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Patricia Petty, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Patricia Petty
RECIPIENT

9-18-2024
DATE

Christie M. Willis
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 18, 2024

Martin
Elementary
LSIC
Chair

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Sherry Morris, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Sherry Morris
RECIPIENT

September 18, 2024
DATE

Neather Grant
DELIVERED BY

Date: September 18, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Julie Gibson, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Julie Gibson

RECIPIENT

9/18/24

DATE

Christie Willis

DELIVERED BY

Christie M. Willis

Date: September 19, 2024

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS

1210 13TH STREET, PARKERSBURG WV 26161

I, Thomas Wheeler, have received two (2) copies of the Executive Summary and Impact Statement binder for the proposed closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into Martin Elementary School.

SIGNED RECEIPT OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPACT STATEMENT

Thomas Wheeler
RECIPIENT

September 19, 2024
DATE

Heather Grant
DELIVERED BY

Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing

7:30 p.m.
Fairplains Elementary School
615 Broadway Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

1. Meeting Procedure

Subject :	A. School Closure Hearing Procedure
Meeting :	Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category :	1. Meeting Procedure
Access :	Public
Type :	Procedural

Public Content

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendents recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follow:

- LOCATION: Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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 11:00 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 hearings business or at 11:00 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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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 Wood 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. Each speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless, in accordance with Board Policy 1000, the President reduces that time limit to provide all persons wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with six (6) copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, before noon on October 21, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Fairplains and Martin Elementary Schools.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendents 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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendents proposal to close Fairplains Elementary School and merge it into existing Martin Elementary School at its meeting at Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, West Virginia, on October 24, 2024, beginning at 8:30 p.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 October 29, 2024.

Christie M. Willis,
Superintendent
Wood County Board of Education

2. Opening of Meeting

Subject :	A. Call to Order
Meeting :	Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category :	2. Opening of Meeting
Access :	Public
Type :	Procedural

Subject : B. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category : 2. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural
Subject : C. Roll Call
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category : 2. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural

3. Fairplains Elementary School Hearing

Subject : A. Summary of Proposed Action Presented by Administration
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category : 3. Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Access : Public
Type : Information

Public Content

Subject : B. Delegation and Public Comment
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category : 3. Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Access : Public
Type : Information

Public Content

4. Closing of Meeting

Subject : A. Adjournment
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Category : 4. Closing of Meeting
Access : Public

**Wood County Board of Education
Special Meeting – Fairplains Elementary School Hearing
Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Fairplains Elementary School and Via YouTube
7:30 pm
Minutes**

1. Meeting Procedure

A. School Closure Hearing Procedure

President Raber reviewed the rules established for the hearing. He explained that the Summary of the Proposed Action would be presented by the Administration, which would be Superintendent Willis.

2. Opening of Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Wood County Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV. President Raber called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

B. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Rick Olcott.

C. Roll Call

The following Board members were present: Justin Raber, Rick Olcott, Ron Tice, and Judy Johnson. Sarah Townsend was absent.

A quorum was established.

3. Fairplains Elementary School Hearing

A. Summary of Proposed Action Presented by Administration

The specific proposal is to merge Fairplains Elementary into the current Martin Elementary, resulting in the closure of Fairplains Elementary School.

Fairplains Elementary enrollment has decreased by 58 students over the past ten (10) years. Over the past 10 years, the height of Fairplains Elementary's enrollment was during the 2015-2016 school year at 233 students. Fairplains Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 482 students. The program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is a capacity of 482 students. With a student enrollment of 162 students, the program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is 33.6%. The desirable program utilization for a school is 85%.

Martin Elementary enrollment has decreased by 54 students over the past 10 years. The 2016-2017 school year was the height of enrollment in the past decade at 279 students. When the impact statement and supporting data information was compiled there was an error. The enrollment on July 22, 2024, was 223 students and not 225 students at Martin Elementary as stated in the document. I want to put new information on the record for the Board tonight. As of October 23, 2024, the enrollment at Martin Elementary was 254 students. The October enrollment number would increase the existing program utilization as stated in the impact book from 44.4% to 50%.

The current enrollment as of Friday, October 23, 2024, at Fairplains Elementary was 160 students. To put on the record this evening a new program utilization rate utilizing the October 23 enrollment, the projected total enrollment of a merged Martin Elementary School would change from 389 to 414 students. This would change the program utilization rate from 82.1% to 87.3%.

The merger of Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary will result in a reduction of 7.5 professional personnel positions and five (5) service personnel positions.

Martin Elementary is located 1.4 miles from Fairplains. Transportation will be provided to current Fairplains Elementary students to Martin Elementary. The routes will not exceed the thirty-minute guideline as outlined in the WVDE Policy 6200.

Fairplains Elementary School is not compliant with the American Disabilities Act. Martin Elementary School is ADA compliant. Martin Elementary will have a secure vestibule constructed this school year.

The closure of Fairplains Elementary School and merger to Martin Elementary School would save the Board of Education \$861,244.49 (eight hundred sixty-one thousand, two hundred forty-four dollars and forty-nine cents) annually. This cost savings is needed as a result of declining enrollment. Wood County Schools will have less funding for next school year as our most recent full-time equivalency enrollment number has dropped by 176 FTE to 10,991; this is the number used in the state funding formula.

B. Delegation and Public Comment

The following audience members spoke and asked questions/shared concerns regarding the closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into existing Martin Elementary School:

- Shirley Smith

Recess

President Raber called for a recess at 7:44 pm, due to audio and timer issues.

President Raber called the members of the Board back to session at 7:47 pm.

- Chloe Dickerson
- Madaline Leggett
- Patricia Petty
- Jade Perkins
- Julie Gibson
- Marci Poe
- Alisa Shepler
- Hannah Schlicher
- Brittni Bolinger
- Amanda Sponseller
- Lacey Roberts
- Sherry Sanders
- Trampus Hill
- James Clark
- Brittany Sheppard
- Tom Wheeler
- Madison Hill

4. Closing of Meeting

A. Adjournment

President Raber adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

* * * * *

IN RE: CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

* * * * *

BEFORE: JUSTIN RABER, President
Rick Olcott, Vice President
Christie Willis, Superintendent of Schools
Judy Johnson, Member
Ron Tice, Member

HEARING: October 23, 2024
7:30 p.m.

Reporter: Nicholas Martin

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by the certifying agency.

LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School
615 Broadway Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

SPEAKERS: Shirley Smith, Chloe Dickerson, Madeline Leggett, Patricia Petty, Jade Perkins, Julie Gibson, Marcy Poe, Alysa Shepler, Hanna Schlicher, Brittany Bolinger, Amanda Sponseller, Lacie Roberts, Sherry Sanders, Trampus Hill, James Clark, Brittany Shepherd, Tom Wheeler, Madison Hill, John Merrit

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I N D E X

1		
2		
3	OPENING REMARKS	
4	By Board President	6 - 7
5	STATEMENT	
6	By Ms. Willis	7 - 10
7	PUBLIC COMMENT	
8	By Ms. Smith	11 - 15
9	By Ms. Dickerson	15 - 17
10	By Ms. Leggett	17 - 20
11	By Ms. Petty	20 - 21
12	By Ms. Perkins	21 - 25
13	By Ms. Gibson	25 - 29
14	By Ms. Poe	29 - 31
15	By Ms. Shepler	31 - 34
16	By Ms. Schlicher	35 - 37
17	By Ms. Bolinger	37 - 40
18	By Ms. Sponseller	40 - 43
19	By Ms. Roberts	44 - 46
20	By Ms. Sanders	46 - 48
21	By Mr. Hill	48 - 51
22	By Mr. Clark	51 - 54
23	By Ms. Shepherd	54 - 57
24	By Mr. Wheeler	57 - 59

I N D E X (cont.)

1		
2		
3	PUBLIC COMMENT	
4	By Ms. Hill	59 - 66
5	CLOSING REMARKS	
6	By Board President	66 - 67
7	ADJOURNMENT	67
8	CERTIFICATE	68
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
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17		
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E X H I B I T S

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<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page Offered</u>	<u>Page Admitted</u>
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Board Exhibit:

1	Building Program Utilization		
	Worksheet	9	10

P R O C E E D I N G S

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BOARD PRESIDENT: And I call the Special Meeting of the Wood County Board of Education to order.

If you would please join me in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Olcott.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE.)

BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED.)

BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. This evening I will note that four of the Members of the Board are present, with Ms. Townsend not here this evening.

As we move forward with the Fairplains Elementary School hearing in regards to the Fairplains closure and consolidation with Martin Elementary School, we will have a summary of the proposed action presented by the Administration, which Superintendents Willis will be presenting that, followed by delegations and public comments.

1 This Evening we have 18 speakers. Each
2 speaker will be afforded five minutes to address the
3 Board. During this time, we ask that all comments remain
4 germane to the topic of the proposed consolidation and
5 school closure. The timer will be to our right, as
6 everyone can see. If during one of the speakers, if you
7 have a question for the Administration, we will stop the
8 time so their answer will not count against your time.

9 As part of this process for school
10 closures, you are permitted to ask questions and get
11 those answers during this process. With the number of
12 speakers that we have, I'm going to be calling them up in
13 groups of five. We have five chairs right over here to
14 my left. And we'll have him come down and sit in those
15 chairs to keep things moving along as we progress.

16 When you are up to the microphone, before
17 the timer begins, we ask that you please state your name,
18 as well as spell your last name because we do have a
19 court reporter here so that way we can make sure the
20 spelling is correct, and if I butcher your name, I do
21 apologize. I'm horrible at that.

22 So with that, Madam Superintendent?

23 MS. WILLIS: The specific proposal is to
24 merge Fairplains Elementary into the current Martin

1 Elementary, resulting in the closure of Fairplains
2 Elementary School. Fairplains Elementary enrollment has
3 decreased by 58 students over the past ten years. The
4 height of Fairplains Elementary enrollment was during the
5 2015-2016 school year, of 233 students.

6 Fairplains Elementary has a building
7 utilization capacity for 482 students. With a student
8 enrollment of 162 students, the program utilization of
9 Fairplains Elementary is 33.6 percent. The desirable
10 program utilization for a school is 85 percent.

11 Martin Elementary's enrollment has
12 decreased by 54 students over the past ten years. The
13 2016-2017 school year was the height of enrollment in the
14 past decade of 279 students. When the impact statement
15 and supporting data information was compiled, there was
16 an error. The enrollment on July 22nd, 2024 was 223
17 students and not 225 students at Martin Elementary, as
18 stated in the document. This is a difference of two
19 students.

20 I want to put new information on the
21 record for the Board tonight. As of October 23rd, 2024,
22 the enrollment at Martin Elementary was 254 students.
23 The October enrollment number would increase the existing
24 program utilization as stated in the impact book at

1 Martin Elementary from 44.4 percent to 50 percent.

2 The current enrollment as of Friday,
3 October 23rd, 2024 at Fairplains Elementary was 160
4 students. To put on record this evening a new program
5 utilization rate utilizing the October 23rd enrollment,
6 the projected total enrollment of a merged Martin
7 Elementary school would change from 389 students to 414
8 students. This would change the program utilization rate
9 of Martin Elementary, the building, from 82.1 percent to
10 87.3 percent.

11 The merger of Fairplains Elementary and
12 Martin Elementary will result in a reduction of seven
13 and-a-half professional positions, personnel positions,
14 and five service personnel positions. Martin Elementary
15 is located 1.4 miles from Fairplains. Transportation
16 will be provided to current Fairplains Elementary
17 students to Martin Elementary. The routes will not
18 exceed the 30-minute guideline as outlined in the WVDE
19 Policy 6200.

20 Fairplains Elementary School is not
21 compliant with the American Disabilities Act. Martin
22 Elementary School is ADA compliant. Martin Elementary
23 will have a secure vestibule constructed this school
24 year.

1 The closure of Fairplains Elementary
2 School and merger to Martin Elementary School would save
3 the Board of Education \$861,244.49 annually. This cost
4 savings is needed as a result of declining enrollment.
5 Wood County schools will have less funding for next
6 school year as our most recent full-time equivalency
7 enrollment number has dropped by 176 full-time
8 equivalency to 10,991. This is the number used in the
9 state funding formula.

10 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you, Madam
11 Superintendent. In regards to the package that were
12 provided this evening, the Statement, as well as the
13 Fairplains' Merger into Martin Elementary Building
14 Program Utilization Worksheet, which is three pages, if
15 there is no objection from the Board, we will make this
16 part of the record this evening for both hearings and
17 make it a part of the transcript.

18 Is there any objection?

19 ---

20 (Whereupon, Board Exhibit 1, Statement and
21 Program Utilization Worksheets, was marked
22 for identification.)

23 ---

24 MR. TICE: No objection.

1 BOARD PRESIDENT: Hearing none, this will
2 be entered as part of the record this evening.

3 ---

4 (Whereupon, Board Exhibit 1, Statement and
5 Program Utilization Worksheets, was
6 admitted.)

7 ---

8 BOARD PRESIDENT: The first five speakers
9 as we move to delegations and public comments. Shirley
10 Smith, if you guys would come down. Chloe Dickerson,
11 Madeline Leggett, Patricia Petty and Jade Perkins. And
12 Ms. Shirley, you'll be up first.

13 MS. SMITH: First of all, can you hear
14 with that fan on? Is it okay?

15 Okay.

16 Thank you for coming to Fairplains
17 Elementary. We appreciate you coming to share and we
18 also thank those of you who are out there to share what
19 you're going to share tonight too as well.

20 BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Shirley, if you can
21 please state your name and spell your last name for us?

22 MS. SMITH: I am. I'm getting right to
23 it. My name is Shirley Smith, S-M-I-T-H, yes, and I am
24 the Secretary at Fairplains here and I have been for 37

1 years. When I first started my tenure here, everyone
2 told me that I shouldn't start here because Fairplains
3 school was on the roster to be closed. Well, I thought
4 it would be a good way to get my feet wet. And when I
5 would be offered another position, I would better
6 acclimated to do the job. Well, I not only got my feet
7 wet, I got totally submerged.

8 So many times when a decision is made, the
9 deciding factor is made because of financial needs. I
10 understand that. The negative viewpoints overwhelmingly
11 make that determination. If I were asked to make this
12 decision, I would look to all the reasons why we should
13 keep this school open and not close it. There's some
14 aspects about Fairplains, and I'm sure you all know
15 because we've been good to share them with everybody.

16 Fairplains is a community school, and the
17 nation is losing out on all these little community
18 schools by going to the larger ones. I see the
19 surrounding community giving their time and their talents
20 and their contributions to the students here. The
21 students are able to walk to school or ride the little
22 community bus, and this makes the school activities more
23 accessible when functions are planned.

24 Number two, it's a family school. I see

1 the families getting to know each other and working
2 closely for all the students. Fairplains is a loving
3 school. I see firsthand what the teachers and the staff
4 do by giving themselves totally to the students. I'm
5 sure that, Judy, you were a teacher, right? You drug
6 those bags out of the school many a time. And that's
7 what they do too. Not only caring for their educational
8 needs, but nurturing their physical needs as well.

9 They get to know them. You get to know
10 what's making them tick. In a larger school environment,
11 it wouldn't be the case. Only initial issues would have
12 time to be addressed. I'm not saying that teachers and
13 staff in a larger school do not have the capacity to care
14 for the students. I don't say that at all. It doesn't
15 take a rocket scientist to understand that more students,
16 especially with behavior, academic issues, will lose out
17 on having their needs met.

18 When I said I have been totally submerged,
19 I meant that over 37 years, I've seen a lot of changes at
20 Fairplains. Yeah, our enrollment is down from what it
21 was when I first started. However, the issues that these
22 students come to school with have grown larger. Placing
23 these students in a larger facility will be a detriment
24 to their success as the trend grows in doing so to save

1 dollars, I feel our students are going to be the losers.

2 It has been stated that the parent
3 uprising would be minimum if closing Fairplains versus a
4 school such as Greenmont, was brought to the public.
5 This is a sure sign of taking advantage.

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: Your time has expired.

7 MS. SMITH: Pardon me?

8 BOARD PRESIDENT: Your time has expired.

9 MS. SMITH: Oh, no, I got a little bit
10 more. A little bit more. I've got to do this one thing.

11 BOARD PRESIDENT: Okay.

12 I know. It stopped, and we're gonna (sic)
13 --- after Ms. Shirley's done, if you want to wrap up,
14 we're gonna pause for a second ---.

15 MS. SMITH: I will. I'll wrap it up right
16 now.

17 BOARD PRESIDENT: Okay.

18 MS. SMITH: I received a message from a
19 grandma guardian, Misty Wilkerson. She is severely ill
20 at Cleveland Clinic. She's a guardian with her
21 grandchildren here. And she wanted this message to be
22 said. I pray that the school stays open. It's a great
23 school with great teachers, principal and she said
24 secretary, among other things. Lily has been here all

1 her school years and she has one more year there. I will
2 hate it to be the last year there this year. Wish I
3 could be there to voice my opinion, but I am in the
4 hospital. Thank you.

5 Thank you for letting me do that.

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 BOARD PRESIDENT: We're currently having a
9 little bit of technical difficulty with the timer. I'm
10 trying to remedy that. The other issue that I'm having,
11 is I'm having a hard time to hear. I can't hear very
12 well back here. Is there something you can do with the
13 speakers or ---? So we're going to recess for a couple
14 of minutes.

15 ---

16 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

17 ---

18 BOARD PRESIDENT: Our next speaker is
19 Chloe Dickerson.

20 MS. DICKERSON: Hi, my name is Chloe
21 Dickerson, D-I-C-K-E-R-S-O-N.

22 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

23 MS. DICKERSON: I attended Fairplains for
24 seven years; Pre-K through 5th grade. I am currently in

1 7th grade at Edison Middle School. I am here this
2 evening to voice my opinion on the possible closure of
3 Fairplains Elementary.

4 During my time at Fairplains, I was chosen
5 to participate in the spelling bee and math field day. A
6 couple of my favorite memories would be Baking with
7 Fractions. In my fifth grade field trip to the Wilds. I
8 know my academic successes would not be possible without
9 each one of my teachers here at Fairplains. I feel it
10 would be a huge disservice to these students by uprooting
11 all they've ever known here at Fairplains and placing
12 them in a different school and overloading the classroom,
13 and a disservice to Martin students as well.

14 By keeping Fairplains open, you are giving
15 these students a better learning opportunity. The
16 teachers will have more one-on-one time with each child
17 and be able to assess their strengths and weaknesses and
18 cater to what skills they may be lacking in. Also, it
19 would keep the jobs for so many teachers, administrators
20 and service people. My brother is one who struggles with
21 learning due to his ADHD and the teachers really help him
22 and work with him individually to help him succeed.

23 Fairplains is not just a school, but a
24 family. One I am so proud to be a part of. Please keep

1 the school open so many other children can receive some
2 of the very best education like I know I received during
3 my time here. Thank you.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 BOARD PRESIDENT: Chloe, thank you so
6 much. Very eloquent, and thank you so much for speaking
7 on behalf of the students. Our next speaker is Madeline
8 Leggett.

9 MS. LEGGETT: Hi, my name is Maddie
10 Leggett, L-E-G-G-E-T-T. I am here tonight to express my
11 deepest concerns regarding the potential closure of
12 Fairplains Elementary. As a coach and member of the
13 community, I strongly believe that closing the school
14 would have significant negative consequences for our
15 students, family and broader community.

16 First and foremost, Fairplains is not just
17 a building, it's a cornerstone of this community. For
18 years it has been providing a nurturing environment where
19 children feel safe, supported and are encouraged to grow.
20 The smaller class sizes and close-knit relationships
21 between the teachers and families created a foundation
22 that is irreplaceable.

23 Displacing these students will not only
24 disrupt their learning, but also the vital connections

1 they've made. These kids trust so much in their teachers
2 they have at Fairplains that it's not an easy thing to
3 move to where they won't know their staff and the staff
4 doesn't know them., compared to the staff that they have
5 now who care more about these kids than anything else.

6 Closing Fairplains would affect our most
7 vulnerable students. Those who rely on stability and
8 familiarity of their school environment. Many of these
9 children walk to school. Sending them to a school
10 further away can present transportation challenges and
11 create unnecessary burdens on families already struggling
12 with time and resources. Beyond the immediate impact of
13 students, the school is a family.

14 There isn't a single student here that
15 doesn't seek comfort from their teachers. These students
16 rely more on the staff than we can even imagine, being
17 told how much they matter and how loved they are every
18 day. Wood County has suffered a few too many lost lives
19 of students who felt that they had no other option.
20 Relationships you create at a younger age and learning to
21 communicate those skills with adults make a significant
22 impact.

23 During such a fragile time, it is crucial
24 to provide students with stability. Schools aren't just

1 places for academic learning, they are a social and
2 emotional safety nets. Disrupting that support by
3 closing a school could contribute to feelings of
4 isolation and instability, especially for students
5 already struggling with mental health.

6 I urge the Board to reconsider this
7 decision to close the school, especially during such a
8 sensitive time. Let's focus on supporting our students
9 mental health and ensuring that they have stability that
10 they need right now. I work on a day-to-day basis with
11 every age group of athletes being middle, elementary and
12 high school.

13 The one thing that I can say is these kids
14 don't have it easy. We want to jump and call their
15 generation weak and blame it all on social media, but who
16 are we when we can't even put them in a classroom with
17 less than 25 kids when the teachers realistically don't
18 have time to spend with them and ask them the questions
19 that they need? Kids today are facing challenges like
20 never before, from the pressures of social media to
21 academic expectations and now with the added strain of
22 mental health concerns.

23 Though I don't have kids myself, I can see
24 the immense pressure students are facing and it's truly

1 frightening. Children who come from difficult
2 circumstances need all the love and support they can get.

3 Many of them face challenges that go beyond academics,
4 dealing with trauma, instability and environments that
5 make it hard for them to focus on their education. For
6 these kids, school is often one place where they can feel
7 safe, valued and supported.

8 It's crucial that we create environments
9 where they are surrounded by understanding and care
10 because for some, school may be the only consistent and
11 positive space that they have in their lives. Providing
12 them with love, encouragement and stability is not just
13 important, it's essential for their wellbeing and their
14 future success. Thank you.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Our
17 next speaker is Patricia Petty.

18 MS. PETTY: My name is Patricia Petty,
19 P-E-T-T-Y. Mine is going to be short and sweet.

20 I want to start off by saying I've had
21 three daughters come through this school. This was not
22 their home school, but I chose this school for them to
23 come to because of the family-like atmosphere. They are
24 carrying on their education in middle and high school,

1 still maintaining 4.0 grade averages, thanks to the start
2 that they had here at Fairplains.

3 I chose to start my career here when my
4 oldest daughter was in first grade. I am a Pre-K aide.
5 Once immersing myself into the Mountain Lion culture, I
6 naively thought that all schools were like this. I
7 assumed all schools felt like a family. I assumed all
8 schools had staff that knew each child by name. Over the
9 past 11 years, I've come to realize that just isn't the
10 case.

11 I ask that you reconsider the closure of
12 Fairplains. We should not disrupt these child's lives to
13 save a buck. Nor should we push so many together that
14 they just become a student number instead of a name.
15 These kids need to be seen and they need to be heard by
16 familiar, safe faces. Thank you.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
19 speaker is Jade Perkins.

20 MS. PERKINS: Jade Perkins, P-E-R-K-I-N-S.
21 I'm the fifth grade teacher here at Fairplains. I've
22 called room 20 my second home for the last eight years,
23 as have 400 --- 147 students. I'm speaking to you today
24 with a heavy heart, yet with unwavering determination on

1 behalf of the entire community that our school serves.

2 As you are very aware, there are
3 discussions circulating about the potential closure of
4 our beloved school. The prospect of losing such a vital
5 institution in our community has deeply troubled us all.
6 You see, I don't think you quite understand the profound
7 impact that closing our school will have on our students,
8 families and the community at large.

9 Fairplains is not just a building where
10 lessons are taught. It is a beacon of hope, a hub of
11 learning and a source of inspiration and encouragement
12 for generations of students. It has been a place where
13 dreams are nurtured, talents are discovered and futures
14 are shaped. But more than that, it is a place where
15 students are eager to attend each day because they know
16 they will be cared for, showy they are valued and most
17 importantly, greater than the trauma that many of them
18 hold. They are loved, each and every one of them. Even
19 despite their struggles at home, Fairplains becomes their
20 safe space.

21 Closing our school would not only disrupt
22 the education of our current students, but also sever the
23 ties that bonds --- that binds our community together.
24 It would deprive future generations of the opportunities

1 and resources that have enriched the lives of so many
2 before them that our small school can offer. This
3 closure would leave a void that cannot easily be filled.
4 Impacting not only academic growth, but also the social
5 and emotional wellbeing of our students.

6 Furthermore, our school has consistently
7 demonstrated its value in education. Going above and
8 beyond to make sure students are attending school, are
9 safe, and feel more than just a number or a statistic.
10 Our test scores may not be comparable to a blue ribbon
11 school, but neither does the trauma or IEPs that we
12 service.

13 We have dedicated teachers who go above
14 and beyond to ensure the success of our students,
15 regardless of their abilities. They will know their
16 potential and it will be fostered through love and
17 support each and every day.

18 In a community with a low socioeconomic
19 status and a high poverty rate, one that's looked at as
20 overtaken by the drug epidemic, when you see our academic
21 achievements, it's pretty astounding what our students
22 can do when given the right environment; the one that
23 Fairplains provides them. The extracurricular activities
24 and community involvement allows our students

1 opportunities to have a more positive impact because they
2 are able to attend events within our school being ---
3 with our school being within close proximity. With our
4 school.

5 This speaks volumes about the positive
6 impact we have on the lives of those we serve. I
7 understand that difficult decisions must be made,
8 especially in challenging times. However, I urge you to
9 explore alternative solutions and consider the long-term
10 ramifications of closing our school. Together, we can
11 find ways to address any challenges we may face while
12 preserving the invaluable resource that is our school.

13 I urge you to reconsider the proposal to
14 close our school and, instead, work collaboratively with
15 our community to ensure its continued operation. Our
16 students deserve nothing less than the best opportunities
17 possible, and our school plays a pivotal role in making
18 that a reality. As author L.R. Nost once said, every day
19 in a hundred small ways, our children ask, do you see me?
20 Do you hear me? Do I matter? Their behavior often
21 reflects our response.

22 I urge you to make our children feel seen
23 and heard. Make a decision that lets them know that even
24 though they carry more trauma on their shoulders than

1 many of you will carry in your lifetime, they still
2 matter and are more than just a statistic. Listen to the
3 kids in our school. Pay attention to the impact that our
4 school is able to have on them, and consider the profound
5 repercussions of your choices.

6 Thank you for taking the time to consider
7 my plea. I am hopeful that with your support, we can
8 keep the doors of Fairplains open for generations to
9 come. Thank you.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
12 five speakers, if you would please come down this way.
13 Julie Gibson, Marcie Poe, Alysa Shepler, Hannah --- I'm
14 not even going to try, and Brittany Bolinger. And Ms.
15 Gibson, you are up first.

16 MS. GIBSON: Julie Gibson, G-I-B-S-O-N.

17 Good evening. I am the Principal at
18 Fairplains Elementary. I would like to begin with a
19 short that some of you may have heard before. Two
20 children stand under an apple tree that leans to the
21 left, making it harder for the child on the right to
22 reach the apples. Both children are given ladders of the
23 same height, but the child on the left still gets more
24 apples. This is equality.

1 In another scenario, the children are
2 given ladders that are the right height for their
3 individual needs. The child on the right receives a
4 slightly taller ladder than the child on the left and
5 both are able to reach the lab reach the apples. This is
6 equity. Equity and equality, please remember those two
7 words.

8 I will now voice four reasons why
9 Fairplains should not be closed and merged with Martin
10 Elementary next year. First, the current class sizes at
11 Fairplains are about 20 students in each classroom. If
12 combined, the class sizes will balloon. There are
13 numerous educational studies and meta analyses of studies
14 showing the need for 20 students or fewer per classroom
15 for maximum safety, relationships and academic
16 achievement, especially in low SES environments.

17 The National School and Safety Services
18 company recently hired by Wood County Schools said
19 relationships are the number one most effective way to
20 prevent a dangerous situation from happening in schools.
21 Relationships grow best including class size is less than
22 20. The average achievement increases in a small
23 classroom is about four months per child of learning
24 ahead of class sizes where the class sizes are greater

1 than 20. That is equity.

2 In addition to class size, we must also
3 consider school size. I hope and assume that you are
4 familiar with the Matthew Project National Report,
5 Seminole Research completed on the impact of school size,
6 on school performance in low SES communities. The
7 research found that based on SES level, communities
8 benefit or lose from increase in school size. Students
9 in low SES communities benefit from smaller schools.
10 Students from more affluent communities benefit from
11 larger schools.

12 A report titled, Compounding Disadvantage;
13 the Effects of School and District Size on Student
14 Achievement in West Virginia by Craig Howley was research
15 completed only on schools in West Virginia. Quoted
16 directly from the author; the evidence of this study
17 suggests that West Virginia's small schools are doing a
18 respectable job. They nearly eliminated the negative
19 relationship between poverty and academic achievement in
20 grades six and nine on average.

21 Policymakers should expect to pay a little
22 extra for a small miracle. In light of this evidence,
23 school closures and consolidations would seem to be ill-
24 advised and desperate measures for in impoverished

1 communities. This begs the question, are we willing to
2 do what is in the best interest of our most at-risk
3 children for the chance of a small miracle? That is
4 equity.

5 Second, the physical building assessment
6 completed by Pickering and Associates gave Fairplains at
7 least an average grade on all areas of the physical
8 building, except our boiler doors which need replaced at
9 a cost of \$5,000. Some people may wonder why Fairplains
10 is an outlier in energy costs. The answer is that
11 Fairplains has been neglected for funding.

12 Other Wood County schools have new windows
13 and climate-controlled HVA (sic) systems. So the
14 question is not, are our students worth the extra
15 spending on energy? The question is why has Fairplains
16 been the victim of discriminatory allocation of funding
17 for improvements in Wood County? Let's make the
18 necessary improvements to Fairplains so that it has lower
19 energy costs. That is equality.

20 Finally, think about the low margin the
21 recent levy passed with, the taxpayers want change. How
22 can elected board members continue to vote to add
23 multiple positions every year to our central office while
24 cutting back on instructional staff? We currently have

1 two newly-created job postings at central office and we
2 are looking at cutting at least 11 jobs with this
3 possible closure. Cabell County is very similar in size
4 of student population. The professional and service
5 staff at Cabell Central Office is considerably smaller
6 than Wood County Schools.

7 Board Members and Mrs. Willis, I urge you
8 to make the right choice for our children. Listen to the
9 communities of the affected schools and the county
10 voters. We want our children in smaller schools, smaller
11 class sizes and safe. A good start for the Wood County
12 Board of Education would be equality of treatment for all
13 of our schools and the aspiration should be equity.
14 Let's strive to give all of our children what they need
15 to find success.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
18 speaker is Marcy Poe.

19 MS. POE: Marcy Poe, P-O-E.

20 Right, small. We are told good things
21 come in small packages. We are told to keep our circles
22 small, enjoy the small things, take small steps, small
23 actions, big results. I don't know when small became a
24 negative turn. I don't know when small classrooms became

1 education's doom, but it's not. It's the exact opposite.
2 Small is a promising future for our students. Small is
3 knowing every student by name in the school.

4 Small is deep, meaningful connections.
5 Small is making a difference in a student's life. Small
6 is making sure every student is seen, valued and loved.
7 Small is more one-on-one teaching. Small is community
8 strong. Small is building strong social and emotional
9 skills. Small is teaching selflove, confidence, their
10 true identity. Small is improved performance. Small is
11 a powerful student and staff culture. Small is where
12 students thrive. We work it, we live it and we love it.

13 We will fight for it for our students and their second
14 home. Small matters.

15 Safety. In a county where schools,
16 students and staff are targets of crime, small matters.
17 In a world of social media, trendsetting, violence and
18 crime in schools, school matters --- small matters. In a
19 county with limited police and resource officers, small
20 matters. During any threat small matters. Small means
21 classroom teachers and staff have a better chance of
22 protecting every student.

23 Students are not just bodies in our
24 classroom that are taught academics. They are humans

1 that we are shaping for the future. Now teachers are
2 being expected to do unimaginably more and teach --- than
3 teach school subjects. We are expected to raise our
4 students in these classrooms. Reaching each human in a
5 small school in a small classroom matters.

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
8 speaker is Alysa or --- Alysa Shepler.

9 MS. SHEPLER: Alysa Shepler,
10 S-H-E-P-L-E-R. My name is Elisa Shepler. As I look back
11 at my 25 years in public education, this isn't first
12 school closure I've been a part of. I feel like I've
13 seen this move and already know the ending. With the
14 closure of Fairplains Elementary, it has been sad (sic)
15 by the Board of Education and Central Office staff that
16 students will benefit from the closure by having more
17 opportunities.

18 Students will still be receiving
19 instruction with the same county-adopted textbooks and
20 curriculum. The opportunity to be in a much larger class
21 and school where the proverbial crack that swallows kids
22 up will overcome many of our students. The trauma of
23 relocating many of our students will be seen in various
24 ways. These may be viewed as increased absenteeism,

1 possibly or potentially a decrease in participation in
2 activity since many of our students lack transportation.

3 If the Board of Education would come to
4 our school at the end of the day, you would witness how
5 many of our students walk to their homes with their
6 family members. Crossing Camden Avenue on foot to
7 participate in activities at Martin will be very
8 difficult for our students families and probably won't
9 happen.

10 I have been in many schools in Wood County
11 and, visibly, the integrity of Fairplains Elementary is
12 much better than many other schools. The statistical
13 propaganda that has been associated with the cost of
14 keeping the school open related to utility costs is just
15 that of statistics. A wise statistics professor on my
16 first night of class said statistics can be manipulated
17 in any way you want to get them to say what you need them
18 to say. I think this notion is very applicable in the
19 station situation.

20 As the Board of Education Members ponder
21 their individual votes regarding the closure of
22 Fairplains Elementary, I would like to leave you with
23 these thoughts. The Wood County Board of Education has
24 been blessed with something like Willy Wonka's Golden

1 Ticket. The generous Board of Governors of WVUP are
2 intending to convey property to allow construction of a
3 new school. This is a tremendous savings and a blessing
4 to Wood county schools.

5 Number two, the Wood County voters passed
6 a levy and bond with all current schools being part of
7 that passage. There wasn't any notation of school
8 closure of Fairplains or VanDe (sic) when it was
9 important to get voters to ratify that passage.

10 Number three the lack of fiscal
11 responsibility in the purchase of the property to build
12 the new Lubeck school is trickling down to the students
13 and staff at VanDe Middle School and Fairplains
14 Elementary. The payment of \$755,000 for property that's
15 the valuation with the assessor's office is closer to
16 half that amount is very sad, but telling, regarding
17 stewardship of resources. Inflated real estate purchases
18 give many taxpayers reasons to question the integrity of
19 elected individuals they voted into office. It also
20 keeps investigative journalist's jobs very interesting.

21 Number four; each Board of Education
22 member must be able to look at themselves in the mirror.
23 Closure isn't beneficial in any way for the students it
24 affects. Shame on you if you've convinced yourself

1 otherwise. Little community schools like Fairplains
2 Elementary should be protected and not sacrificed under
3 the guise of fiscal responsibility. Another Wood County
4 school of similar size to Fairplains Elementary is in
5 jeopardy foreclosure and one might postulate if the
6 supporting number is indeed a zip code of 26105.

7 A very interesting article surfaced
8 yesterday regarding State Senator Mike Stewart's
9 opposition to consolidation. He is, in fact,
10 recommending deconsolidation. Wood County Schools was
11 cited in that article. This article also stated that
12 school boards aren't spending enough time considering the
13 impact of school closures for the community and the
14 students themselves.

15 I hope you all take the time to find this
16 article and read it before you vote on your decision.
17 Thank you for allowing me to address this evening, the
18 Board of Education and I hope you reconsider and do not
19 close Fairplains Elementary. Thank you.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
22 speaker is ---.

23 MS. SCHLICHER: S-C-H-L-I-C-H-E-R.

24 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

1 MS. SCHLICHER: My name is Hannah and I am
2 a teacher at Wood County Schools. Some of you here know
3 my mother. She was a teacher for most of her career in
4 Wood County at Jefferson Elementary. When I was a child
5 I always wondered why she spent 30-plus years in a school
6 that some would call difficult, but for her she knew the
7 importance of the work she was doing with students who
8 had next to nothing.

9 She once was a child of similar
10 background. My mother was the first person in her family
11 to go to college. If you ask her the one thing that
12 changed the trajectory of her life, she would say her
13 education. Recently we talked about her Elementary
14 education and believe it or not, she could tell me the
15 exact teacher that was the reason for her pursuing a
16 degree in education. That one teacher gave her the
17 thought that she could be more than the hand she was
18 dealt, who lit the fire that changed the rest of her life
19 and As a result, mine.

20 That is the impact of a teacher, a person
21 who can change generations just by the connection they
22 make with their students. For me, seeing the example of
23 someone who was so dedicated to helping those who needed
24 it most was inspiring. Something that I wanted to do

1 too, but it wasn't until I began teaching that I saw the
2 true impact that teachers have on those students who are
3 the most vulnerable, those who are not equally advantaged
4 and live their life to survive each day, like many who
5 attend Fairplains.

6 For many students, they have a solid
7 foundation built at home. Their parents exhibit strong
8 morals, explain goal setting and discuss the importance
9 of planning their future. These students will go on to
10 be who they were meant to because of the great examples
11 set by their people parents. Unfortunately, not all
12 students have those parents. For these students, they
13 will look to other adults in their lives as the example
14 for how they should live.

15 For the students at Fairplains, these
16 adults are their teachers. Not all students need their
17 teachers, but the students at Fairplains do. They need
18 their teachers for more than just education. They need
19 them for life. Am I naive enough to think that me still
20 standing here tonight will change the outcome of what
21 happens to this place? No, I am not, but I have always
22 taught my students as well as my own children to stand up
23 for things that they believe in to be important, even if
24 they are standing alone.

1 I hope Ty, Austin and Sebastian, the three
2 students in my multi-cat room my first year at
3 Fairplains, through the 43 students in the room at the
4 conclusion of last year and all the beautiful faces in
5 the above and years between, know how much they have
6 shaped my life, and I hope that Fairplains has shaped a
7 small part of theirs.

8 So tonight, I'm here to show them that I
9 believe this school is important. It is a place that is
10 home to many of the students and teachers who spend day
11 in and day out inside its walls. It's hard to put into
12 words exactly what Fairplains is, but I know for so many,
13 it's a place where they are taught, fed, loved, cared
14 for, clothed, and for many, saved. Thank you.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
17 speaker is Brittany Bolinger.

18 MS. BOLINGER: Bolinger is
19 B-O-L-I-N-G-E-R.

20 This is my 11th year teaching at
21 Fairplains and I did my student teaching here as well.
22 When I first received my student teaching assignment,
23 people were a little discouraging. They'd say things
24 like, why would you want to go there? It's a really

1 tough school. Do you think you could get moved to a
2 better placement? It's tough there. Or that's a really
3 low school; you'll have your work cut out for you. Or My
4 favorite, Fairplains is special.

5 Eleven (11) years later, I'm still here.
6 I can't say those people were exactly wrong, but what
7 they were leaving out were statements that sound like,
8 you'll be so welcomed there, and those kids could really
9 use a teacher like you there, or they had two things
10 right. I have had my work cut out for me and Fairplains
11 is indeed special.

12 In my time at Fairplains, I've taught
13 math, reading, writing, all the core subjects. I've also
14 taught students coming into second grade how to correctly
15 hold a pencil. I've taught them how to use watercolors
16 and paint that they've never seen before. Some of these
17 things, I'm sure, happen in all elementary schools. Some
18 things I've done that aren't quite as common.

19 I've taught students how to turn knobs on
20 a restroom sink because their faucets at home don't
21 provide water. I've taught them how to flush a toilet
22 because they don't have running water at home. I've
23 bought socks, packs of t-shirts, donated clothing, and
24 sent home food items and bottles of water for students to

1 have something for dinner or because their things get
2 ruined on their dirt floors in their homes.

3 I'm not trying to paint a sob story or
4 highlight only extreme cases. In reality, these are
5 fairly common cases at our school. My point is low SES
6 schools are special. The students at Fairplains truly
7 need a little more one-on-one time and a little more
8 attention because they don't always have what they need
9 at home.

10 They need a smaller class size because
11 they're handling adult situations or acting as the adult
12 in their homes while trying to be a kid. This often
13 causes big emotions and they need stable relationships to
14 help them with a small school like Fairplains provides.

15 Many students at our school are surviving
16 thanks to Fairplains. They're learning how to function
17 as humans, interacting as children, and learning all
18 those core subjects we also teach. Students here become
19 family. School becomes the one constant and the one
20 stable place in many of our students lives.

21 Is our school small? Yes, but small
22 schools can do big things and they do big things. Some
23 of these things just don't show through a test score or
24 you need a little more conversation with them to become a

1 parent.

2 I think merging us into a larger school
3 would be a great disservice to our Fairplains families.
4 Thank you.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
7 speakers, if you would come down this way, Lacie Roberts
8 Amanda Sponseller, Sherry Sanders, Trampus Hill and James
9 Clark. Ms. Roberts, you'll be first up.

10 MS. ROBERTS: My name is Lacie Roberts.
11 Roberts is R-O-B-E-R-T-S. I haven't even said anything
12 yet, and I'm crying.

13 BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Roberts, would you
14 like a couple of minutes?

15 MS. ROBERTS: (Indicates yes.)

16 BOARD PRESIDENT: Okay.

17 Let me know when you're ready and we'll
18 have you back up. Our next speaker is Amanda Sponseller.

19 MS. SPONSELLER: My name is Amanda
20 Sponseller. Sponseller is S-P-O-N-S-E-L-L-E-R.

21 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

22 MS. SPONSELLER: I've been a teacher at
23 Fairplains for nine years. I taught second grade for
24 five years and I'm currently in my fourth year of

1 teaching third grade. My students are Avalon, Hudson,
2 Dana, Isaiah, Izzy, Zylie, Jordan, Kinsley, Macy, Luke,
3 Zach, C.J., Camden, Hadley, Colton, Jackson, Emery,
4 Adeline, Will, Declan, and Zayden. I tell you their
5 names because names are important. My students are
6 neither numbers nor are they test scores. They are real
7 students being affected by this closure.

8 We've been in school for nine weeks and
9 I've already lost count of the number of times I've had
10 to comfort my crying students because they don't want to
11 go to another school next year. Our students know that
12 every teacher and staff member in this building cares
13 about them. They know every adult in this building will
14 say hello and ask how they are doing.

15 We all know their names. This closeness
16 is one of the things that makes our school special. Our
17 students will not experience this in a larger school.
18 Their uniqueness won't be appreciated in the same ways.
19 Their needs will be more likely to fall through the
20 cracks.

21 Yesterday I asked my class what they would
22 like me to tell you on their behalf. They want you to
23 know how much they love Fairplains. While they are only
24 third graders, many students have already been to

1 multiple schools. Fairplains is their favorite. They
2 love our playground and the fact that they can walk here
3 after school and on weekends to play on it. They love
4 the memories they've made here. They are sad that newer
5 students won't be able to make the same memories. Some
6 students express disappointment because they won't get to
7 have the teachers or experiences that their older
8 siblings did in fourth and fifth grade.

9 My students told me repeatedly how much
10 they love the teachers here. One student who just moved
11 here two weeks ago asked me what would happen to our
12 teachers here. Another student quickly voiced her
13 concern because she knows that the other schools in the
14 county are already filled with teachers. My students do
15 not understand why you would close a school as great as
16 ours.

17 The students here at Fairplains may not
18 have the most money or the highest test scores, but they
19 do have the biggest hearts. Our mission statement is we
20 will develop leaders while caring for each other. We can
21 accomplish this because our small class sizes allow our
22 students the opportunities to bring their ideas to
23 fruition. Just ask our fifth graders who had a
24 fundraiser this week for flood victims from the recent

1 hurricanes.

2 On the first day of school, one fifth
3 grader came up to me at recess and said, Ms. Sponseller,
4 they want to close our school. I gave him a sad smile
5 and told him, I know. He then looked at me and said, and
6 the expression I give you is his, not mine. And they
7 want to tear down our school and build a warehouse. How
8 is a warehouse any better than a school?

9 I couldn't answer him, so I will ask you
10 instead, how is a warehouse better than a school for our
11 Fairplains students? Thank you.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Ms.
14 Sponseller, I just have to say it --- I want you to bring
15 a book to read to us because I am absolutely encapsulated
16 by what ---.

17 MS. SPONSELLER: I mean, I can go get a
18 book.

19 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
20 speaker is Sherry Sanders. Oh, I'm sorry, I was looking
21 here and ---. You're ready?

22 MS. ROBERTS: I think I'm ready.

23 BOARD PRESIDENT: Okay.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Round two.

1 BOARD PRESIDENT: Next speaker will be
2 Lacie Roberts. Go ahead.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Roberts, R-O-B-E-R-T-S.
4 Good evening, Board Members. I'm a fourth
5 grade teacher here at Fairplains. I've been a teacher
6 for six years, five of those being here. Before teaching
7 at this wonderful school. I taught at McKinley
8 Elementary, so I have been through this situation before.
9 I know the closing of our school is about money and
10 numbers. And I know that when you look at the money and
11 numbers alone that this decision makes sense. What
12 doesn't make sense is classrooms maxed out at capacity,
13 greater student-to-teacher ratios, and students getting
14 lost in the shuffle and losing a sense of community.

15 The teachers at our school know almost
16 every student by name. We know the families, their
17 stories, and their struggles. Every teacher in this
18 building has helped many students in the school that
19 aren't even in their classrooms or have ever been on
20 their rosters. Our students as a whole are academically,
21 socially, and emotionally behind across the board. COVID
22 is a big factor in this, but for our students, poverty
23 and trauma are also at the top of that list.

24 These children need positive and

1 meaningful relationships. They need to know that they
2 have a team of people on their side, and we have that
3 here. Can you say the same for Jefferson? Does every
4 teacher in that school know almost every student by name?
5 Does almost every teacher in that school know the family
6 situations of almost every student? Do the Teachers even
7 know each other? Or is the staff so large that strong,
8 meaningful relationships amongst them can't grow because
9 everyone is in their own wing?

10 Can a kindergarten student come to a fifth
11 grade teacher when they've had a hard day because they've
12 built a positive and trusting relationship with them? We
13 are a family and we chose to be here for these children.

14 Every year we do professional development on the latest
15 research based practices. Well, research has shown that
16 classroom size reduction increases student achievement.
17 Smaller schools and smaller classrooms provide more
18 opportunity for individualized instruction. Smaller
19 schools and smaller classrooms enhance positive
20 relationships.

21 So if we put the money aspect of this
22 aside, is this truly what is best for our students? I
23 think we all know the answer to this. So aren't our
24 students, our children, worth the money it takes to keep

1 the small school operating as a safe haven, a place of
2 community and belonging and a place where the teachers
3 choose to be here for these students? My heart breaks to
4 think that my kids, Lily, Tristan, Avery, Jason,
5 Jeremiah, Izzy, Joshua, Julian, Ezra, Bryn, Daniel, Kevin
6 and Raelynn will get lost in the shuffle in maxed-out
7 classroom.

8 These children, these lives. Not data or
9 numbers or dollar signs, but small humans matter.
10 They're worth investing in.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
13 speaker is Sherry Sanders.

14 MS. SANDERS: Hello, I'm Sherry Sanders,
15 S-A-N-D-E-R-S. I currently have a third grade student
16 here at this school and I am proud to say that I am a
17 Fairplains Alumni myself.

18 Just a little bit about my background. I
19 was born to a teen mom who got married while she was in
20 high school. And for most of my childhood I was raised
21 in a poverty situation. I attended Fairplains and the
22 support and education I got in this little school helped
23 change my life. The teachers during my time here were
24 far ahead in terms of teaching styles and philosophies.

1 They engaged us in learning and pushed us to be our best.
2 They didn't accept our current situations as a sentence
3 to what the rest of our lives had to be.

4 I graduated from PHS and I am now a
5 Registered Nurse. My older sister, who is also a
6 Fairplains Alumni, has a Master's degree in Chemistry and
7 two registered patents in asphalt. This school and the
8 people who chose to work with us here helped change our
9 lives. My education at Fairplains helped break the
10 generational poverty curse that I could have been
11 destined to repeat.

12 I'm also a mom to a third grader and I
13 transport him here out of district. The education he has
14 received has been top notch. He scores above grade level
15 in math and reading. He is excited to come to school.
16 He has friends and teachers who care ;not just about his
17 academic growth, but also care about his emotional health
18 when he is upset.

19 Choosing to send my child to school is
20 scary with everything that's going on in society. The
21 teachers here are vigilant with keeping him safe. The
22 class sizes are small. The teachers in every grade know
23 him. They recognize me at drop off and pick up. This
24 helps me feel more secure with his safety.

1 I also want him to receive the best
2 education he can to make his dreams come true. As he
3 currently shows he is mastering the grade level content,
4 it is apparent that his teachers are more than effective.
5 I want him to be --- I want him to be able to learn how
6 to socialize and work with others so he will be
7 successful in the workforce. These needs are met at
8 Fairplains.

9 I feel the current Board of Education is
10 targeting our County's most vulnerable students when
11 discussing closing Fairplains and Van Devender. I want
12 you to know that I am a parent who cares about your
13 decisions and the effects it has on my children. The
14 School Board has repeatedly said Wood County schools has
15 lost student enrollment. Don't force those of us that
16 love our school to make a difficult choice to look at
17 options that include other learning facilities besides
18 Wood County schools. As you contemplate your decision,
19 please put the needs of our children first.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
22 speaker is Trampus Hill.

23 MR. HILL: Yes, my name is Trampus Hill,
24 H-I-L-L. I am an Alumnus of this school. I went here in

1 the '70s. I'm a hundred percent against this closure at
2 Fairplains and Van Devender. I retired from the U.S.
3 Army and moved back to Parkersburg. We had four children
4 and was living in Germany in 2001. The Internet was
5 young and my wife and I were debating on where were going
6 to retire. Our decision was is the graduation rate of
7 Wood County, West Virginia is why we came back here and
8 became part of our community that we was from.

9 The crime rate was good. So this is why
10 we came back here. I would personally like to know how
11 the Board chose the two schools to close, being
12 Fairplains and Van Devender. I don't understand. I'm no
13 expert, but I do knew --- do know what this will do to
14 this community. It's not science.

15 So your answer is to close schools and bus
16 more kids. Has anyone looked at any studies or
17 statistics at the facts of busing? Have any of y'all
18 looked at that and seen what that would do to students
19 and what children go through that have to do that? I
20 don't believe that's ever been looked at.

21 How many schools in Wood county are not
22 ADA compliant? Is this the only school that is not ADA
23 compliant? Because that was in your opening statement
24 that was brought up of why the school is closing. Is

1 this the only school in Wood County that is not ADA
2 compliant?

3 BOARD PRESIDENT: Yes, Madam
4 Superintendent?

5 MS. WILLIS: Lubeck Elementary is not ADA
6 compliant, but that was in the bond.

7 MR. HILL: So these are the only two
8 schools in the whole entire county?

9 MS. WILLIS: I'm going to ask Martin and
10 Caleb, who are behind you, if there's any others other
11 than Lubeck and Fairplains.

12 MR. HILL: And your title, ma'am?

13 MS. WILLIS: Superintendent.

14 MR. HILL: You should know the answer
15 without having to ask that, ma'am.

16 MR. MERRIT: So there are other schools in
17 the county that are not. Some of that is based on
18 signage. Some of that is based on the parking lot. Some
19 of that is based on the slope of the ramp to get in the
20 building. Last year we had Pickering come in do an
21 assessment of all of our county schools. We have a
22 binder and we are actively correcting the schools that
23 were not listed in the bond and things of that nature, to
24 be ADA compliant.

1 MR. HILL: And what are the numbers of
2 student success in testing after consolidation? Have
3 anybody looked at those numbers? After we consolidate
4 these kids, what is the success rate then? Does anybody
5 know that? I'm sure there's been studies done on this.

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: Madam Superintendent?

7 MR. HILL: Nobody knows the answer, but
8 still we go forward with it. Sadly, the only numbers I
9 heard you speak of were money and ADA That's the only
10 thing I heard when I came in and that was your reasons
11 for speaking on closing the school.

12 So how about come back with numbers that
13 are most important to kids? That's the numbers that are
14 most important to everybody that's in here. And we have
15 no numbers, we have no statistics. We can't tell anybody
16 anything about that. I believe this is a blind decision
17 and I'm totally against it. Thank you.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
20 speaker is James Clark.

21 MR. CLARK: Hello, James Clark, C-L-A-R-K.

22 So first of all, I just wanted to
23 acknowledge that you guys make difficult decisions all
24 the time, and we understand that, and financial decisions

1 are really difficult, and we get that for sure.

2 Back in 2003, I moved to the area and a
3 former principal, Wayne Miser, he took me around to lots
4 of different schools and introduced me to principals.
5 That personal connection, that idea of building
6 relationships was so valuable and so important to me, and
7 it's what got me a job. I met Liz Conrad one of those
8 visits and she hired me here. Twenty-one (21) years
9 later, here I am still at Fairplains Elementary.

10 Those personal connections, that
11 relationship building is so valuable and so important.
12 And you've heard tonight about this staff, talking about
13 the relationship building that goes on here at
14 Fairplains. It happens because we know each other;
15 because we know the students; because of the size of the
16 school.

17 Speaking about pickup, at the end of the
18 day, I know that Declan rides in a black SUV, and it's
19 the Nissan SUV, and when it comes by, that's the car that
20 he's going to get in. These teachers know the parents
21 when they show up at the door and they can call their
22 children by name and send them out. And the parents feel
23 safe because of that.

24 Of course, I would choose to keep

1 Fairplains open. It's already been said tonight, it's a
2 community school. It's a neighborhood. And closing
3 Fairplains will definitely affect this community,
4 definitely affect this neighborhood in a negative way.
5 Several times a week I have students talk to me about how
6 sad they are that this school is closing. And quite
7 often they say, well, also my parent went here to school
8 and unfortunately, I probably taught some of those
9 parents by now, 21 years later, but the connection is
10 real.

11 The connection to this school is real.
12 You're hearing it tonight. Kids, parents, grandparents
13 who have come here to Fairplains, it's a part of who they
14 are. Please don't leave school buildings empty in
15 neighborhoods and communities. There is nothing more
16 disheartening than having an empty school building in a
17 neighborhood. It does nothing to encourage or help
18 property value or anything like that. It is really a
19 discouragement.

20 Please acknowledge the grief and the loss
21 that a community feels when a school is closed. Please
22 provide some way for families to express that, to talk
23 about their memories, for staff to get together and share
24 in times of remembrance. Please give them opportunities

1 to do that. Don't just close the school down and leave
2 an empty building or tear it down.

3 Relationships and personal connections are
4 so valuable, so important. We believe that a small
5 school provides opportunity for that. And so that's why
6 we think Fairplains should absolutely stay open. Thank
7 you.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our final
10 three speakers, if you would come down this way.
11 Brittany Shepherd, Tom Wheeler and Madison Hill. And,
12 Brittany, you'll be up first.

13 MS. SHEPHERD: Good evening, members of
14 the Board of Education. Thank you for allowing me to
15 speak today. I stand before you to discuss a crucial
16 issue. The potential closure of Fairplains. Our small,
17 but mighty Elementary school that serves as a vital
18 refuge for many students in Wood County.

19 As we consider cost-cutting measures, I
20 urge you to look beyond the immediate financial
21 implications and reflect on the lasting impact this
22 decision would have on our most vulnerable children.
23 Many of our students come from low income families facing
24 hardships that affect not only their education, but their

1 very well being. For these children, Fairplains is more
2 than just a place to learn. It is a sanctuary that
3 provides stability, support and a sense of belonging. I
4 can attest to this because I was a teacher here at
5 Fairplains.

6 These students come to school with the
7 weight of the world on their tiny shoulders. They often
8 face challenges that many of us can only ever imagine;
9 food insecurity, unstable housing abuse and other
10 stressors that can hinder their ability to focus on
11 academics. In this environment, Fairplains serves as
12 their lifeline. This is where their needs are met.

13 The teachers and staff know each child by
14 name and are deeply aware of their unique circumstances.
15 That familiarity and close-knit relationships allow them
16 to feel safe, valued and understood. Many of these
17 students have experienced trauma which significantly
18 impacts their learning and development.

19 Research shows that smaller school
20 environments are particularly beneficial for children
21 with traumatic experiences. The educators at Fairplains
22 are trained to recognize and respond to the effects of
23 trauma, offering understanding and support that larger
24 schools may struggle to provide. This individualized

1 attention can lead to healing and resilience, allowing
2 our students to thrive academically and emotionally.

3 If were to close Fairplains and send our
4 students to larger schools, we risk making them unseen
5 and unheard. In a larger setting, it is all too easy for
6 children to slip through the cracks, losing the
7 individual attention they so desperately crave. Many of
8 our vulnerable students will feel lost, isolated and
9 overwhelmed. The connections they have built with their
10 teachers and peers would be severed, leaving them to
11 navigate a new unfamiliar environment without the support
12 they rely on.

13 Rather than closing our school, let's seek
14 alternative solutions that help us navigate budgetary
15 challenges without sacrificing our students futures. We
16 can explore community partnerships, grant opportunities
17 and reallocate funding to sustain Fairplains. Our
18 community is passionate and willing to support a school
19 that truly makes it difference in the lives of our
20 children.

21 In conclusion, I implore you to consider
22 the profound impact that closing Fairplains would have on
23 your most vulnerable students. You must prioritize their
24 emotional and educational needs over your short-term

1 financial gains. They are more than a dollar sign and
2 they are more than a test score. Together, let's ensure
3 that every child has access to a nurturing environment
4 where they can thrive, because every child deserves to be
5 seen, heard and valued. Thank you for your time.

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Madam
8 Superintendent?

9 MS. WILLIS: Yes, I want to respond to the
10 gentleman's question. Right off the bat, I'm not really
11 good thinking on my feet. So as she was speaking I was
12 going back through them around the county. So Lubeck,
13 Van Devender, Neale, Vienna and Emerson are not ADA
14 compliant.

15 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our next
16 speaker is Tom Wheeler.

17 MR. WHEELER: Hi, my name is Tom Wheeler,
18 W-H-E-E-L-E-R. You'll notice I don't have a prewritten
19 speech or even speaking notes to go with me because two
20 and-a-half hours ago I had no intentions of being here.

21 I am the principal at Martin Elementary.
22 Somewhere around five years ago, I was where the staff
23 and students and families of Fairplains are now. I was
24 sitting in a gymnasium at Worthington Elementary

1 listening to people make passionate speeches about why
2 our schools should remain open. So I know firsthand, the
3 heartache, the sadness, the emptiness that these families
4 are feeling.

5 All of the students, all the staff or a
6 lot of the staff and all the students from Worthington
7 were moved to Emerson. At that time, I worked with the
8 principal at Emerson Elementary to facilitate the move of
9 our kids to that school, our staff to that school. And
10 it's sad to say that a lot of the suggestions that I made
11 or the things that we talked about were not implemented.
12 And nothing that they did at Emerson made our staff, our
13 families, our students, feel welcome there.

14 I know that experience firsthand. Know
15 that I am working with our staff right now to do things
16 to make the families and the students at Fairplains feel
17 like they can be a part of us; that they can be welcome
18 at our school. And that starts with the Trunk or Treat
19 that we're hosting on Friday.

20 We reached out to the Fairplains folks
21 about making candy donations and joining us for that
22 evening on Friday night, our students and our staff have
23 also been making donations of candy. And we want to make
24 that a great community event that we share with the

1 Fairplains people.

2 It is my plan, it is our plan to have
3 activities throughout the year where we can bring
4 Fairplains ,and Martin students and staff together, that
5 we can plan activities that we can do together so that
6 next year when schools are --- when Fairplains is closed
7 and the schools are merged, if that is a decision that
8 happens, that when the Fairplains students arrive there,
9 when the Fairplains staff arrives there, they don't feel
10 like strangers; that there are kids there that they know
11 that there are adults there that they know. That they
12 know that they can be a part of our school.

13 There is no way that I can do anything or
14 say anything to replace what these families and these
15 students are losing at Fairplains, but I want them to
16 know that we will do everything that we can, that when
17 they get to Martin Elementary, that they feel like they
18 are welcome and they can be a part of us. Thank you.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. Our final
21 speaker is Madison Hill.

22 MS. HILL: Good evening. I'm Madison
23 Hill, H-I-L-L. I do not live in Wood County. I do not
24 have students that go to Wood County schools. I did not

1 go to Fairplains. I live in Germany actually. So
2 forgive me for any ignorance whenever I ask these
3 questions.

4 When was the last election for Board of
5 Education members?

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: The last election for
7 Board of Education Members? Board of Education members
8 are elected for four year terms and they are elected
9 every two years during the primary in May in West
10 Virginia.

11 MS. HILL: So the last election was in
12 May?

13 BOARD PRESIDENT: That is correct. There
14 is a vacancy that is on this ballot that occurred prior
15 to the election being completed for the general, and that
16 position is on the ballot this election.

17 MS. HILL: Well, thank you. I'm not
18 interested in running, but when was the closure of
19 Fairplains --- the intent to close Fairplains announced?

20 BOARD PRESIDENT: Madam Superintendent?

21 MS. WILLIS: I don't remember.

22 MS. HILL: Okay.

23 Well, my aunt is the principal at the
24 school ---.

1 MS. WILLIS: It was May or June of last
2 year.

3 MS. HILL: My aunt's the principal at the
4 school and she said she was informed at the end of May.
5 Why was she informed after the election for Board of
6 Education members? Why was that decision announced after
7 election time? Irony?

8 MS. WILLIS: She wanted to know why it was
9 announced in May. We just --- yeah, we were working on
10 it. It was a summer project for us.

11 MS. HILL: After the elections? So it's
12 just a coincidence? There --- how many --- what school
13 districts are y'all from? Live in, in Wood County?

14 BOARD PRESIDENT: Can you say that one
15 more time?

16 MS. HILL: What school, elementary school
17 districts do you all live in?

18 BOARD PRESIDENT: So I am in the Greenmont
19 Elementary School District. I am elected from District
20 B.

21 MS. HILL: Okay.

22 BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Tice?

23 MR. TICE: I'm in District A, but my
24 school --- my school --- the District that I represent is

1 Parkersburg High School, Van der, Madison, Hamilton,
2 Criss, Jefferson and let me see if there was any other.
3 Probably -- I think that's about it.

4 MS. HILL: What school district do you
5 actually live in? Like, belong to?

6 MR. TICE: I --- well, believe it or not,
7 I went to not only Lincoln that they shut down and
8 closed, but I also went to Van Devender and then I went
9 to PHS.

10 MS. HILL: Okay.

11 MR. TICE: Yeah. I was about Van Devender
12 about four years after they opened it.

13 BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Johnson?

14 MS. JOHNSON: I am in District B also, and
15 my schools will be the same as Mr. Raber, which include
16 the former Waverly Elementary, Williamstown ---
17 Williamstown Area, Vienna Area, the North Hills Area, all
18 the north part of the county. My children went to school
19 at Waverly and Williamstown.

20 MS. HILL: Okay.

21 BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Olcott?

22 MR. OLCOTT: My name is Rick Olcott and I
23 live in Lubeck. I'm in District C, which is ---
24 Fairplains is in District C. It's mostly South

1 Parkersburg, but Edison and Blennerhassett Middle Schools
2 and you have Lubeck and Blennerhassett, Fairplain (sic),
3 Martin, and Franklin, those family (sic) of schools are
4 in my district, as is Mrs. Townsend, who's not here
5 tonight, she's also District C.

6 The Board's structured in a way that you
7 can have a maximum of two people from one district.
8 That's why you have two from B here, one from A and
9 myself and Mrs. Townsend are from District C.

10 MS. HILL: Okay.

11 But you live within the District of Lubeck
12 Elementary School?

13 MR. OLCOTT: Yes. About a hundred --- a
14 hundred yards from the school.

15 MS. HILL: And Mrs. Johnson, which school
16 district do you live in?

17 MS. JOHNSON: District D also, as the same
18 as the northern, all the northern end of the county.

19 MS. HILL: But what ---?

20 MS. JOHNSON: However, I taught at
21 Jefferson Elementary with Ms. Schleicher and with Mrs.
22 Carter for many, many years.

23 MS. HILL: But ---.

24 MS. JOHNSON: And that's District A. That

1 is downtown by the Board office.

2 MS. HILL: So which school do you live
3 nearby?

4 MS. JOHNSON: Well, I live now, the only
5 open school that I live by is Williamstown.

6 MS. HILL: Williamstown.

7 Okay.

8 So I heard Williamstown, Lubeck and Van
9 Devender, which is set for closure and ---.

10 BOARD PRESIDENT: I live pretty much in
11 between, distance-wise of Vienna Elementary and Greenmont
12 Elementary.

13 MS. HILL: Okay.

14 It's going to be consolidated, Vienna.

15 BOARD PRESIDENT: That is correct. Based
16 upon the 2022 bond that was passed by the voters of Wood
17 county, the Vienna and Neale will be closed and combined
18 into a new Vienna Area Elementary School.

19 MS. HILL: Okay.

20 So there are ten Title 1 schools within
21 Wood County that I'm tracking. Is that accurate?

22 BOARD PRESIDENT: Madam Superintendent?

23 MS. WILLIS: Give me a minute and let me
24 look at the list.

1 MS. HILL: Out of 24 schools in Wood
2 County?

3 BOARD PRESIDENT: One second, please.

4 MS. HILL: The probability of closing down
5 ---. She can give me those numbers ---

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: Hold on.

7 MS. HILL: --- later.

8 BOARD PRESIDENT: Ma'am? One second,
9 please. You've asked a question.

10 MS. HILL: Okay.

11 MS. WILLIS: Ten.

12 MS. HILL: Okay.

13 So 10 out of 24, the probability of
14 choosing ten --- two schools at random that are Title 1
15 to close down is 16 percent. Just a number, since y'all
16 provided us with numbers. I am aware that acreage was
17 built --- bought in Lubeck at a price of \$25,000 per acre
18 to build a new Lubeck Elementary School. Mr. Olcott, at
19 that rate, that's 500 percent of the price of acreage in
20 West Virginia.

21 With 4 million dollars and it costing to
22 keep Fairplains open, \$861,000 a year, you could've kept
23 Fairplains open for 3.7 one more years with the money
24 that you all spent extra than the asking price for land

1 in West Virginia.

2 I don't think I have any more points to
3 share. Besides that, to be fiscally responsible, I don't
4 think that we can make an argument that to the close
5 school is fiscally responsible whenever you buy land
6 that's 500 percent asking price of the average price of
7 acreage. The money that could have been saved could keep
8 this school alive, could keep seven teachers and five
9 other members staff employed for four years.

10 You know, it's just something to consider.
11 And why is it only that Title 1 schools are being
12 considered for closure? Something else to consider,
13 because that's what we are all thinking. Thank you.
14 Thank you.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you. At this
17 time, we have concluded with delegations and public
18 comments. Before I adjourn, I just have to say one
19 thing. And to all of our speakers this evening, you've
20 done a phenomenal job, and I personally thank each one of
21 you. The information that you have provided us, for me
22 at least, is very important and I'm now at a point where
23 I'm not sure what to do.

24 So I will have a lot of searching to do

1 over the next 24 hours. But it's because of each of you,
2 and I can't be more impressed personally. So thank you
3 so much.

4 Is there anything further at this time?
5 Hearing none, we are adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

6 * * * * *

7 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8:52 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter,
that the foregoing proceedings were taken
stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to
typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this
transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of
my ability.

I certify that the attached transcript meets the
requirements set forth within article twenty-seven,
chapter forty-seven of the West Virginia Code.



Nicholas Martin,
Court Reporter

**Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak**

Date	10/23/2024	Name	Sherley Smith
Address	606 Eastlawn Ave Parkersburg 26101		
Phone Number	304 210-5197	Email Address	srasmith@K12 WV. US
Brief description of topic.	Closure of Fairplains		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep Fairplains open		

2

**Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak**

Date	10/23	Name	Chloe Dickerson
Address	4017 11th Ave Parkersburg		
Phone Number	304 488 3920	Email Address	dickersonal@a@yahoo.com
Brief description of topic.	Possible Fairplains closure		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom?	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep the school open		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

3

Date	10/23/2024	Name	Madaline Leggett
Address	601 West Virginia Avenue Parkersburg, WV 26101		
Phone Number	304-210-5260	Email Address	
Brief description of topic.	Keeping Fairplains Open		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep Fairplains Open		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

4

Date	10-23-24	Name	Patricia Petty
Address	18 Edgelawn St. Parkersburg		
Phone Number	304.481.8714	Email Address	misstricia831@aol.com
Brief description of topic.	Keeping Fairplains open		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep Fairplains open!		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

5

Date	10-23-24	Name	Jade Perkins
Address	1701 23rd St. Parkersburg WV 26101		
Phone Number	(304) 615-3076	Email Address	jade.spencer@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	Keeping fairplains Open		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep Fairplains Open		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

6

Date	10/23/24	Name	Julie Gibson
Address			
Phone Number	304-580-8082	Email Address	jmgibson@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	possible closure of fairplains		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Neather Grant Justin Hartshorn Christie Willis	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Continue to allow fairplains to remain open.		

7

**Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak**

Date	10.23.24	Name	Marci Poe
Address	830 2nd St Marietta OH 45750		
Phone Number	(304) 488-5324	Email Address	marci.poe@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	possible closure of Fairplains		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	continue to allow FES to stay open		

8

**Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak**

Date	10/23/24	Name	Alisa Shepa
Address	7337 Bonds Creek Rd. Ellenboro WV 26346		
Phone Number	(304) 494-0233	Email Address	ashepa
Brief description of topic.	Fairplains closure		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	vote <u>NO</u> <u>CLOSURE</u>		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

9

Date	10/23/24	Name	Hannah Schlicher
Address			
Phone Number	740-525-2537	Email Address	hnmichael@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	Fairplains closure		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?			

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

10

Date	10/23/24	Name	Brittini Bolinger
Address	2116 Nash St. Parkersburg, WV 26101		
Phone Number	(304) 482-3888	Email Address	brittini.bolinger@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	Fairplains closure		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	vote NO Fairplains closure		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

11

Date	10/23/24	Name	Lacey Roberts
Address	199 Homestead Drive Williamstown WV 26187		
Phone Number	304-200-0042	Email Address	lacey.Roberts@K12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	Keeping Fairplains open		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Vote <u>NO</u> to closing Fairplains		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

12

Date	10/23/23	Name	Amanda Sponseller
Address	230 Washington Hts Parkersburg WV 26101		
Phone Number	304-481-0906	Email Address	amanda.sponseller@K12.WV.US
Brief description of topic.	Keeping Fairplains open for our students		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Vote <u>NO</u> to closing Fairplains		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

13

Date	10/23/24	Name	Sherry Sanders
Address	2608 9th Ave		
Phone Number	304-494-9213	Email Address	
Brief description of topic.	closure		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Julie Gibson	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep the school open		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

14

Date	23 Oct. 24	Name	Trampus Hill
Address	1618 23rd St. Parkersburg		
Phone Number	(304) 428-2965	Email Address	
Brief description of topic.	Opposition to community destruction		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom?	
What action would you like the Board to take?	stop the closure immediately		

**Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak**

15 

Date	10/23/24	Name	James Clark
Address	621 Fourth St. Marietta OH		
Phone Number		Email Address	jscarke@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	School Closing		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom?	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep Fairplains open.		

**Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak**

16 

Date	10/23	Name	Brittany Sheppard
Address	812 Summers St. Parkersburg, WV 26101		
Phone Number	304-580-8525	Email Address	brittany.sheppard@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	Keeping Fairplains Open		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom?	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Keep Fairplains open.		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

17

Date	10/23/24	Name	Tom Wheeler
Address	494 Chichester Lane, Parkersburg, WV 26104		
Phone Number	304-210-8292	Email Address	twheeler@K12.WV.US
Brief description of topic.	Making Fairplains feel welcome		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? WCS Board.	
What action would you like the Board to take?	—		

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

18

Date	10/23/24	Name	Madison Hill
Address	1618 23rd Street PKB		
Phone Number	3049168136	Email Address	iwearclothes@gmail.com
Brief description of topic.	Districting		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom?	
What action would you like the Board to take?	Opposition		

Fairplains El.
7:30pm

**ATTENDANCE RECORD
FOR
WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DATE: 10/23/24

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Julie Gbaser	164 Stillwell Rd.	Fairplains
Marci Poe	830 2nd St Marietta	Fairplains
Ashley Wood	138 Ponderosa Dr.	Fairplains
Lacey Roberts	199 Homestead Dr.	Fairplains
Sherry Sanders	2608 9th Ave.	Fairplains
Robert Cross	BOE	BOE
Douglas Hixby	3703 9th Ave	News paper
MARTIN BRES		WCS
Hollie Best		CITIZEN
Quentin Kennedy	382 Crown manor	Fairplains
Amber Matty		MIS
Rebecca Koreski	217 Dover Dr.	Fairplains
Shelby Hess		Gihon
Kaitlyn Yerby		Gihon

Fairplains El.
7:30 pm

**ATTENDANCE RECORD
FOR
WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DATE: 10/23/24

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Jade Perkins	1701 23rd St. Parkersburg WV 26101	Fairplains
Patricia Petty	18 Edgclawn St Parkersburg WV	Fairplains
Kathy Cole	3678 Medville Rd DAVISVILLE WV 26042	Fairplains
Nick Martin	307 Plantation Pt Hurricane WV	Servants
Adrienne Spence	2702 Lincoln Ave Parkersburg, WV	Fairplains
Karla Carpenter	120 Forest Ave Mineral Wells WV 26150	Fairplains
Chelsea Nutter	236 Mike St Washington WV 26181	Fairplains
Trampus Hill	1618 23 rd St. Parkersburg	what's right for Fairplains
Sharon Sanders	2608 9th Ave Parkersburg	Fairplains
Brittany Shuppard	812 Summers St. Parkersburg, WV 26101	Fairplains
Sherry Hess	2619 26th Ave Parkersburg, WV 26101	Fairplains
Bill Hess	2619 26th Ave Parkersburg, WV 26101	Fairplains
Mike Newton		Martin
Tracy Newson		Martin
Thomas Wheeler	Thomas Wheeler	Martin

Fairplains El.
7:30 pm

**ATTENDANCE RECORD
FOR
WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

DATE: 10/23/24

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Chris, Beth, Chloe & Cole Dickerson	407 11th Ave Parkersburg WV 26101	Fairplains
Randalla Shirley Smith	606 Eastlawn Ave	Fairplains
Moriah Beach	18 B Highland ave Parkersburg WV	Fairplains
Hannah Schlicher	Westlawn	Fairplains
Alisa Sheper		Fairplains
Brittini Bolinger		Fairplains
Amanda Spongeller		Fairplains
Madaline Leggett	601 WV Ave. Parkersburg WV 26101	Fairplains
R. Leann Wilson	30 Laurel Lane Washington, WV 26181	Fairplains
Valerie a Semon	747 STEPHENS FORK MINERAL WELLS	Fairplains
Jody Conder Hamata		WCS
Christine Morris		Fairplains
Madison Hill	1618 23rd Street Parkersburg	Equity of Education + Opportunities
Randy Modest	1703 Park Ave Parkersburg, WV	
James Clark	621 Fourth St. Marietta OH	Fairplains

Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing

6:00 p.m.
Martin Elementary School
1301 Hillcrest Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

1. Meeting Procedure

Subject :	A. School Closure Hearing Procedure
Meeting :	Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category :	1. Meeting Procedure
Access :	Public
Type :	Procedural

Public Content

The Wood County Board of Education will hold two (2) public hearings on the Superintendents recommendation to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge it into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time, as follow:

- LOCATION: Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- LOCATION: Fairplains Elementary School, 615 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg, WV
DATE AND TIME: October 23, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Sign in to speak between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 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 11:00 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 hearings business or at 11:00 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 and time as originally scheduled, but on these dates and times:

- for the hearing at Martin Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- for the hearing at Fairplains Elementary School, on October 28, 2024, beginning at 7:30 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 Wood 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. Each speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless, in accordance with Board Policy 1000, the President reduces that time limit to provide all persons wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL

The Board will consider any written material submitted by members of the public concerning the proposals if the material, with six (6) copies, is submitted to and received by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, before noon on October 21, 2024, including any findings and recommendations from the local school improvement councils representing Fairplains and Martin Elementary Schools.

REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Until the date of the first hearing, written reasons for the Superintendents 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 1210 13th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FINAL ACTION

The Board of Education will take formal action on the Superintendents proposal to close Fairplains Elementary School and merge it into existing Martin Elementary School at its meeting at Jackson Middle School, 1601 34th Street, Vienna, West Virginia, on October 24, 2024, beginning at 8:30 p.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 October 29, 2024.

Christie M. Willis,
Superintendent
Wood County Board of Education

2. Opening of Meeting

Subject :	A. Call to Order
Meeting :	Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category :	2. Opening of Meeting
Access :	Public
Type :	Procedural

Subject : B. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category : 2. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural
Subject : C. Roll Call
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category : 2. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural

3. Martin Elementary School Hearing

Subject : A. Summary of Proposed Action Presented by Administration
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category : 3. Martin Elementary School Hearing
Access : Public
Type : Information

Public Content

Subject : B. Delegation and Public Comment
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category : 3. Martin Elementary School Hearing
Access : Public
Type : Information

Public Content

4. Closing of Meeting

Subject : A. Adjournment
Meeting : Oct 23, 2024 - Special Meeting - Martin Elementary School Hearing
Category : 4. Closing of Meeting
Access : Public

Wood County Board of Education
Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Martin Elementary School and Via YouTube
6:00 pm
Minutes

1. Meeting Procedure

A. School Closure Hearing Procedure

President Raber reviewed the rules established for the hearing. He explained that the Summary of the Proposed Action would be presented by the Administration, which would be Superintendent Willis.

2. Opening of Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Wood County Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Martin Elementary School, 1301 Hillcrest Street, Parkersburg, WV. President Raber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Judy Johnson.

C. Roll Call

The following Board members were present: Justin Raber, Rick Olcott, Ron Tice, and Judy Johnson. Sarah Townsend was absent.

A quorum was established.

3. Martin Elementary School Hearing

A. Summary of Proposed Action Presented by Administration

The specific proposal is to merge Fairplains Elementary into the current Martin Elementary, resulting in the closure of Fairplains Elementary School.

Fairplains Elementary enrollment has decreased by 58 students over the past ten (10) years. Over the past 10 years, the height of Fairplains Elementary's enrollment was during the 2015-2016 school year at 233 students. Fairplains Elementary has a building utilization capacity for 482 students. The program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is a capacity of 482 students. With a student enrollment of 162 students, the program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is 33.6%. The desirable program utilization for a school is 85%.

Martin Elementary enrollment has decreased by 54 students over the past 10 years. The 2016-2017 school year was the height of enrollment in the past decade at 279 students. When the impact statement and supporting data information was compiled there was an error. The enrollment on July 22, 2024, was 223 students and not 225 students at Martin Elementary as stated in the document. I want to put new information on the record for the Board tonight. As of October 23, 2024, the enrollment at Martin Elementary was 254 students. The October enrollment number would increase the existing program utilization as stated in the impact book from 44.4% to 50%.

The current enrollment as of Friday, October 23, 2024, at Fairplains Elementary was 160 students. To put on the record this evening a new program utilization rate utilizing the October 23 enrollment, the projected total enrollment of a merged Martin Elementary School would change from 389 to 414 students. This would change the program utilization rate from 82.1% to 87.3%.

The merger of Fairplains Elementary and Martin Elementary will result in a reduction of 7.5 professional personnel positions and five (5) service personnel positions.

Martin Elementary is located 1.4 miles from Fairplains. Transportation will be provided to current Fairplains Elementary students to Martin Elementary. The routes will not exceed the thirty-minute guideline as outlined in the WVDE Policy 6200.

Fairplains Elementary School is not compliant with the American Disabilities Act. Martin Elementary School is ADA compliant. Martin Elementary will have a secure vestibule constructed this school year.

The closure of Fairplains Elementary School and merger to Martin Elementary School would save the Board of Education \$861,244.49 (eight hundred sixty-one thousand, two hundred forty-four dollars and forty-nine cents) annually. This cost savings is needed as a result of declining enrollment. Wood County Schools will have less funding for next school year as our most recent full-time equivalency enrollment number has dropped by 176 FTE to 10,991; this is the number used in the state funding formula.

B. Delegation and Public Comment

The following audience members spoke and asked questions/shared concerns regarding the closure and merger of Fairplains Elementary School into existing Martin Elementary School:

- Melissa Armann

Recess

President Raber called for a recess at 6:08 pm, until the 2nd speaker arrived.

President Raber called the members of the Board back to session at 6:13 pm.

- Shauna Kelley

4. Closing of Meeting

A. Adjournment

President Raber adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

* * * * *

IN RE: CLOSURE AND MERGER OF FAIRPLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
INTO EXISTING MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

* * * * *

BEFORE: JUSTIN RABER, President
Rick Olcott, Vice President
Christie Willis, Superintendent of Schools
Judy Johnson, Member
Ron Tice, Member

HEARING: October 23, 2024
6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Martin Elementary School
1301 Hillcrest Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

SPEAKERS: Melissa Armann, Heather Graham, Shawna Kelley,
John Merritt

Reporter: Nicholas Martin

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I N D E X

OPENING REMARKS

By Board President

3 - 4

STATEMENT

By Ms. Willis

4 - 7

PUBLIC COMMENT

By Ms. Armann

7 - 8

By Mrs. Graham

8 - 13

By Ms. Kelly

13 - 15

ADJOURNMENT

15

CERTIFICATE

16

P R O C E E D I N G S

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BOARD PRESIDENT: Good evening. It is now 6:00 p.m., and I call the special meeting of the Wood County Board of Education to order. I'm apparently not allowed to have a gavel, so there you go. We love you, Dina, after the other night ---. So if you would please join me in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Johnson.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE)

BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED.)

BOARD PRESIDENT: I will note that four members are present this evening, with Ms. Townsend not present.

Moving into the Martin Elementary School hearing for the Consolidation of Martin Elementary and Fairplains Elementary. We will begin this evening with a summary of the proposed action from the Administration. On behalf of the Administration is Superintendent Willis.

1 After we have the summary presented, we
2 will then open for delegations and speakers. Each
3 speaker will be permitted five minutes during this
4 hearing. We do have two speakers this evening and I know
5 one speaker has not yet arrived. If you can just let me
6 know when she does, that'd be perfect. Just like jump up
7 and down or throw something. It's okay. So we may just
8 briefly, after a couple minutes to give her some time to
9 get here, and since we have two speakers.

10 With that, during the five minutes, the
11 timer is shown on the screen to my left, we request that
12 all comments, since this is a Special Meeting, be germane
13 to the school closure and consolidation. Madam
14 Superintendent?

15 MS. WILLIS: I'm going to begin with
16 giving my closing --- my proposal this evening to the
17 Board Members.

18 All right.

19 The specific proposal is to merge
20 Fairplains Elementary into the current Martin Elementary,
21 resulting in the closure of Fairplains Elementary School.
22 Fairplains Elementary School enrollment has decreased by
23 58 students over the past ten years. Over the past ten
24 years. The height of Fairplains Elementary enrollment

1 was during the 2015-2016 school year at 233 students.

2 Fairplains Elementary has a building
3 utilization capacity for 482 students. The program
4 utilization of Fairplains Elementary is a capacity of 482
5 students. With a student enrollment of 162 students, the
6 program utilization of Fairplains Elementary is 33.6
7 percent. The desirable program utilization of a school
8 is 85 percent.

9 Martin Elementary enrollment has decreased
10 by 54 students over the past ten years. The 2016-2017
11 school year was the height of enrollment in the past
12 decade, at 279 students. When the impact statement and
13 supporting data information was compiled, there was an
14 error. The enrollment on July 22nd, 2024 was 223
15 students and not 225 students at Martin Elementary, as
16 stated in the document. This is a difference of two
17 students.

18 I want to put new information on the
19 record before the Board tonight. As of October 23rd,
20 2024, the enrollment at Martin Elementary was 254
21 students. The October enrollment number would increase
22 the existing program utilization as stated in the impact
23 book from 44.4 percent to 50 percent.

24 The current enrollment as of Friday,

1 October 23rd, 2024 at Fairplains Elementary was 160
2 students. To put on the record this evening, a new
3 program utilization rate utilizing the October 23rd
4 enrollment, the projected total enrollment of a merged
5 Martin Elementary school would change from 389 students
6 to 414 students. This would change the program
7 utilization rate from 82.1 percent to 87.3 percent.

8 The merger of Fairplains Elementary and
9 Martin Elementary will result in a reduction of 7.5
10 professional personnel positions and five service
11 personnel positions. Martin Elementary is located 1.4
12 miles from Fairplains. Transportation will be provided
13 to current Fairplains Elementary students to Martin
14 Elementary. The routes will not exceed the 30-minute
15 guideline as outlined in the WVDE Policy 6200.

16 Fairplains Elementary School is not
17 compliant with the Americans Disabilities Act. Martin
18 Elementary School is ADA compliant. Martin Elementary
19 will have a secure vestibule constructed this school
20 year.

21 The closure of Fairplains Elementary
22 School and merger to Martin Elementary School would save
23 the Board of Education potentially \$861,244.49 annually.
24 This cost savings is needed as a result of declining

1 enrollment. Wood County schools will have less funding
2 for next school year as our most recent full-time
3 equivalency enrollment number has dropped 176 FTE to
4 10,991. This number is what is used in the state funding
5 formula.

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you, Madam
7 Superintendent. Are there any questions for the
8 Superintendent with this information by the Board?

9 Hearing none, we will move to public
10 comments and delegations. Our first speaker is Melissa
11 Armann, and as you come up before I start the timer, I
12 will ask you to state your name and then spell your last
13 name for the Court Reporter, please.

14 MS. ARMANN: My name is Melissa Armann,
15 A-R-M-A-N-N, and I teach kindergarten here at Martin.

16 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

17 MS. ARMANN: I've worked at Martin School
18 for 25 years and five principals. The thing that has
19 remained the same throughout all of these years is the
20 staff's focus on students and their families. I speak to
21 you tonight with these students in mind.

22 This building simply isn't big enough to
23 house the number of students and staff you're proposing.

24 As it stands now, we have eight interventionists, all

1 without classrooms. We'd have three multi-cat teachers
2 sharing one classroom. I'm told that interventionists
3 may have to use the observation rooms between classrooms
4 for small group reading and math. I feel that this is
5 unacceptable to take the students with the highest
6 academic needs and to educate them in areas with the
7 highest levels of distraction.

8 Martin and Fairplains have dedicated
9 staffs that will continue to do everything we can for our
10 students, but we will have a steep hill to climb under
11 these conditions. Thank you for listening.

12 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Is
13 Shawna here? No?

14 Okay.

15 We'll wait. We'll give wait about five
16 minutes if. Is the board okay with that?

17 MR. OLCOTT: Yes.

18 BOARD PRESIDENT: Okay.

19 So we will stand in recess.

20 ---

21 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

22 ---

23 BOARD PRESIDENT: All right. I'm going to
24 call us back to order, please. During our little break,

1 we --- I think we've had a couple questions come up from
2 the Board from Melissa's comments, and thank you for
3 that, because that has raised a couple questions that we
4 have that I would like answered by the Superintendent or
5 her designee.

6 With the proposed merger, how do you
7 anticipate the current classroom structure for the
8 physical structure with the number of classrooms that are
9 in use and what will be in use? Can you detail a little
10 bit about that or one of your staff members?

11 MS. WILLIS: Yeah, I'm going to have
12 Heather talk for a minute, but there is West Virginia
13 Code that we have to follow with how many students can be
14 placed in the classroom. So what we have done is use the
15 current enrollment and, tonight, I shared the October
16 23rd enrollment because it has increased since summer to
17 let the Board know where it currently stands with that
18 program utilization. But Heather has the detailed
19 information of how that is affected.

20 BOARD PRESIDENT: Because what I'm ---
21 what the documentation that I'm seeing that's in the
22 books is the current utilization is a number of
23 classrooms is 20, and the proposed merged school is still
24 20. So that's where I kind of got that from. So if Mrs.

1 Graham?

2 MS. WILLIS: Heather?

3 MRS. GRAHAM: Sure.

4 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you.

5 MRS. GRAHAM: Most of --- there's always
6 four of --- if we can we just combine classes, there
7 would be almost four of each grade level. However, with
8 the numbers, we would be dropping in most grades to
9 three, and I'll give you an example. This is last week's
10 enrollment for first grade. Fairplains has 25 students
11 and Martin has 43.

12 So with that, we could drop next year to
13 three. That would encompass three classrooms. So also
14 with kindergarten and third, we can drop to two
15 classrooms. We can drop to two third grades and two
16 fourth grades because their numbers are low. Third grade
17 has 21 students at Fairplains, Martin has 31, with a
18 total of 52 students. You can go to 28 students. Not
19 ideal. If we go over that, we can add a classroom. We
20 have the ability to add a classroom if need be in those.
21 We have to use a snapshot in time with this.

22 Another example is this year with
23 kindergarten enrollment, there were --- just counting the
24 in-district students. There were 17 students that

1 enrolled in Fairplains, 19 that enrolled at Martin.
2 Technically that would have only been two classes. We're
3 planning for three kindergartens next year. These
4 numbers in these classrooms encompass all of our out-of-
5 district students that have chosen to go ahead and ---.

6 BOARD PRESIDENT: So with that, one of the
7 facts would be if this merger were to go through, class
8 sizes may increase.

9 Is that correct?

10 MRS. GRAHAM: They may, yes. It
11 fluctuates. It can fluctuate. It just depends on open
12 enrollment. Right near the beginning of school, we had
13 several Fairplains' families go ahead and move in
14 anticipation. They went ahead and moved their students
15 to here this year. So they're already --- they already
16 kickstarted coming over and we ---. That's a lot of
17 where that fluctuation was in the enrollment. Like,
18 August --- like right at the end of July to August was
19 people going ahead in the open enrollment process and
20 moving over.

21 BOARD PRESIDENT: With the --- like in
22 first grade, you said, of course, second grade we can go
23 up to 28 students?

24 MRS. GRAHAM: No, 25.

1 BOARD PRESIDENT: Twenty-five (25).

2 MRS. GRAHAM: Uh-huh.

3 BOARD PRESIDENT: Okay.

4 Do you know district Y about what the
5 average class size is?

6 MRS. GRAHAM: Usually they run 20 to 22
7 for a first grade class.

8 BOARD PRESIDENT: And I'm just using that
9 as an example.

10 MRS. GRAHAM: Yes. And many times we have
11 for an example, at Fairplains, we had to add a fourth
12 grade (sic) because of one student this year, because
13 went to 29. I think went up to ---.

14 MR. MERRIT: Fourth and fifth we added.

15 MRS. GRAHAM: Fourth and fifth we added a
16 teacher this year because of one student. We went over
17 the West Virginia maximum. So their classrooms are only
18 running about 14, 15 students, where you can go to 28 in
19 fourth and fifth grade.

20 BOARD PRESIDENT: Did that open any
21 questions from any other Board Members? Because I know
22 --- I think we were having a couple of these
23 conversations, so any further questions?

24 Okay.

1 Thank you, Mrs. Graham.

2 MRS. GRAHAM: You're welcome.

3 Our final speaker is Shawna Kelley. And
4 Ms. Kelley, if you would state your name and then spell
5 your last name for our Court Reporter, that would be
6 great.

7 MS. KELLEY: Hi, I'm Shawna Kelley. You
8 spelled my last name K-E-L-L-E-Y.

9 BOARD PRESIDENT: And I also forgot to
10 state this earlier, so I apologize, if at any point
11 during your comments you ask a question, we will stop the
12 timer for a response. So that way it doesn't count
13 against you. So I apologize for not saying that. So
14 hopefully it helped a little. So feel free.

15 MS. KELLY: Hi, I'm a first grade teacher
16 here at Martin Elementary. I started my teaching career
17 here as a student teacher; did observations here and
18 basically I've never left. It's like home.

19 I want to say that I vehemently oppose the
20 closing and merger of Martin and Fairplains. We will be
21 merging two Title 1 schools that are small into one large
22 school. It takes away the personality. It takes away
23 the one-on-one that we can do with families. It takes
24 away us understanding and being close to our families.

1 I ask why you want to make classroom sizes
2 larger? Here in the past I've had classes that fit up to
3 about 15 and that is a perfect number in first grade to
4 be able to teach our students. Ask any educator and they
5 will tell you smaller class sizes make better
6 instruction, sooner intervention for students and
7 stronger relationships in the classroom and outside of
8 the classroom. This also lends itself to lower behavior
9 issues.

10 Both schools have amazing communities.
11 Both schools have families that have chosen our schools
12 for a reason; because of the atmosphere of the staff and
13 their loyalty to the schools. This act will take a
14 positive structure from a below economic community. At
15 both schools, teachers are able to get to know our
16 families. We have the ability to assist our families
17 with needs other than education. We are pillars in our
18 communities.

19 The most concerning thing to me is the
20 plans of where to put classrooms. The plan is to put
21 teachers in the closets as their classrooms. This means
22 students will be serviced in closets not meant or
23 designed for classrooms. These closets were originally
24 meant to be observation rooms. This means there are two-

1 way mirrors on two different sides of the school closets,
2 which are meant to let in noise. These closets are
3 sandwiched between two full-size classrooms. So in other
4 words, it's going to be loud because you're going to hear
5 from one class and the other class and then you're going
6 to have kids in the closet with these educators.

7 And also these teachers and administrators
8 will be placed in closets with no way to control the
9 temperature. Can you imagine six bodies in a loud, small
10 observation room in the middle of May when the air isn't
11 working and you can't keep your doors open for safety.
12 Do you think these young kids will be able to
13 concentrate? The actual placement of classrooms should
14 be should have been a key factor in the decision to
15 merge. Why hasn't money been written --- why wasn't
16 money written into the bond to expand Martin to create
17 classrooms and instead of using closets? Thank you.

18 BOARD PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. At
19 this time, there are no further speakers. So this
20 Special Meeting of the Wood County Board of Education is
21 adjourned at 6:22 p.m. Thank you. And then we will
22 begin at 7:30 at Fairplains.

23 * * * * *

24 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:22 P.M.

1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter,
4 that the foregoing proceedings were taken
5 stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to
6 typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this
7 transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of
8 my ability.

9

10 I certify that the attached transcript meets the
11 requirements set forth within article twenty-seven,
12 chapter forty-seven of the West Virginia Code.

13

14



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Nicholas Martin,

17

Court Reporter

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Martin

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

1

Date	10-23-24	Name	Melissa Armann
Address	1015 Bethel Rd. Marietta, OH 45750		
Phone Number	740-376-7222	Email Address	marmann@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	merger		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Thomas Wheeler	
What action would you like the Board to take?	reconsider the merger		

Martin

Wood County Board of Education Meeting
Request to Speak

2

Will be a few minutes late to the meeting

Date	10-23-24	Name	Shauna Kelley
Address	1909 Avery St. Parkersburg		
Phone Number	304-483-7353	Email Address	seneca34@yahoo.com skelley@k12.wv.us
Brief description of topic.	merger		
Have you spoken to an administrator about this topic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, to whom? Thomas Wheeler	
What action would you like the Board to take?	reconsider the merger		

Thursday, October 24, 2024
Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action

8:30 p.m.
Jackson Middle School
1601 34th Street
Vienna, WV 26105

1. Opening of Meeting

Subject : A. Call to Order
Meeting : Oct 24, 2024 - Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action
Category : 1. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural
Subject : B. Roll Call
Meeting : Oct 24, 2024 - Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action
Category : 1. Opening of Meeting
Access : Public
Type : Procedural

2. School Closure Board Action

Subject : A. Proposed Action of the Board: Fairplains Elementary School
Meeting : Oct 24, 2024 - Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action
Category : 2. School Closure Board Action
Access : Public
Type : Action
Recommended Action : Recommend to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge Fairplains Elementary School into the existing Martin Elementary School at that time.
Subject : B. Proposed Action of the Board: VanDevender Middle School
Meeting : Oct 24, 2024 - Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action
Category : 2. School Closure Board Action
Access : Public
Type : Action
Recommended Action : Recommend to close VanDevender Middle School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and to merge VanDevender Middle School into Jackson Middle School

and Hamilton Middle School at that time.

Subject : C. CEFP Amendments for Closure of Fairplains Elementary

Meeting : Oct 24, 2024 - Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action

Category : 2. School Closure Board Action

Access : Public

Type : Action

Recommended Action : Recommend approval of the amendments for the Comprehensive Education Facilities Plan (CEFP) for the closure of Fairplains Elementary.

Administrative File Attachments

[100.021_Application_for_Amendment_4.pdf \(252 KB\)](#)

[WCS 100.016.2_Translating_Educational_Needs_Building_Review_Amendment_4.pdf \(642 KB\)](#)

[WCS 100.018_Financing_Plan_Amendment_4.pdf \(370 KB\)](#)

[WCS 100.016.3_Translating_Educational_Needs_into_Facility_Needs_Amendment_4.pdf \(666 KB\)](#)

3. Closing of Meeting

Subject : A. Adjournment

Meeting : Oct 24, 2024 - Special Meeting - School Closure Board Action

Category : 3. Closing of Meeting

Access : Public

Type :

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2024

COPY

APPEARANCES

WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

JUSTIN RABER
RICK OLCOTT
RON TICE
JUDY JOHNSON
SARAH TOWNSEND - ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

CHRISTIE WILLIS - WOOD COUNTY SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. RABER: It is now 8:30 p.m. and I call the special meeting of the Wood County Board of Education to order.

I will note that four members of the Board are here, Ms. Townsend being absent this evening.

Moving to our school closure Board action, during this portion -- this meeting we do not have delegations and public comment due to the previous one, two, three, four, five meetings. We did have all of the delegations and public comment.

Pursuant to West Virginia Code 18-5-13 and 18-5-13A as well as West Virginia Department of Education policy 6200 and 6204 we can move forward with the proposed action regarding the school closure action items that we have this evening.

Therefore I move to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end of 2024-2025 school year and to merge Fairplains Elementary School into the existing Martin Elementary School at this time. Is there a second?

MR. OLCOTT: I'll second that.

1 MR. RABER: It has been moved by Mr. Raber and
2 seconded by Mr. Olcott to close Fairplains Elementary
3 School at the end of the 2024-25 school year and to
4 merge Fairplains Elementary School into the existing
5 Martin Elementary School at this time. Is there
6 discussion?

7 Mr. Olcott.

8 MR. OLCOTT: How much time do I have?

9 MR. RABER: We're all hungry.

10 MR. OLCOTT: Yeah, I won't take very long but
11 I just -- some of the comments that we've heard at some
12 of the hearings that we have -- I'll go back to 2010
13 school hearings where we did it for Worthington at
14 Jefferson, only 200 people. And I just hope the public
15 understands that we look at energy utilization indexes
16 and facility modifiability and the geographic proximity
17 to other schools, ADA compliance, student enrollment.
18 There's a lot of things that go into it, not just
19 looking at numbers.

20 And it's a comprehensive piece that's done
21 spring-boarding off of the CEFPP. And being a part of
22 the last two CEFPPs in 2010 and 2020 they both have laid
23 out a road map.

24 I wish we were in a different spot to where

1 our area was growing and new businesses were coming in
2 but I've been a part of 20 years of downsizing and it's
3 not a pleasant experience to go through. But I do
4 believe that this Board has been very diligent and I'm
5 proud of all of you that you have approached it, and the
6 Superintendent and the staff have approached it the
7 right way by looking at a lot of different things, you
8 know, structural safety layouts and logistics. And at
9 no point have we ever wanted to pick on one SES school.
10 That's not what this is about.

11 We didn't move forward in 2020 and the process
12 began back in 2010 when Worthington was in our previous
13 CEFPP in 2010.

14 And so I think it's real important that the
15 community understand that we're trying to -- we're not
16 trying, we are being fiscally responsible. At the same
17 time we want to take care of our kids because if we
18 don't -- I've had to deal with this somewhat in the
19 corporate world. If you don't rightsize your assets
20 with your student population, which drives your income,
21 then not doing so, you create a disservice to the
22 students because your resources are spread too thin or
23 nonexistent.

24 And so it's one of those unattractive things

1 that we have to do to make sure that we have the right
2 number of schools, we have the right assets in place to
3 provide good education for all of our students, and
4 sometimes we have to do undesirable things like closing
5 schools. I tend to term it as rightsizing our assets,
6 our facilities and our people.

7 And so I hope that the public understands.
8 That's been my approach for 20 years. And with this
9 process we've gone through this week -- it's been a long
10 process -- for me it's still that same principle that we
11 don't sacrifice that. And I just wanted to share that
12 this evening because I've got a little bit longer tenure
13 with some of this and want to make sure the group, that
14 we're following the right process and I'm pretty proud
15 of the work that everybody's done. It's pretty
16 extensive and well-done.

17 MR. RABER: When I look at our student
18 enrollment and the population of Wood County over
19 roughly a decade Wood County's population has decreased
20 by about 3,500 citizens. During that same time period
21 Wood County Schools' population, student population, has
22 decreased by roughly 2,000. So of that 3,500, 2,000 of
23 those citizens were school-age students. And we can't
24 operate a system with the number of facilities and staff

1 that we have based upon a declining student enrollment.

2 And I think a lot of this is really due to, if
3 you look back at the trends in 2008 and what higher ed
4 is starting to see this year, next year and especially
5 the year after, is they're going through an enrollment
6 cliff. We are experiencing that enrollment cliff now
7 because we have the school-age children because with the
8 Great Recession that started in 2008 people started
9 having less kids or no kids. And when I look at then
10 population data, right now we are losing almost two
11 times the number of citizens, what is being born in Wood
12 County. And I think that is a very telling sign of
13 where as a community we're going, which we don't have a
14 reason. We don't cause that. It's a fact that our
15 population in Wood County is getting older.

16 You know, back in 2013 there was a difference
17 between births and deaths of about six people. And now
18 in a decade it's half -- half of those that -- of deaths
19 that occur in a year only half of that number is being
20 replaced by births. And that is scary for our community
21 because we're not going to have down the road as many
22 tax paying citizens when we have birth and death rates
23 at this level.

24 And one of the big concerns

1 that I have is if we don't make the hard decisions now
2 and we say at the end of the day, "We're going to wait,
3 we're going to wait, we're going to wait" and kick the
4 can down the path more and more, we're going to come to
5 a position where we financially can't afford it, we are
6 being irresponsible and the State comes in and takes us
7 over.

8 And that in my opinion should never happen in
9 Wood County because we have the leadership within our
10 administration, within this Board to assure that that
11 doesn't happen. Because if the State comes in and takes
12 us over they make those decisions. They will say,
13 "We're closing schools."

14 And one of the biggest issues that people have
15 is we want decisions to stay local. And if the State
16 comes in those decisions are no longer local. That's
17 people down in Charleston making those decisions and
18 they don't know what's best for our community. They may
19 see, okay, we have this school and we don't need that
20 school and not have plans in place as we move forward.

21 So I think this, you know, is absolutely
22 necessary as we move forward and it's not an easy
23 decision but is one that we have to make.

24 MR. RABER: Ms. Johnson.

1 MS. JOHNSON: You know, I'm probably the only
2 one on this Board that has been through a transition
3 such as this. When I began teaching at Jefferson
4 Elementary it was a small school. There was still
5 Washington Junior High next door. They were two
6 separate buildings not connected in any way and it was
7 decided to close Pleasant Valley, Murphytown and Park
8 Elementary schools. Those schools came into Jefferson
9 and also many teachers from around the county
10 transferred there.

11 I saw it. We all had anxiety from every
12 school including Jefferson but it was a positive thing.
13 We learned, we had more teachers, more students that we
14 learned from each other. We built that family community
15 that so many at the schools have been talking about the
16 last few nights. We built it together starting together
17 and it's so important. And, thank you, Jeff, for
18 speaking tonight because it's so important, the
19 leadership, you and Ann and the teachers in this school,
20 you're the ones (inaudible) this transition that make it
21 a positive experience and I know you want to.

22 But it can be. We learned from each other.
23 We learned to plan together, collaborate together and we
24 built our own family team after consolidation. And it

1 was probably the best experience of my life. Candace
2 came in after the consolidation. She knows the strong
3 teachers we all developed to be and we -- it was just a
4 great experience. And I think a lot of the parents at
5 that time. We had 850 students in that school the first
6 year of consolidation, five of every grade level.

7 And like I said I found it to be a positive
8 experience. So those of you that have some anxiety, I
9 hope you find it but it'll depend on the parents, the
10 community, the teachers and the administration to make
11 it one and I feel sure you will.

12 MR. OLCOTT: That's good.

13 MR. RABER: Okay. Is there any further
14 comment or discussion?

15 (No response)

16 MR. RABER: Carrying on, the question before
17 you is to close Fairplains Elementary School at the end
18 of the 2024-25 school year and the merge Fairplains
19 Elementary School into the existing Martin Elementary
20 School at that time.

21 All those in favor please signify by saying
22 "aye."

23 (All Board members indicate "aye.")

24 MR. RABER: All those opposed signify by

1 saying "no."

2 (No response)

3 MR. RABER: Motion carries.

4 I move to close Vandevender Middle School at
5 the end of the 2024-2025 school year and to merge
6 Vandevender Middle School into Jackson Middle School and
7 Hamilton Middle School at that time. Is there a second?

8 MS. JOHNSON: Second.

9 MR. RABER: It has been moved by Mr. Raber and
10 seconded by Ms. Johnson to to close Vandevender Middle
11 School at the end of the 2024-2025 school year and to
12 merge Vandevender Middle School into Jackson Middle
13 School and Hamilton Middle School at that time. Is
14 there any discussion?

15 (No response)

16 MR. RABER: Hearing none the question before
17 you is to close Vandevender Middle School at the end of
18 the 2024-25 school year and to merge Vandevender Middle
19 School into Jackson Middle School and Hamilton Middle
20 School at that time. All those in favor signify by
21 saying "aye."

22 (All Board members indicate "aye.")

23 MR. RABER: All those opposed signify by
24 saying "no."

1 (No response)

2 MR. RABER: Motion carries.

3 I move the approval of the amendments for the
4 Comprehensive Education Facility Plan (CEFP) for the
5 closure of Fairplains Elementary School. Is there a
6 second?

7 MR. TICE: Second.

8 MR. RABER: It has been moved by Mr. Raber and
9 seconded by Mr. Tice for the approval of the amendments
10 for the Comprehensive Education Facility Plan (CEFP) for
11 the closure of Fairplains Elementary School. Is there
12 any discussion?

13 MR. OLCOTT: Just one final comment because I
14 know you don't have Board member comments on the agenda.
15 But I think it's important to note that this is really
16 the first phase of a larger CEFP plan. We have five
17 more schools to close while we build three new. And
18 they take a little bit of a different flavor because
19 they do have new schools on the other end of them.

20 And so I think it's good that we're making the
21 CEFP amendments so that it's a live and living document
22 and that the public understand this is step one of a lot
23 of work ahead in the next three to four years. So it's
24 an exciting time for Wood County Schools and I hope we

1 view it that way.

2 MR. RABER: Is there any further discussion?

3 (No response)

4 MR. RABER: Hearing none the question before
5 you is the approval of the amendment for the

6 Comprehensive Education Facility Plan (CEFP) for the

7 closure of Fairplains Elementary School. All those in
8 favor signify by saying "aye."

9 (All Board members indicate "aye.")

10 MR. RABER: All those opposed signify by
11 saying "no."

12 (No response)

13 MR. RABER: Motion carries.

14 There being no further business before the
15 Wood County Board of Education special meeting this
16 meeting is adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

17 -----

18 (The proceedings were concluded at 8:44 p.m.)

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THE STATE OF :
 WEST VIRGINIA :
 : SS: C E R T I F I C A T E
 COUNTY OF WOOD :

I, NANCY S. JARRELL, CCR, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of West Virginia, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the hearing above was by me reduced to text and recorded by Stenomask; afterwards reduced to transcription under my direction and control; that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony given by said witness.

I do further certify that this testimony was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified, and was completed without adjournment.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Parkersburg, West Virginia, on the 3rd day of November 2024.

 /s/Nancy S. Jarrell, CCR
 Nancy S. Jarrell, CCR
 Notary Public

My commission expires December 26, 2025.