

Executive Summary

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

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

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

- The closure of Rowlesburg School and its merger into Aurora School. This closure is not contingent on any other actions and is proposed to occur at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. In consideration of this closure, applicable West Virginia State Board of Education policies were reviewed and followed, and documents were available for public inspection for the required amount of time. A hearing was held for Aurora School on October 28, 2024, and Rowlesburg School on October 30, 2024. The Preston County Board of Education voted to approve this closure at their November 18, 2024 board meeting.

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

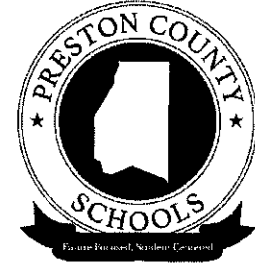
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(304) 329-0580, (304) 329-0720 (fax)

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Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



11/22/24

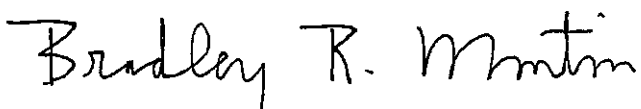
Superintendent Michelle Blatt and Members of the WV State Board of Education,

During the Monday, November 18, 2024 meeting of the Preston County Board of Education, the Board on a 3-2 vote approved the closure of the Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School for the 2025-2026 academic year. This meeting and vote followed public hearings on Monday, October 28, 2024 at the Aurora School and Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at the Rowlesburg School. Legal advertisements announcing these meetings were run in the Preston County Journal and News on October 4th, 11th, and 18th as required in WVBE Policy 6204. In advance of the legal advertisements being run, an impact statement and supporting data for the closure of Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School was supplied to all district schools, county office, and bus garage locations for a 30-day public review and additional copies were provided to the school principals of Rowlesburg and Aurora and Local School Improvement Council (LSIC) Presidents at each school. This was completed on September 24, 2024.

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

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

Sincerely,



Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent of Preston County Schools

Over the past few weeks the Board and I have received public input at two public hearings held on October 28th and 30th on the proposed closure of Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Kindergarten through eighth grade students from Rowlesburg to Aurora for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and merger process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and tonight's meeting has been convened for the Board to publicly deliberate and decide on whether to proceed or reject the proposed action. This decision is not an easy one as we have heard comments and received written responses that strongly advocate for keeping Rowlesburg School open and that speak to the many positive aspects of Rowlesburg School.

Despite these compelling arguments, I am here to briefly summarize the reasoning for the recommendation to close Rowlesburg School. First, Rowlesburg School has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 69.9% decrease in student enrollment over an 10-year span (assessed between the 2015-16 and 2024-25 academic years) totaling a loss of 79 students. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 16% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment. In assessing this year compared to last year, Rowlesburg has lost 12 students dropping to 33 students from 45 students last year. As a whole, the district has lost 177 students, dropping from 3935 students last year to 3758 this year.

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

Without the closures of the two proposed schools, it will be extremely difficult if not impossible to maintain positions within the state aid budget. The action of not closing the schools will result in higher percentages of staff at other schools throughout the county being placed on reduction in force or transfer status, which often leads to impacted staff leaving the district to seek employment in neighboring counties. It also will result in

substantially higher student teacher ratios in schools throughout the district, will make it harder and in some instances impossible to maintain staffing at a level to maintain block scheduling for reading and math instruction at many district schools, and result in the inability for most schools to offer much in the way of courses beyond those required by code and law. It should also be noted that Preston County's inability to consistently maintain staffing levels within the WV State Aid formula and associated financial deficits that this situation created resulted in State takeover of Preston County Schools in March of 2009 and the state maintaining control through 2014.

Next, in assessing facilities, the Rowlesburg School is considered in good to fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain the facility were estimated at \$922,000.00. In assessing the Aurora School, the school is considered in good condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The Aurora School has an assessed program capacity of 333 students as assessed in 2019 and 327 students as assessed in 2024, so Aurora has sufficient capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Rowlesburg School which now stands at 33. Aurora's current enrollment stands at 144. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 177, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for the Aurora School.

Next, the closure of Rowlesburg School is estimated to save a total of \$648,215.90. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50 with the anticipated elimination of 5.5 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Rowlesburg School over the same span of time is \$17,918.02. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Rowlesburg's is \$22,918.28. This is a difference of \$9,466.46 per student. Again, I must state that operating Rowlesburg will contribute to the slow drain of local district finances on the personnel side and needed repairs to the building and continued up-keep over time to facility is not wise when viable options exist at other district schools including Aurora.

Due to the small enrollment currently at Rowlesburg, students in grade K-4 are provided educational services in a single classroom. Students in grade 5-8 are educated in the core subjects by two teachers. This is not a desirable configuration and movement of students to Aurora would place students in traditional non-split classroom settings. In assessing Rowlesburg's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to Aurora, Aurora on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Rowlesburg had a

31.54% proficiency compared to Aurora's at 36% (a difference of 4.46%). In Math, Rowlesburg had a 32.14% proficiency compared to Aurora's at 33.70% (a difference of 1.56%).

During the previous proposed school closure process of Rowlesburg School in 2018, a major expressed concern was that the proposal called for Rowlesburg students to be spread between multiple district school including Kingwood Elementary, Central Preston MS, TAEP School, and South Preston School. The current proposal calls for all Rowlesburg students to be sent to a single school location (Aurora School). The Aurora School is not the closest option for Rowlesburg students with TAEP being 0.7 miles closer and Kingwood area schools being approximately 2 miles closer. However, in review of transcripts from the previous closure process, there were parents that asked why Aurora was an option and could the school have been added as an option. Concerns have been expressed by some in the Rowlesburg community about travel up and down Cheat Mountain. However, this route has been assessed by members of the WVDE Department of Transportation and no concerns were expressed. Travel would be primarily on Route 50 which is a major highway and priority snow route by the WV Department of Highways due to truck traffic on the road.

It is felt that Aurora School is a school that closely compares to Rowlesburg in many aspects. The schools both have relatively small enrollments, yet are major community hubs. The schools currently share multiple teachers and Rowlesburg has participated in athletic cooperative teams with Aurora over the past few years due to declining enrollment numbers at Rowlesburg. For parents concerned with travel to Aurora, current Board policy does allow Rowlesburg-area students to apply for intra-county transfer to Kingwood area schools and be provided with transportation pending transfer approval.

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

IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPORTING DATA
FOR THE
CLOSURE AND ~~CONSOLIDATION~~ MERGER OF
ROWLESBURG SCHOOL
INTO
AURORA SCHOOL
PRESTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Prepared Pursuant to

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

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

Public Hearing Date(s)—October 28 & 30, 2024

County Board Approval Date(s)—November 18, 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.

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3.1. County Procedures

WVDE Application for school closure and/or consolidation of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

Preston County Schools

Recommended Hearing Dates:

October 28, 2024- Aurora School

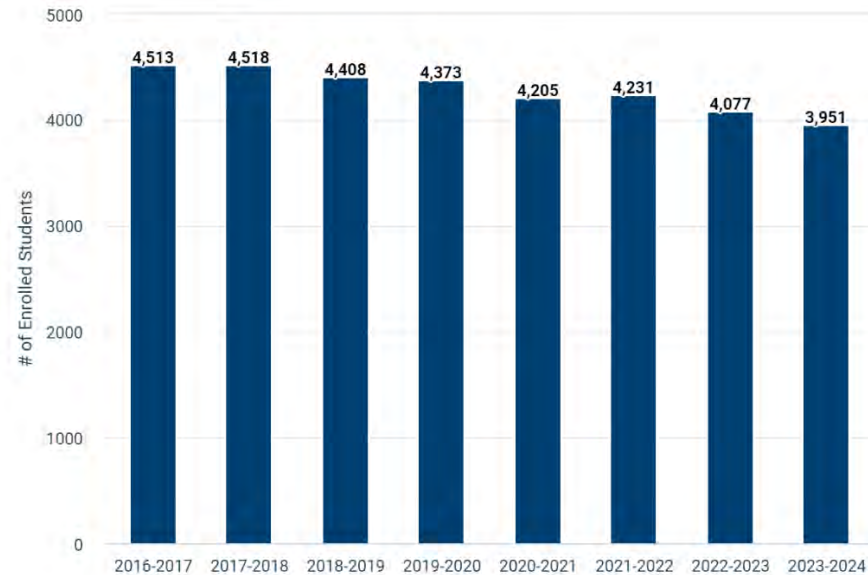
October 30, 2024- Rowlesburg School

Recommended Vote Date:

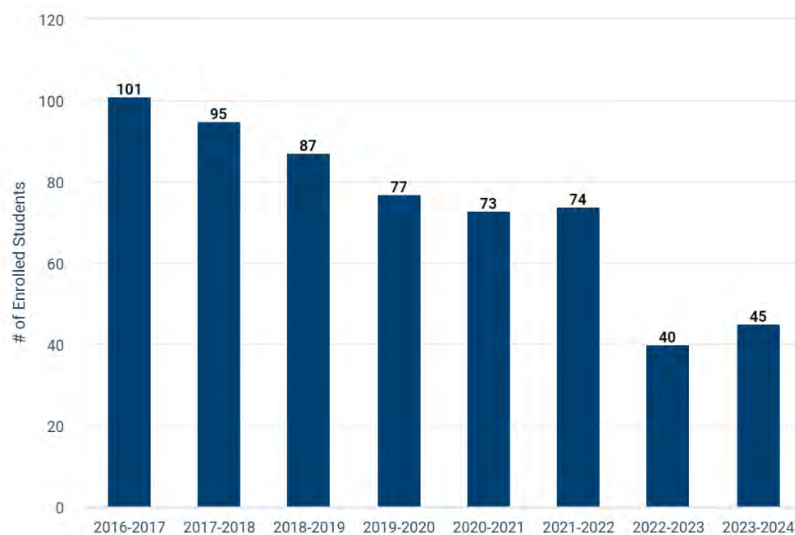
November 18, 2024

CLOSURE OF ROWLESBURG SCHOOL:

- ❖ Rowlesburg School (Grades K – 8) is being proposed for permanent closure effective at the completion of the 2024 – 2025 school year. The students currently attending Rowlesburg School will be absorbed into the Aurora School. In the current school year, Rowlesburg School has an enrollment of 34 students spanning Kindergarten through grade eight. Rowlesburg School serves as a feeder school for Preston High School. There is currently one split classroom at the school serving (13) students in grades Kindergarten through grade four.
- ❖ The proposed closure of Rowlesburg School will allow the Preston County Board of Education to more adequately and efficiently meet high quality educational standards through the redistribution of resources that will benefit all students within Preston County Schools.
- ❖ The proposed closure will provide for better utilization of personnel in Preston County Schools.
- ❖ Students will attend Aurora School, which has the appropriate capacity to accept the Rowlesburg School students.
- ❖ There has been a steady decline in school enrollment at Rowlesburg School and overall district enrollment. Enrollment projections indicate a continued decline. Between the 2016-17 and 2023-24 academic years, Rowlesburg School has lost 56 students and as of 9/3/24 the school has lost 11 students from last year's total. As a county, between the same range of dates, Preston County has lost 562 students and as of 9/3/24, the district has lost 143 students compared to last year. Enrollment projections show a continued decline at the school and county levels.



Preston County Schools 8-Year Enrollment Trend Data



Rowlesburg School 8-Year Enrollment Trend Data

- ❖ First month enrollment indicates 34 students are enrolled in grades K – 8 at Rowlesburg School.
- ❖ The closure of Rowlesburg School will result in savings estimated to be \$666,009.66.
- ❖ The closure of Rowlesburg School will result in enhanced economy of scale, enabling Preston County Schools to make more efficient use of available resources to meet the educational needs of its students. The opportunities for the affected students will be maintained following their enrollment at the Aurora School.
- ❖ The proposed closure would eliminate the five grade-level split classroom currently in place at Rowlesburg School.
- ❖ The proposed closure would provide student access to programs for which they currently do not have access.

County Procedures

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

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

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

Be delivered in duplicate to the:

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

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

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

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Bradley R. Martin
Superintendent

11/13/24
Date:

3.2. Executive Summary and Impact Statements

County Procedures

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

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

Since the turn of the Century, the population of Preston County has increased approximately 19% over a twenty-year span rising from 29,315 in the year 2000, to 33,940 in the year 2015, and to 34,216 in the year 2020. In contrast, student population has continued to decline. In the 2016-17 school year, Preston County Schools had an enrollment of 4,513 students. In 2023-24, the enrollment stood at 3,951 students. This is a 12.5% decrease in student enrollment over an eight-year period. Over the same span of time, Rowlesburg School hit a high of 101 students and a low of 45 students resulting in a 55.4% decrease in enrollment at Rowlesburg School.

Aurora School became a Pre-K – 8 school during the 2010-11 academic year following a bond-related building upgrade project. Between the 2016-17 and 2023-24 academic years, Aurora School hit a high enrollment of 177 students and dipped to 167 students for the 2023-24 school year. This year, Aurora School has seen further loss of enrollment to 142 students related primarily to competition from a local micro-school (Horizon's Academy).

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

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

Rowlesburg School was constructed in 1987 and remains in good to fair condition. The roof is a flat, direct glue membrane in average to fair condition. There is no fire protection (sprinkler) system at Rowlesburg School as the water pressure will not support a sprinkler system.

Aurora School was constructed in 1995 following a fire that burned the original building. The building was updated with an addition in 2012. The building is in good overall condition and can accommodate all grade levels as it is configured to receive students at the PK – 8 levels. Based on 10-year enrollment projections, Aurora School will be able to accommodate the number of students projected to be received.

Finance 3.2.c. (Starting on Page #20)

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

Potential building savings related to the proposed school closure and consolidation including utilities, maintenance, transportation, and other related expenses total of \$50,438.40 for Rowlesburg School. Savings will decrease if the building is maintained for county purposes.

Potential personnel savings related to the proposed school closure and consolidation, including both service and professional personnel, total \$597,777.50 for Rowlesburg School.

Personnel 3.2.d. (Starting on Page #22)

An analysis of the personnel needs associated with the closure of Rowlesburg School indicate changes in professional and service positions. Enrollment projections indicate that the county will save five and one half (5.5) professional positions and four and one half (4.5) service positions. The closure of the school will allow Preston County Schools to better be able to ensure that services and staffing be more accessible to students throughout the district.

Student Transportation 3.2.e. (Starting on Page #24)

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

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

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

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

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

Community 3.2.g (Starting on Page #26)

During the public hearings for a previous effort to close the Rowlesburg School in 2018, a major expressed concern was that the proposal resulted in sending Rowlesburg students to multiple schools and to much larger schools than Rowlesburg. Members of the public expressed that this was not desirable and that consideration should have been made for possible placement of Rowlesburg students at the Aurora School. The closure measure in 2018 was rejected by the local Board in favor of running a levy that was successfully passed through June of 2024. Based on the feedback from the closure hearings of 2018, a recommendation is being made for the closure of Rowlesburg School and for students to be placed at the Aurora School. The Aurora School is approximately 14 miles from Rowlesburg and the school currently has 142 students. Aurora School has seen a recent decline in enrollment due to a micro-school in the immediate area that has drawn a number of students. Both Aurora and Rowlesburg are small rural communities that are linked by Route 50. Due to Rowlesburg School's lack of students, efforts have been made in the past few years for interested student athletes at Rowlesburg to participate on teams at Aurora School. This has helped participating Rowlesburg students develop relationships with Aurora students and staff members. Overall, it is felt that the Aurora School is the best possible placement for Rowlesburg School due to its close location, smaller student enrollment that is more consistent with size and scope of the Rowlesburg School, would eliminate instances of a multiple grade-level split classroom (K-4) at Rowlesburg School, and overall provide Rowlesburg students with the best possible educational environment following the proposed closure of their current school.

3.2.a Student Enrollment

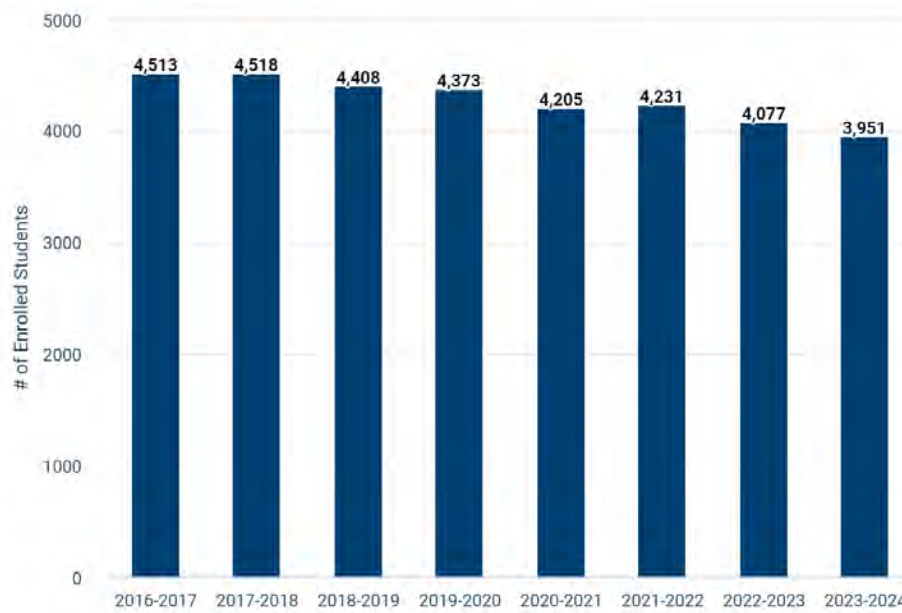
County Procedures

Enrollment and Population Table

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

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

Enrollment Table 1

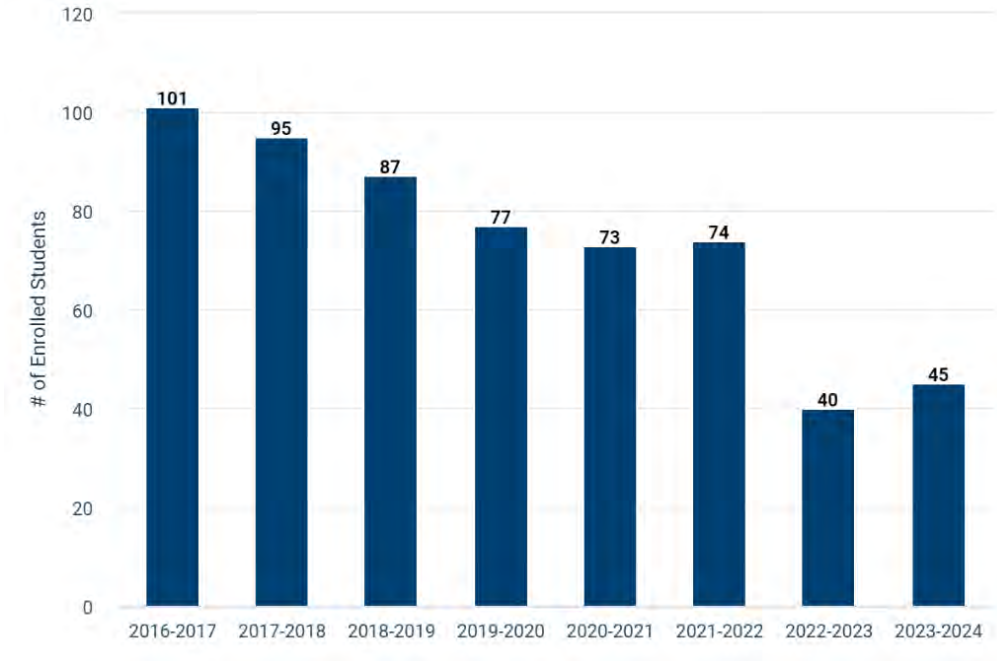


Source: WVDE Zoom WV Data Dashboard

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

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total	113	101	95	87	77	73	74	40	45	34

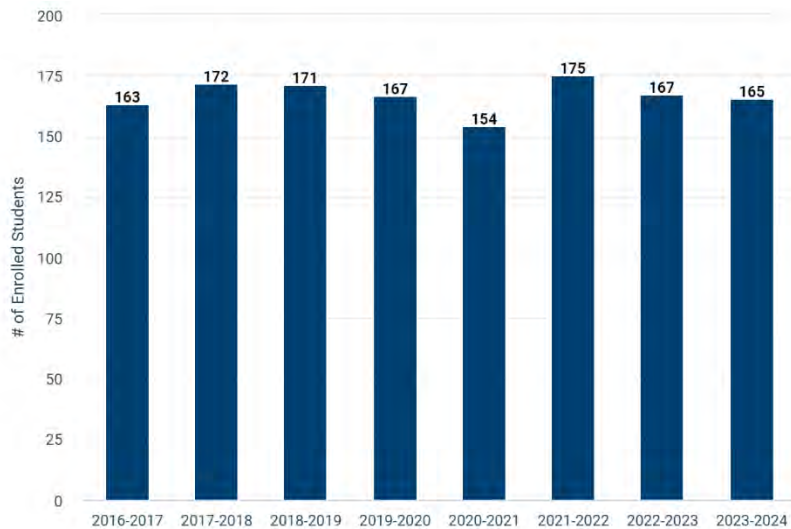
Enrollment Table 2



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

Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total	151	163	172	171	167	154	175	167	165	142

Enrollment Table 3



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

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

Enrollment Table 4

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

Age Composition

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

Enrollment Table 5

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

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

Rowlesburg School (based on an average 10.8% decline)

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
K	5	3	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1
1	2	4	3	2	1	0	2	1	1	1
2	1	2	4	3	2	1	0	2	1	1
3	1	1	2	4	3	2	1	0	2	1
4	6	1	2	2	4	3	2	1	0	2
5	2	5	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	0
6	3	2	4	2	2	2	3	2	2	1
7	7	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
8	3	6	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Total	30	27	24	21	19	17	15	13	12	11

Enrollment Table 6

Aurora School (based on an average 1.4% decline)

Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	2034-2035
PK	13	13	12	13	12	14	13	12	11	11
K	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
1	16	16	13	12	12	13	12	13	13	13
2	16	14	14	14	15	12	13	12	13	13
3	13	15	15	14	14	15	12	13	12	13
4	14	12	14	14	15	14	15	12	13	12
5	20	15	12	12	15	15	14	15	12	13
6	14	19	15	13	12	14	15	14	13	12
7	10	14	19	15	13	11	14	15	14	13
8	15	11	13	18	15	13	11	11	15	14
Total	144	142	140	138	136	134	132	130	129	127

Enrollment Table 7

Projection Method

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

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

3.2.b. Facilities

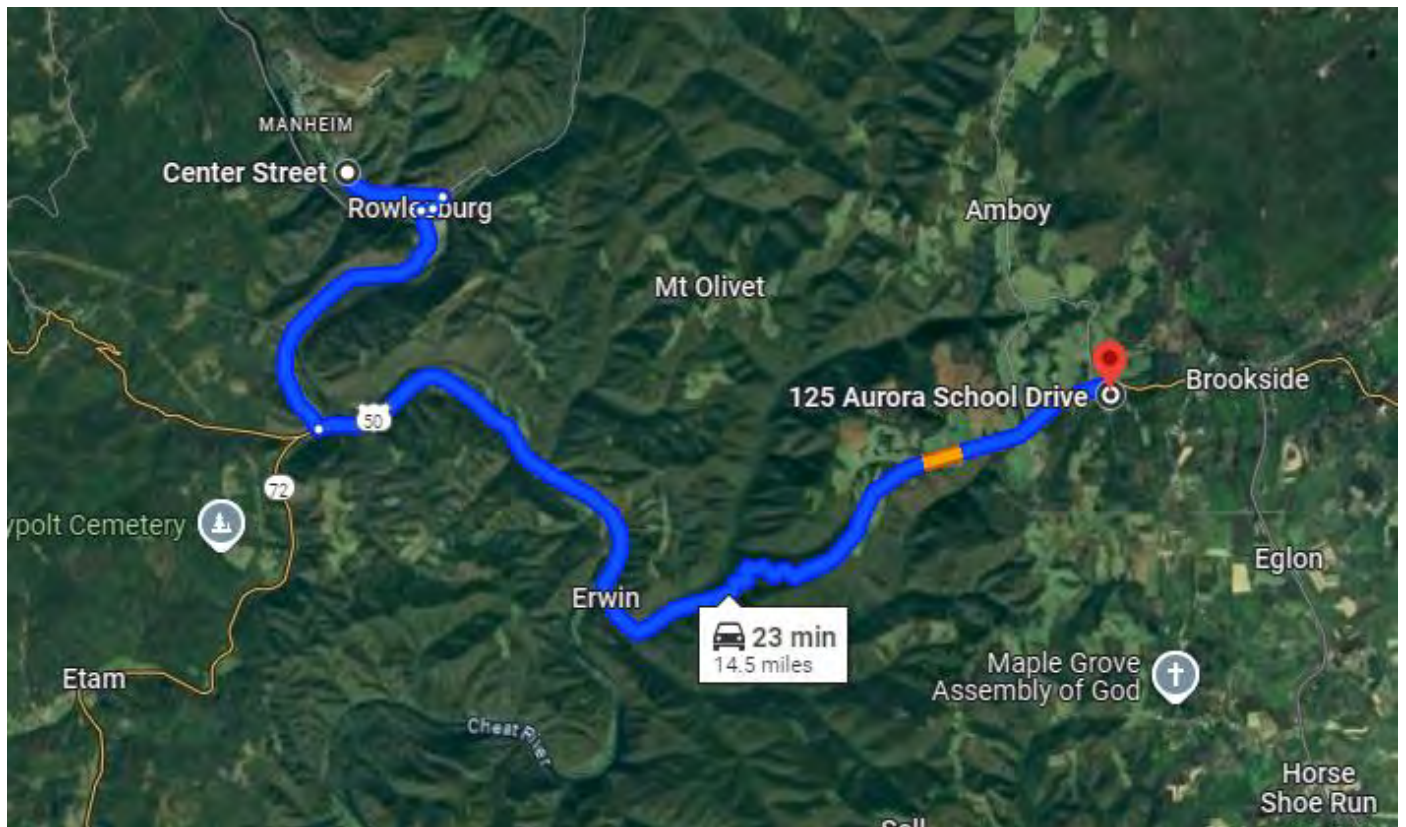
County Procedures

Descriptive Maps

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

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

Map 1



School	Grade Config.	Enrollment Before/After Action	Utilization Before/After Action	Average Distance / Minutes to Existing School	Average Distance / to New or Receiving School
Closing School- Rowlesburg School (B)	PK- 8	34 (Before) 0 (After)	11.3% (B) 0% (A)	18 minutes	29 minutes
New of Receiving School- Aurora School	PK – 8	142 (Before) 171 (After)	37.0% (B) 44.5% (A)	N/A	N/A

Facilities Table 1

Written Facility Condition Description

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

Rowlesburg School

Rowlesburg School serves grade K-8. It has an enrollment of 34 students and is substantially below targeted building capacity levels. The school is located off Route 72 in Rowlesburg, WV, approximately 14 miles south of Kingwood. This two-story building was constructed in 1987.

Building Site: The Rowlesburg School site consists of 6.5 acres and is in compliance with recommended acreage guidelines. The site lies on County Road 51 and sits on a plateau. Bus loading and unloading occurs in the front of the school. The staff parking lot is in the front of the school, in a lower parking lot. The driveway and school parking lot are paved and in good to fair condition.

Building Exterior: Rowlesburg School was constructed in 1987. The building structure is load bearing masonry of brick construction and is in good condition. Most windows are steel framed and not energy efficient, while a few windows are wood-framed and are energy efficient. The roof is a flat, direct glue membrane in average condition.

Building Interior: Rowlesburg School’s interior is a combination of drywall and masonry, metal, and acoustical tile ceilings and is in good condition. The floors are a combination of stone, exposed wood and concrete, and carpet.

HVAC System/Boiler: Rowlesburg School utilizes a gas-fired, hot water boiler system with an outside chiller that is in average condition.

Plumbing System: Rowlesburg School utilizes public water and sewage systems. The plumbing system is in average condition. The bathrooms are in average condition.

Fire Protection: There is no fire protection (sprinkler) system at Rowlesburg School, as the water pressure will not support a sprinkler system.

Electrical Systems: The available number of receptacles is below -average, as is the electrical capacity. The electrical service is 3-phase, 120/208 volt, 1600 amp and is serviced by AEP.

Emergency Lighting: Emergency lighting is available at emergency exits.

Fire Alarm System: There are 23 smoke detectors, 36 heat detectors, and 23 fire alarm pull stations connected to a main Edwards fire alarm system. The fire protection system is in average working condition.

Receptacles: The power/receptacle system is in average condition.

Intercom and Clock System: The school VOIP system is operable and can incorporate a bell schedule and intercom. The clock system is no longer operable.

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

Additions: None.

Aurora School

Aurora School serves grades PK-8 with an enrollment of 142 students and is located just off Route 50 in Aurora, WV, approximately 21 miles southeast of Kingwood. This one-story building was constructed in 1995. As a receiving school, Aurora School meets ADA accessibility requirements. It can accommodate all grade levels as it is configured to receive students at their particular grade level. Educational programming will not be affected at the receiving school, as enough physical space to accommodate programming that is in place. Based on 10-year projections for enrollment, the receiving school will be able to accommodate the number of students projected.

Building Site: Aurora School sits on approximately 5.5 acres of land. Bus loading and unloading occurs in the front of the school. The staff parking lot is located in the upper parking lot of the school and is adequate. The driveway and school parking lot are paved and in good condition.

Building Exterior: Aurora School was constructed in 1995. The building structure is load-bearing split-faced block. The roof is a flat rubber membrane that is in good condition and all windows are aluminum framed and energy efficient. All exterior finishes are in fair to good condition.

Building Interior: The walls are drywall and masonry and ceilings are a combination of drywall and acoustical tile. The floors are tile and carpet. All interior finishes are in good condition.

HVAC System/Boiler: Aurora School has LLP roof-top gas HVAC units.

Plumbing Systems: Aurora School has well water with booster pumps and a sewage treatment plant.

Fire Protection: There is a sprinkler system at Aurora School.

Electrical Systems: The electrical system at Aurora School is a 3-phase, 208/120 volt, 2000 amp, with an underground main service feed to the school building. There is sufficient electrical capacity and power receptacle availability.

Emergency Lighting: Emergency lighting is available at emergency exits.

Fire Alarm System: Aurora has 30 smoke detectors and 19 pull stations on an Edwards EST fire alarm system.

Receptacles: There is sufficient electrical capacity and power receptacle availability at Aurora School.

Intercom and Clock System: The school intercom is operable and can incorporate a bell system.

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

Additions: New addition in 2012.

Educational Programs and Related Student Services

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

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

School Enrollments, Capacities, and Utilizations

<i>School</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Building Capacity</i>	<i>Utilization %</i>
Rowlesburg	34	302	11.3%
Aurora School (Projected #)	176	327	53.8%

Facilities Table 2

Utilization Calculation Sheet

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

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

Required Services and Barrier-free Environments

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

Rowlesburg School:

Rowlesburg School was constructed in 1987. The school has a secure entrance and is fully ADA accessible. The school also has an elevator on the main level for accessibility to the upper and lower levels.

Aurora School:

Aurora School was constructed in 1995 with an addition in 2012. The school has a secure entrance and is fully ADA accessible.

Grade Configurations and Educational Programs

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

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

Construction Work Required for the Proposed Action

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

There are no planned facility additions, renovations, or replacements planned to accommodate the proposed closing / consolidation. Aurora School receiving students from the proposed closing school of Rowlesburg School has the necessary building capacity to accommodate the new students without any needed construction.

The Future of Closed Facilities

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

Rowlesburg School:

The intent is to maintain the property to determine the feasibility of using the facility for an alternative education location. In addition, it is planned to work in conjunction with county and community leadership to determine possible additional future use of the facility.

School Building Authority of WV (SBA)

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

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

Closures Contingent Upon SBA Funding

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

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

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

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

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

SBA Facility Condition Documentation

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

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

Supporting Photographs and other Documentation

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

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

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

3.2.c. Finance

County Procedures

Itemization of Anticipated Cost and Savings

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

Closing School(s) Annual Current Cost

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

Rowlesburg School (Closing School)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 50,438.40
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 597,777.50
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$ 19,838.76
<i>Transportation</i>	\$ 109,935.82
<i>Other</i>	--
<i>Total</i>	\$777,990.48

Finance Table 1

Receiving School(s) Annual Current Cost

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

Aurora School (Receiving School)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 46,361.43
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 1,395,724.80
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$ 30,062.79
<i>Transportation</i>	\$274,839.55
<i>Other</i>	--
<i>Total</i>	\$ 1,746,988.57

Finance Table 2

Total Expenses for Rowlesburg (Closing) and Aurora (Receiving)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	\$ 96,799.83
<i>Personnel</i>	\$ 1,993,502.30
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$ 49,901.55
<i>Transportation</i>	\$ 384,775.37
<i>Other</i>	--
<i>Total</i>	\$ 2,524,979.05

Finance Table 3

Estimated Expenses of Receiving School After Closure

Aurora School

Item	Amount
Utilities	\$ 46,361.43
Personnel	\$ 1,395,724.80
Maintenance	\$ 32,107.79
Transportation	\$ 384,775.37
Other	--
Total	\$ 1,858,969.39

Finance Table 4

Net Cost or Savings Differential

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

Item	Cost or Savings	Amount
Utilities	Savings	\$ 50,438.40
Personnel	Savings	\$ 597,777.50
Maintenance	Savings	\$ 17,793.76
Transportation	--	--
Other	--	--
Total	Savings	\$ 666,009.66

Finance Table 5

- Savings differential will decrease if Rowlesburg school is retained for county purposes in the utilities and maintenance line items.

Anticipated Construction Cost to Accommodate Action

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

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

County Expense Fund History

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

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

Finance Table 6

3.2.d. Personnel

County Procedures

Analysis of Anticipated Personnel Changes

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

Rowlesburg School – Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	0.5	5	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	1	1.5	1

Personnel Table 1

Aurora School – Current Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>number professional personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1	13.5	0.5	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>number service personnel currently employed at the affected school(s);</i>	1.5	4	1.5	1

Personnel Table 2

Current Affected School Total – Before Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>	1.5	18.5	0.5	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel currently employed at all affected schools;</i>	2.5	5	3	2

Personnel Table 3

{Receiving or Consolidated} Aurora School Total – Anticipated After Proposed Action				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>total number of professional personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>	1	13.5	0.5	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>total number of service personnel who are anticipated to be employed at the affected school(s) upon the completion of the closure or consolidation;</i>	1.5	4	1.5	1

Personnel Table 4

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

Personnel Table 5

Total – Attrition and Reduction in Force Summary – Professional & Service				
Professional Personnel	Administration	Teachers	Counselor	Nurse
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>decrease that will occur through a reduction in force</i>	-0.5	-5	0	0
Service Personnel	Cooks	Aides	Custodians	Secretary
<i>decrease that will occur through attrition</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>decrease that will occur through reduction in force</i>	-1	-1	-1.5	-1

Personnel Table 6

3.2.e. Student Transportation

County Procedures

Analysis of Anticipated Transportation Time Changes

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

Current and Differences of Travel Times

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

Route	Community	Average Current Travel Time	Average Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease	Maximum Estimated Time after Closure or Consolidation	Net Increase or Decrease
R50 (Bus 12-20)	Rowlesburg	17.5 minutes	32.5 minutes	+ 15 minutes	35 minutes vs. 50 minutes	+ 15 minutes
R51 (Bus 32)	Rowlesburg	18.5 minutes	33.5 minutes	+ 15 minutes	36 minutes vs. 51 minutes	+ 15 minutes

Transportation Table 1

Anticipated Routes and Waiver Requests

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

Route	Community	One-way Travel Time	Amount Exceeding Recommended Travel Times	Is a Waiver of W. Va. 126CSR92, Policy 4336 Required (Yes / no)*
R50 (Bus 12-20)	Rowlesburg	32.5- 50 minutes	2.5 – 20 minutes	Yes or No
R51 (Bus 32)	Rowlesburg	33.5- 51 minutes	3.5- 21 minutes	Yes or 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 45 minutes.

Travel Time to Neighboring County Public School

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

Rowlesburg School students have closer travel options to Kingwood Elementary (PK-4), Central Preston Middle School (5-8), and Terra Alta / East Preston (TAEP) vs. Aurora School. Travel from Rowlesburg to TAEP is 0.7 miles shorter than a trip to Aurora School. Travel from Rowlesburg to Kingwood Elementary is 2.2 miles shorter than a trip to Aurora School. Travel from Rowlesburg to Central Preston is 2.1 miles shorter than a trip to Aurora School.

3.2.f. Student Educational Program

County Procedures

Analysis and Assurance of Consideration

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

Affected School Name(s)

Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

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

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

Bradley R. Martin

Superintendent

11/13/24

Date:

3.2.g. Community

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

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

Rowlesburg School and Aurora School are both small rural schools located in southern Preston County. The schools both are seen as community centers and have strong parental and community involvement. Over the past few years, Rowlesburg School student/athletes have participated in some team sports with Aurora School in an approved cooperative due to Rowlesburg School's very small enrollment (currently 34 students). Aurora School is seen as the school that most closely aligns with the experiences of Rowlesburg students and for these reasons was deemed as the most appropriate school to receive Rowlesburg students following the proposed closure of the school.

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

The consolidation of Rowlesburg School with Aurora School is designed to build on the common experiences of students, parents, and staff in a small, community-based school. This action is seen as an effort to provide Rowlesburg School students with additional academic opportunities and eliminate a K-4 grade-level split classroom that creates instructional challenges for students and staff alike.

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

Rowlesburg School and Aurora School have several commonalities to provide the students of Rowlesburg School with a comfortable and familiar environment despite the proposed action. It is believed that the school stakeholders will embrace school traditions from each school to provide a shared experience and culture for students, parents, staff, and members of both communities.

3.3. & 3.4. Public Notices and Hearings

County Procedures

Notice of Public Hearing(s)

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

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

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

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

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountryschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Preston County Schools

W.Va. 18-5-13a

W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

Meeting Dates and Times: October 28, 2024, at Aurora School at 4:00 PM and October 30, 2024, at Rowlesburg School at 6:00 PM

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountryschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Preston County Schools

W.Va. 18-5-13a

W.Va. Board of Education Policy 6204

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024

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Meeting Dates and Times: October 28, 2024 at Aurora School at 4:00 PM and October 30, 2024, at Rowlesburg School at 6:00 PM

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

Involved Schools: Rowlesburg School & Aurora School

Proof of Public Hearing(s) Notice

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

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

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

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

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

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

[See Appendix for this Documentation](#)

3.6. County Board Actions

County Procedures

County Board Vote(s)

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

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

Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP)

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

The proposed closures were included in the county's approved Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP). However, the county will need to amend the CEFP related to school of receivership of Rowlesburg School students following the proposed closure of the school. The plan referenced Terra Alta / East Preston as a possible school of receivership in addition to the Aurora School.

School Building Authority of WV

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

The proposed closure of Rowlesburg School are not contingent upon School Building Authority (SBA) funding.

Closures Contingent Upon SBA Funding

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

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

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

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

3.6. Superintendent Verification of Board Actions

County Procedures

Date(s) of public hearings:

October 28, 2024 – Aurora School at 4:00 PM

October 30, 2024 – Rowlesburg School at 6:00 PM

Date(s) of county board approval:

November 18, 2024

Requested Action:

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

Closure and consolidation of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Checkmark each section and sign below:

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

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent of Preston County Schools

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

Bradley R. Martin
Superintendent

11/13/24
Date:

Appendix of Supporting Data

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

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

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

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

County: Preston

School: Rowlesburg School

Current Enrollment: 34

<i>Classroom Types</i>	<i>Number Of Classroom Types</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Program Capacity</i>
Elementary General Education Classrooms (1 st - 5th grade)	5		25		125
Elementary PK and Kindergarten Classrooms	2		20		40
Self-Contained Special Education Classroom	1		12		12
Middle School General Education Classrooms	5		25		125
Gymnasium	1		--		--
Middle/Elem School Special Education Resource Room/Fine Arts	2		--		--
TOTALS:					302

Program Utilization $\frac{34}{\text{Current Enrollment}}$ divided by $\frac{302}{\text{Total Program Capacity}}$ times 100 = 11.3 %
 Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 11.3 % Desirable Program Capacity = 85%

Instructions for Calculating Building Program Utilization

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

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

SBA 301-C

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

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

County: Preston

School: Aurora School

Current Enrollment: 142

<i>Classroom Types</i>	<i>Number Of Classroom Types</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Maximum Pupils/ Class Capacity</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Program Capacity</i>
Elementary PK and Kindergarten Classrooms	2		20		40
Elementary General Education Classrooms (1 st - 5th grade)	5		25		125
Middle School General Education Classrooms	6		25		150
Elementary Self-Contained Special Education Classroom	1		12		12
Gymnasium	1		--		--
Middle/Elem School Special Education Resource Room	1		--		--
TOTALS:					327

Program Utilization $\frac{142}{\text{Current Enrollment}}$ divided by $\frac{327}{\text{Total Program Capacity}}$ times 100 = 43.4 %
Program Utilization

SCHOOLS PROGRAM UTILIZATION = 43.4 % 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.

SBA 301-C

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

2024-25 Enrollment FTE

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

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

2023-24 Enrollment FTE

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

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

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

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

Per Pupil Cost by School FY18-FY24

FY18 - FY24

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

Per Pupil Percent Change

FY18 - FY23

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

FY24 Per Pupil Expenses by School

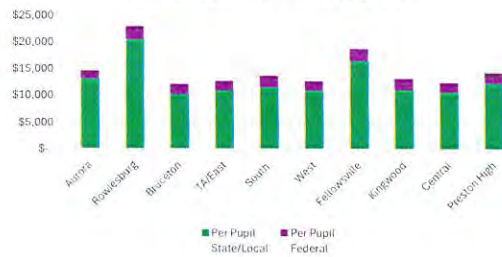
School	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures	
	Enroll. #	State/Local	Federal	State/Local	Federal	Total		
Aurora	167	9,934.38	357.71	10,292.09	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	14,528.63
Rowlesburg	45	17,356.40	1,325.34	18,681.74	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	22,918.28
Bruceton	588	7,032.76	775.47	7,808.23	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,044.78
TA/East	303	7,771.29	638.57	8,409.85	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,646.40
South	329	8,387.45	1,025.87	9,413.32	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	13,649.86
West	633	7,780.83	664.09	8,444.93	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,681.47
Fellowsville	75	13,357.47	1,147.44	14,504.90	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	18,741.44
Kingwood	383	7,881.94	1,008.02	8,889.96	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	13,126.50
Central	310	7,479.95	648.09	8,128.05	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	12,364.59
Preston High	1119	9,124.60	942.31	10,066.91	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	14,303.45
District Level	3,952	8,391.85	823.43	9,215.28	3,070.95	1,165.59	4,236.54	13,451.82

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY24 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



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

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

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

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

FY23 Per Pupil Expenses by School

School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	168	8,209.50	1,267.63	9,477.13	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	14,026.82
Rowlesburg	40	15,421.34	2,317.07	17,738.41	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	22,288.10
Bruceton	616	5,817.89	1,448.96	7,266.85	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	11,816.54
TA/East	310	6,691.67	1,663.32	8,354.99	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,904.68
South	342	6,861.49	1,507.22	8,368.71	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,918.40
West	652	5,951.73	1,258.84	7,210.57	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	11,760.26
Fellowsville	91	9,308.36	1,714.30	11,022.66	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	15,572.35
Kingwood	358	6,640.67	2,151.42	8,792.09	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	13,341.78
Central	322	7,179.30	1,465.10	8,644.40	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	13,194.09
Preston High	1178	7,076.84	1,021.11	8,097.95	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,647.64
District Level	4,077	6,807.49	1,386.04	8,193.53	3,455.80	1,093.89	4,549.69	12,743.22

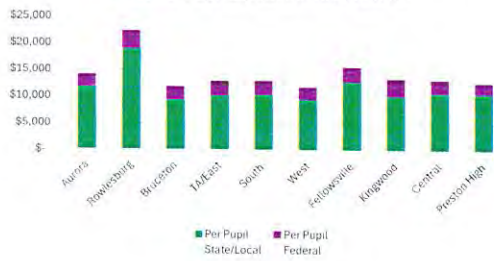
Total District Expenditures \$ 58,933,175.79
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ 51,954,175.36
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 6,979,000.43

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY23 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/choose_district_sum.html?selected_district=070&year=2023

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

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

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

FY22 Per Pupil Expenses by School

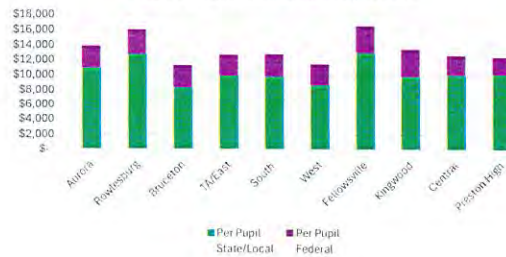
School	Enroll. #	State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	Total PP Expenditures
Aurora	177	7,460.26	1,658.89	9,119.15	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	13,803.90
Rowlesburg	74	9,314.00	1,997.56	11,311.56	3,424.02	1,260.73	4,684.75	15,996.31
Bruceton	649	4,865.76	1,730.13	6,595.89	3,424.02	1,260.73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

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

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

FY22 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/choose_district_sum.html?selected_district=070&year=2022

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

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

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

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

FY21 Per Pupil Expenses by School

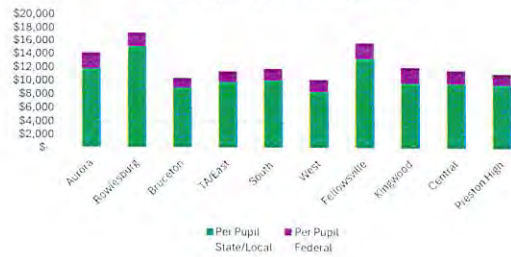
School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	154	8,264.82	1,403.51	9,668.33	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	14,091.75
Rowlesburg	73	11,575.02	1,214.22	12,789.24	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	17,212.66
Bruceton	603	5,491.86	489.64	5,981.50	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	10,404.92
TA/East	343	6,349.97	654.45	7,004.42	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,427.84
South	369	6,579.33	806.94	7,386.27	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,809.69
West	680	4,905.95	878.51	5,784.46	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	10,207.88
Fellowsville	83	9,853.21	1,479.74	11,332.95	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	15,756.37
Kingwood	364	6,235.24	1,416.28	7,651.52	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	12,074.94
Central	327	6,165.20	1,050.20	7,215.40	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,638.82
Preston High	1209	6,073.49	673.21	6,746.70	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,170.12
District Level	4,205	6,139.72	835.99	6,975.71	3,474.71	948.71	4,423.42	11,399.13

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

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

FY21 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2021

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 11,740	\$ 2,352	\$ 14,092
Rowlesburg	\$ 15,050	\$ 2,163	\$ 17,213
Bruceton	\$ 8,967	\$ 1,438	\$ 10,405
TA/East	\$ 9,825	\$ 1,603	\$ 11,428
South	\$ 10,054	\$ 1,756	\$ 11,810
West	\$ 8,381	\$ 1,827	\$ 10,208
Fellowsville	\$ 13,328	\$ 2,428	\$ 15,756
Kingwood	\$ 9,710	\$ 2,365	\$ 12,075
Central	\$ 9,640	\$ 1,999	\$ 11,639
Preston High	\$ 9,548	\$ 1,622	\$ 11,170
County Average	\$ 10,624	\$ 1,955	\$ 12,579

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

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 11,740	\$ 2,352	\$ 14,092
Rowlesburg	\$ 15,050	\$ 2,163	\$ 17,213
Bruceton	\$ 8,967	\$ 1,438	\$ 10,405
TA/East	\$ 9,825	\$ 1,603	\$ 11,428
South	\$ 10,054	\$ 1,756	\$ 11,810
West	\$ 8,381	\$ 1,827	\$ 10,208
Average PK/K - 8	\$ 10,669	\$ 1,857	\$ 12,526
Fellowsville	\$ 13,328	\$ 2,428	\$ 15,756
Kingwood	\$ 9,710	\$ 2,365	\$ 12,075
Average Elementary	\$ 11,519	\$ 2,397	\$ 13,916
Central	\$ 9,640	\$ 1,999	\$ 11,639
Preston High	\$ 9,548	\$ 1,622	\$ 11,170
County Average	\$ 10,624	\$ 1,955	\$ 12,579

FY20 Per Pupil Expenses by School

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

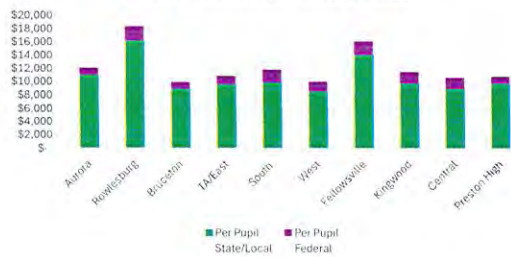
Total District Expenditures \$ 74,919,925.38
 Total District Expenditures Less Exclusions \$ **47,794,404.73**
 Total Excluded Expenditures \$ 27,125,520.65

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

FY20 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2020

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,908	\$ 1,127	\$ 12,035
Rowlesburg	\$ 16,154	\$ 2,128	\$ 18,282
Bruceton	\$ 8,862	\$ 1,005	\$ 9,866
TA/East	\$ 9,538	\$ 1,304	\$ 10,842
South	\$ 9,841	\$ 1,942	\$ 11,783
West	\$ 8,461	\$ 1,510	\$ 9,971
Fellowsville	\$ 13,996	\$ 2,131	\$ 16,127
Kingwood	\$ 9,653	\$ 1,784	\$ 11,437
Central	\$ 8,903	\$ 1,707	\$ 10,610
Preston High	\$ 9,671	\$ 1,101	\$ 10,772
County Average	\$ 10,599	\$ 1,574	\$ 12,173

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

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,908	\$ 1,127	\$ 12,035
Rowlesburg	\$ 16,154	\$ 2,128	\$ 18,282
Bruceton	\$ 8,862	\$ 1,005	\$ 9,866
TA/East	\$ 9,538	\$ 1,304	\$ 10,842
South	\$ 9,841	\$ 1,942	\$ 11,783
West	\$ 8,461	\$ 1,510	\$ 9,971
Average PK/K - 8	\$ 10,627	\$ 1,503	\$ 12,130
Fellowsville	\$ 13,996	\$ 2,131	\$ 16,127
Kingwood	\$ 9,653	\$ 1,784	\$ 11,437
Average Elementary	\$ 11,825	\$ 1,957	\$ 13,782
Central	\$ 8,903	\$ 1,707	\$ 10,610
Preston High	\$ 9,671	\$ 1,101	\$ 10,772
County Average	\$ 10,599	\$ 1,574	\$ 12,173

FY19 Per Pupil Expenses by School

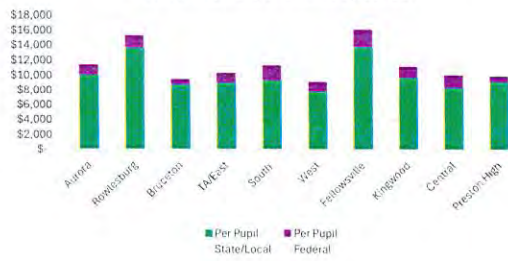
School	Enroll. #	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures
		State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal	Total	
Aurora	173	6,848.97	990.43	7,839.40	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	11,380.23
Rowlesburg	87	10,429.31	1,352.02	11,781.33	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	15,322.16
Bruceston	609	5,547.71	398.21	5,945.92	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	9,486.75
TA/East	354	5,803.37	1,010.85	6,814.22	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	10,355.05
South	385	6,139.89	1,673.45	7,813.34	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	11,354.17
West	761	4,604.72	984.97	5,589.69	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	9,130.52
Fellowsville	71	10,557.60	2,045.68	12,603.28	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	16,144.11
Kingwood	423	6,503.74	1,173.16	7,676.90	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	11,217.73
Central	332	5,182.30	1,366.90	6,549.20	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	10,090.03
Preston High	1213	5,957.92	481.83	6,439.75	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	9,980.58
District Level	4,408	5,862.38	899.03	6,761.41	3,164.22	376.61	3,540.83	10,302.24

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

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

FY19 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: https://wweis.k12.wv.us/essa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2019

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,013	\$ 1,367	\$ 11,380
Rowlesburg	\$ 13,594	\$ 1,729	\$ 15,322
Bruceston	\$ 8,712	\$ 775	\$ 9,487
TA/East	\$ 8,968	\$ 1,387	\$ 10,355
South	\$ 9,304	\$ 2,050	\$ 11,354
West	\$ 7,769	\$ 1,362	\$ 9,131
Fellowsville	\$ 13,722	\$ 2,422	\$ 16,144
Kingwood	\$ 9,668	\$ 1,550	\$ 11,218
Central	\$ 8,347	\$ 1,744	\$ 10,090
Preston High	\$ 9,122	\$ 858	\$ 9,981
County Average	\$ 9,922	\$ 1,524	\$ 11,446

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

School	Per Pupil State/Local	Per Pupil Federal	Per Pupil All Funds
Aurora	\$ 10,013	\$ 1,367	\$ 11,380
Rowlesburg	\$ 13,594	\$ 1,729	\$ 15,322
Bruceston	\$ 8,712	\$ 775	\$ 9,487
TA/East	\$ 8,968	\$ 1,387	\$ 10,355
South	\$ 9,304	\$ 2,050	\$ 11,354
West	\$ 7,769	\$ 1,362	\$ 9,131
Average PK/K - 8	\$ 9,727	\$ 1,445	\$ 11,171
Fellowsville	\$ 13,722	\$ 2,422	\$ 16,144
Kingwood	\$ 9,668	\$ 1,550	\$ 11,218
Average Elementary	\$ 11,695	\$ 1,986	\$ 13,681
Central	\$ 8,347	\$ 1,744	\$ 10,090
Preston High	\$ 9,122	\$ 858	\$ 9,981
County Average	\$ 9,922	\$ 1,524	\$ 11,446

FY18 Per Pupil Expenses by School

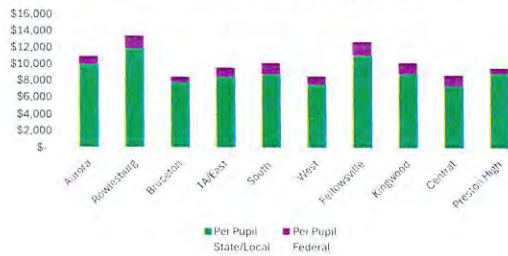
School	School-Level PP Expenditures \$			District-Level PP Expenditures \$			Total PP Expenditures	
	Enroll. #	State/Local	Federal	Total	State/Local	Federal		Total
Aurora	172	6,978.05	679.11	7,657.16	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	10,942.58
Rowlesburg	95	8,835.24	1,285.91	10,121.15	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	13,406.57
Bruceton	625	4,732.05	477.37	5,209.42	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	8,494.84
TA/East	387	5,421.50	883.93	6,305.43	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	9,590.85
South	391	5,731.51	1,127.17	6,858.68	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	10,144.10
West	763	4,527.23	748.49	5,275.72	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	8,561.14
Fellowsville	95	8,048.45	1,357.99	9,406.44	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	12,691.86
Kingwood	458	5,832.54	1,071.29	6,903.83	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	10,189.25
Central	336	4,376.84	1,029.22	5,406.06	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	8,691.48
Preston High	1196	5,842.12	464.67	6,306.79	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	9,592.21
District Level	4,518	5,463.53	755.30	6,218.83	3,000.52	284.90	3,285.42	9,504.25

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

Excluded Expenditures Include:

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

FY18 Per Pupil Expenditures by School



Data Collected from: https://weis.k12.wv.us/essa/dist_finance.html?selected_district=070&year=2018

Enrollment Count Procedure: October 1 Certified Enrollment Count

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

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

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

Aurora School



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

LEA ID:	070101	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	36,915
Facility Name:	Aurora Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1995

3 - Building Component Evaluation Worksheet

Building Structures:

Type: Load Bearing Masonry 23,906 SF

Building Structures Remarks:

Overall Building Structure Condition: 5-Excellent

Floor Structures:

Steel Joist/Concrete (floor area SF):

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

Slab on Grade (floor area SF): 23,906

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition: 5-Excellent

Roof:

Roof Structure: Steel Joists

Roof Structures Remarks:

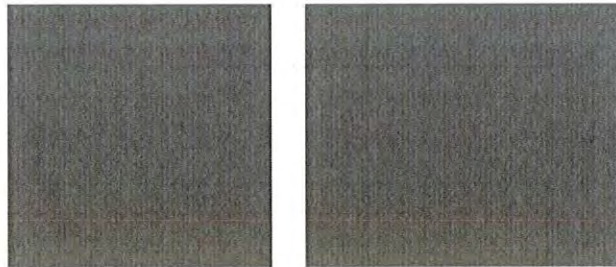
Overall Roof Condition:

5-Excellent

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	4-Above Average
Yes	4-Above Average
No	
No	
Technology Electrical Wiring	4-Above Average

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

4-Above Average

Technology Assessment:

- Teacher Training:
- Software Use:

3-Average
3-Average

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

3-Average

3-Average

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Deficiencies:

Technology Remarks:
Overall Technology Condition:

3-Average

School Access Safety Audit:

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

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

[Redacted]

Safety Remarks:
Overall Access Safety Condition:

Bullying - 4 Above Average
4-Above Average

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

Building	Main Building	Year Built	1995	# Floors	
Gross Square Feet	36,915	Basement (Y/N)	N	(incl. Bsmt)	1

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes	Messages
Conveying Systems				Not Present	N/A	Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average		
Electrical - Lighting	fluorescent			3 - Average		
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				3 - Average		
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average		
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			3 - Average		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal			2 - Below Average	Main Entrance Doors need new hardware.	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3 - Average		
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Double Pane, fixed, All frame			3 - Average		
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				4 - Above Average		
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				Not Present		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units			2016	3 - Average		If Terminal & Package Units are present, Cooling & Heat Generating Systems cannot be present.
HVAC - Distribution System				3 - Average		
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				Not Present		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				Not Present		Please confirm absence of system with Facility Manager.
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				3 - Average		
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			3 - Average		
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average		
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile			3 - Average		
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Vinyl Composition Tile			2 - Below Average	Some Spaces are average VCT. Some areas are painted concrete in above average cond.	
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				3 - Average	VCT	
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU			3 - Average		
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				2 - Below Average	The school uses a Storage Tank. It does not have city water.	
Plumbing - Fixtures	Manual			2 - Below Average	Plumbing under fixtures need to be insulated and boxed in for ADA compliance.	
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				2 - Below Average		
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				2 - Below Average	On site treatment plant is on its last leg.	
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Membrane		2016	3 - Average	Standing Seam Metal on approx. 1/3 of roof.	
Security System				2 - Below Average	Doors do not latch once oped on a windy day.	
Technology Infrastructure				2 - Below Average		

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

Full AE Firm Name: The Thrasher Group, Inc.
County Name: Preston
Campus Name: Aurora Elementary School
Campus Type: Elementary School
School Code: 070101

Original Construction Yr: 1995
Assessment Date: 07/05/19
Current Enrollment: 173



Pavements						
System	Material	Year Installed If different from Building	Condition	SF	Notes	Message
Pedestrian Pavements	Concrete		3 - Average	5,150	Average SF using Google Earth	
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt		3 - Average	23,150	Average SF using Google Earth	

Permanent Buildings										
Record	Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Include building in Assessment	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement [Y/N]	# Floors (incl. Bsmts)	Message	Evaluation Status
1	Main Building	Classroom	Y	1995	No	36,915	N	1		29 of 29 systems have been evaluated
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
Total GSF:						36,915				

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

Overview of Findings
Overall the parking lot is in Average condition.
Overall the Building Structure is in Average condition.
Overall the building walls and floors are in average condition.

An addition on the back side of school includes a stage, music, and science rooms.
A Playground was added in the last 10 years.
Need to add HVAC rooftop units to gymnasium and kitchen. The rest of the schools has new units.
The facility needs a safe school entrance. Wind can keep the door open once buzzed in.
Possibly add separate gymnasium in the next 10 years or upgrade existing.
The facility needs sound panels to be installed in gymnasium.
The facility needs a new water system. Has water tank.
The facility has no sprinkler system.

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

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	070101	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	36,915
Facility Name:	Aurora Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1995

Energy Indexes

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

<u>Source (Units)</u>	<u>Consumption per Year</u>	<u>Conversion (BTU/Unit)</u>	<u>Total BTU</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	309,506	3,412	1,056,077,803
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--		1,037,000	-
Natural Gas (Decootherms)		1,000,000	-
Coal (Tons)		24,000,000	-
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)		138,874	-
Propane (Pounds)	52,671	21,600	1,137,693,600
Used Oil (Gallons)		125,000	-
Wood Chips (Tons)		16,500,000	-
Other (specify)			
Amount:			
Units:			

Total BTU: 2,193,771,403

Energy Utilization Index (EUI): 59,428

Worksheet Links:

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

LEA ID:	070101	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	36915
Facility Name:	Aurora Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1995
Design Capacity Enrollment:	333		

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

Improvement Item

1. Site Work

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Land Acquisition	Acres			\$ -	
Excavation/Grade	CUB FT		\$ 20.00	\$ -	
Drainage	LIN FT	1,500	\$ 60.00	\$ 90,000.00	
Walks (6 ft wide)	SQ FT		\$ 10.00	\$ -	
Parking	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Bus Loading	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Roads	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Playing Fields	SQ FT		\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	Fencing
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	landscaping
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total

\$ 90,000.00

2. Renovations, Exterior

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

Doors/Frames	EACH	8	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 44,000.00	
Roofing	SQ FT		\$ 20.00	\$ -	
Coping/Parapet	LIN FT		\$ 15.00	\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT		\$ 8.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 44,000.00

	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Floor Covering	SQ FT	25,000	\$ 10.00	\$ 250,000.00	VCT replacement
Patch & Painting	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Plumbing	SQ FT		\$ 24.00	\$ -	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT	12,000	\$ 30.00	\$ 360,000.00	RTU installation in Gym/Kitchen
Air Conditioning	SQ FT			\$ -	
Lighting	SQ FT		\$ 5.00	\$ -	
Wiring	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT		\$ 2.50	\$ -	
Communication System	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Technology		500	\$ 6.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Interior Doors	EACH		\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')		1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	Security System
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 633,000.00

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

Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Art (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Ind. Technology (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Music (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Physical Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 130.00	\$ -	
Auditorium (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 220.00	\$ -	
Special Education (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Multi-Purpose (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 115.00	\$ -	
Kitchen (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 220.00	\$ -	
Dining (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Business Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Co-Op Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Drivers Education (MS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Staff/Faculty (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Toilets/Fixtures (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT	250	\$ 175.00	\$ 43,750.00	Upgrade fixtures to auto.
Storage General (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Storage Instructional (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 75.00	\$ -	
Custodial (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 80.00	\$ -	
Mechanical (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 200.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Subtotal of Building Additions (SQ FT)		250			
Circulation	30%	75		\$ -	
Sub-Total				\$ 43,750.00	

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH		\$150,000.00	\$ -	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	37,000	\$ 4.00	\$ 148,000.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL		\$300,000.00	\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH	1	\$600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	

Sub-Total \$ 748,000.00

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

Sub-Total \$ -
 Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6 \$ 1,558,750.00

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	6.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	8.0%	\$1,558,750.00	\$ 124,700.00	

Sub-Total \$ 124,700.00

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

Sub-Total \$ -

9. Contingencies	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	2.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	4.0%	\$1,558,750.00	\$ 62,350.00	

Sub-Total \$ 62,350.00

Grand Total Project Cost	<u>\$ 1,745,800.00</u>
---------------------------------	-------------------------------

Worksheet Links:

[Campus Information](#)

[Building 1](#)

[Building 2](#)

[Building 3](#)

[Building 4](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	59,428
Current Enrollment:	173
Program Capacity:	333
Utilization Calculation:	52%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

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

LEA ID:	070101	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	36,915
Facility Name:	Aurora Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1995

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	Rural
Actual Acres:	6
Useable Acres:	6
Site adequate for expansion:	Yes
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	0%

Site Remarks:

Overall Site Condition:

4-Above Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:

Overall Drainage Condition:

3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:

Yes

Adequacy of Parking:

[Redacted]

Parking Remarks:

Adequacy of Parking not established in previous eval.

Overall Parking Condition:

5-Excellent

Bus Loading

Bus Loading Adequate:

Yes

[Redacted]

Bus Loading Remarks:

Overall Bus loading Condition:

4-Above Average

Access Roads

Adequacy of On-Site Access Roads:

5-Excellent

Adequacy of Off-Site Access Roads:

5-Excellent

[Redacted]

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

5-Excellent

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

4-Above Average

Adequacy of Playcourts:

4-Above Average

[Redacted]

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

4-Above Average

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:	3
Voltage:	120/208
Amps:	2000
Electric Utility Company:	Not Specified
Main Service Feed into Building:	Underground
Electrical Service Remarks:	
Overall Electrical Service Condition:	3-Average

Fuel Sources:

Natural Gas:	No
Coal:	No
Fuel Oils:	No
Propane:	Yes
Other (Specify):	
Fuel Line Size (inches):	1 1/2
Fuel Utility Company:	Eglond Farm Service
Fuel Sources Remarks:	
Overall Fuel Sources Condition:	3-Average

Water Sources:

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

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall Water Sources Condition:

--

2-Below Average

Sewage Systems:

Public:

Septic:

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

--

--

On Site Treatment Plant

--

--

Sewage System Remarks:

Overall Sewage System Condition:

2-Below Average

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

LEA ID:	070101	Assessment Date:	43651
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	36915
Facility Name:	Aurora Elementary School	Original Year of Construction:	1995

Individual School Utilization Analysis								
	Grade Config	Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)		
Lowest Grade Level:	K	K - 5	25	36,915	0	AURORA, WV		
Highest Grade Level:	5							
Complete ONLY the column below associated with the highest grade level for this school.								
Classroom Type	Number of Class Types (ES)	Number of Class Types (MS)	Number of Class Types (HS)	X	Max Students Per Room	=	Total Program Capacity	Utilization Calculation
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0	Current Enrollment
Kindergarten (Full Day)	2				20		40	173
General Purpose Classroom	5				25		125	
Computer Lab	n/a	2			25		50	Total Program Capacity
Art Lab	n/a	1			25		25	333
Music Classroom	n/a	1			25		25	
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a	n/a		0		0	
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)	1				6		6	
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)	n/a				12		0	
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)					12		0	
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)					8		0	
Special Education Classroom		2			6		12	Utilization Calculation

Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a			20	0	52%
Physical Education	n/a	1		50	50	
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a			25	0	Desirable Utilization
Business Education	n/a			25	0	85%
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a			25	0	
Totals	8	7	0		333	Difference
						-33%

Worksheet Links:

[Campus Information](#)

[Building 1](#)

[Building 2](#)

[Building 3](#)

[Building 4](#)

[Building 5](#)

[Building 6](#)

[Building 7](#)

[Building 8](#)

[Building 9](#)

[Building 10](#)

[Site Evaluation](#)

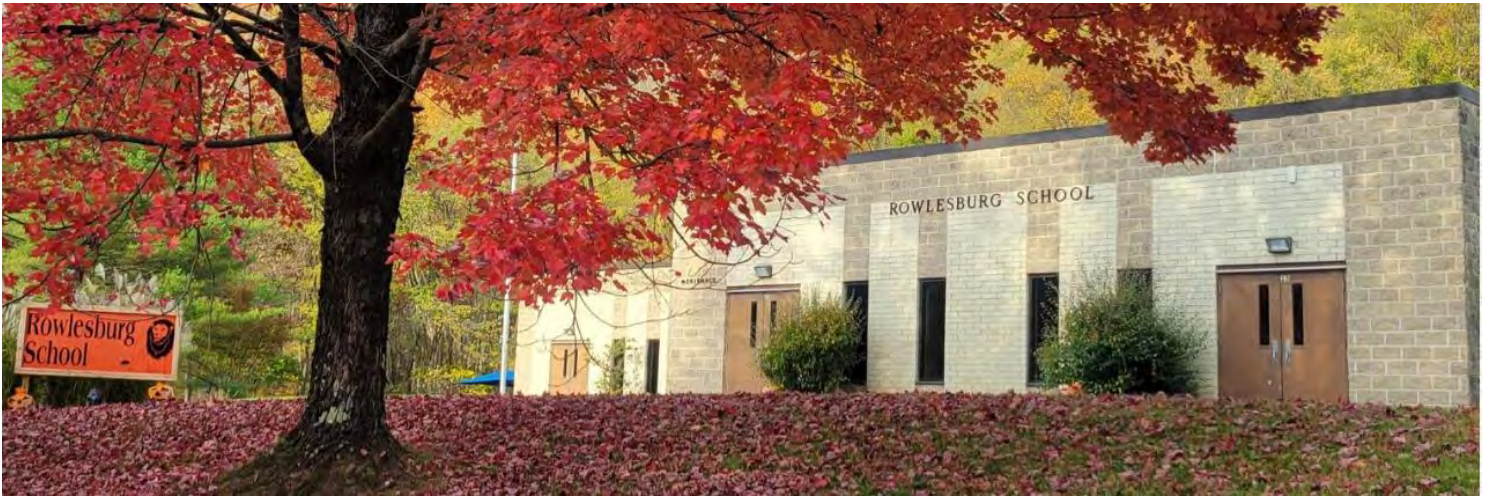
[Facility General Information](#)

[Building Component Evaluation](#)

[Facility Spaces Evaluation / Utilization Analysis](#)

[School Improvement Cost Summary](#)

Rowlesburg School



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

LEA ID:	070103	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	43,253
Facility Name:	Rowlesburg School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

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):

9,380

Wood Joists (floor area SF):

0

Slab on Grade (floor area SF):

30,605

Other (specify) / Floor area SF:

Floor Structure Remarks:

Overall Floor Structure Condition:

3-Average

Roof:

Roof Structure:

Steel Joists

Roof Structures Remarks:

Needs replaced. Membrane adhesive.

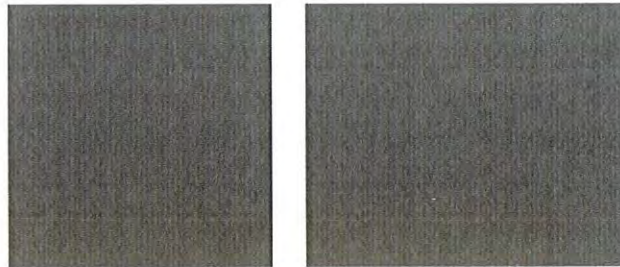
Overall Roof Condition:

2-Below Average

Building Systems:

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

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

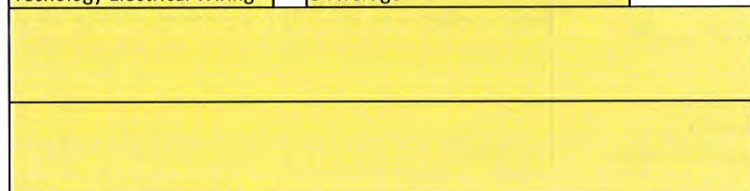


Technology Infrastructure:

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

Yes	2-Below Average
Yes	2-Below Average
Yes	3-Average
Technology Electrical Wiring	3-Average

Deficiencies:



Technology Remarks:

Overall Technology Infrastructure Cond

2-Below Average

Technology Assessment:

- Teacher Training:
- Software Use:

4-Above Average
4-Above Average

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

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

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Deficiencies:

[Redacted]

Technology Remarks:
Overall Technology Condition:

2-Below Average

School Access Safety Audit:

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

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

[Redacted]

Safety Remarks:
Overall Access Safety Condition:

4-Above Average

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

Building	Rowlesburg School	Year Built	1987		
Gross Square Feet	43,253	Basement (Y/N)	N	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	2

System	Material	Count	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	Notes
29 of 29 systems have been evaluated					
Conveying Systems	Elevator (2) Stops	1		2 - Below Average	Installed when building was built. Needs upgraded or deep cleaned.
Electrical - Branch Wiring				3 - Average	
Electrical - Lighting	Fluorescent		2010	3 - Average	
Electrical - Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs				3 - Average	
Electrical - Service and Distribution				3 - Average	
Equipment & Furnishings - Institutional Equipment	Includes Commercial			3 - Average	
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Doors	Metal			3 - Average	Some door need hardware needs repaired or replaced.
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Wall Finishes	Masonry			3 - Average	Needs to be power washed.
Exterior Enclosure - Exterior Windows	Double Pane, Fixed, All frame			3 - Average	Not all windows are fixed. Some windows are operable.
Fire Protection - Fire Alarm & Detection				3 - Average	
Fire Protection - Sprinklers and Standpipes				Not Present	
HVAC - Terminal & Package Units				3 - Average	
HVAC - Distribution System				3 - Average	
HVAC - Heat Generating Systems				Not Present	
HVAC - Cooling Generating Systems				Not Present	
HVAC - Controls and Instrumentation				3 - Average	
Interior Construction - Interior Doors	Solid Core Wood			3 - Average	Needs hardware replaced in the near future.
Interior Construction - Specialties and Casework				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Ceiling Finishes	Acoustical Tile			3 - Average	Some Ceiling tile looks new and others need replaced. Replaced as needed.
Interior Finishes - Floor Finishes	Vinyl Composition Tile			3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Gymnasium Floor Finishes				3 - Average	
Interior Finishes - Wall Finishes	Painted CMU			3 - Average	Painted drywall throughout as well. Painted as needed each year.

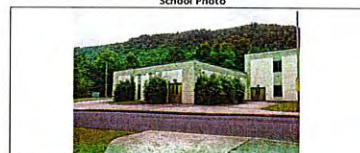
Plumbing - Domestic Water Distribution				3 - Average	
Plumbing - Fixtures	Manual			2 - Below Average	Needs upgraded to automatic fixtures.
Plumbing - Rain Water Drainage				3 - Average	
Plumbing - Sanitary Sewer				3 - Average	
Roofing - Roof Coverings	Membrane, Direct Glue		1995	2 - Below Average	Roof membrane is bubbling up and swelling in most areas. Replaced roofing and some decking in 1995.
Security System				3 - Average	
Technology Infrastructure			2010	3 - Average	Upgrades installed as new technology becomes available.

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

Full AE Firm Name: The Thrasher Group, Inc.
County Name: Preston
Campus Name: Rowlesburg School
Campus Type: Elementary School
School Code: 070103

Original Construction Yr.: 1987
Assessment Date: 07/05/19
Current Enrollment: 87

School Photo



Pavements						
System	Material	Year Installed if different from Building	Condition	SF	Notes	Message
Pedestrian Pavements	Concrete		3 - Average	6,000	SF is average acquired from Google Earth	
Site Pavements - Parking	Asphalt		3 - Average	14580	SF is average acquired from Google Earth	

Permanent Buildings									
Record	Building Name	Predominant Building Type	Include building in Assessment	Year Built	Located in Floodplain or Floodway?	GSF	Basement (Y/N)	# Floors (incl. Bsmt)	Message
1	Rowlesburg School	Classroom	Y	1987	No	43,253	N	2	
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
Total GSF:						43,253			

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

10				
Total GSF:				

Overview of Findings	
Existing single pipe HVAC system.	
Existing Lift station needs upgraded; pump is old, piping corroded.	
HVAC, boiler, chiller, and classroom units need replaced.	
Some roofing needs redone in the near future. This includes the ROTC building and bus garage.	
Lift station needs upgrades (pump lines are rotting).	
Pavement needs resurfacing in the near future.	
Doors and hardware need repaired and or replaced.	
Entry way needs changed to connect with office for safe school entry.	
Problem with sludge issue from when they shifted from glycol.	
Need boiler and chiller, TWU at each classroom, same hot / cold water; single pipe system.	
Chiller needs replaced along with some rooftop units.	
2nd floor not used due to lack of growth in enrollment.	

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

1 - Facility General Information Worksheet

LEA ID:	070103	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	43,253
Facility Name:	Rowlesburg School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

Energy Indexes

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

<u>Source (Units)</u>	<u>Consumption per Year</u>	<u>Conversion (BTU/Unit)</u>	<u>Total BTU</u>
Electric (Kilowatt-Hrs)	271,500	3,412	926,396,010
Natural Gas (MCF) --OR--	1,128	1,037,000	1,169,736,000
Natural Gas (Decootherms)		1,000,000	-
Coal (Tons)		24,000,000	-
#2 Fuel Oil (Gallons)		138,874	-
Propane (Pounds)		21,600	-
Used Oil (Gallons)		125,000	-
Wood Chips (Tons)		16,500,000	-
Other (specify)			
Amount:			
Units:			

Total BTU: 2,096,132,010

Energy Utilization Index (EUI): 48,462

Worksheet Links:

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

LEA ID:	070103	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	43253
Facility Name:	Rowlesburg School	Original Year of Construction:	1987
Design Capacity Enrollment:	339		

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

Improvement Item

1. Site Work

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

2. Renovations, Exterior

Improvement Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Wall Structure	SQ FT		\$ 25.00	\$ -	
Floor Structure	SQ FT		\$ 40.00	\$ -	
Roof Structure	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Wall Facing	SQ FT			\$ -	
Windows	EACH		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	
Doors/Frames	EACH	30	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 165,000.00	
Roofing	SQ FT	43,000	\$ 20.00	\$ 860,000.00	Entire roof at the end of its life.

Coping/Parapet	LIN FT		\$ 15.00	\$ -	
Painting	SQ FT		\$ 8.00	\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')	SQ FT			\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 1,025,000.00</u>	

3. Renovations, Interior	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Floor Covering	SQ FT		\$ 10.00	\$ -	
Patch & Painting	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Ceiling Finish	SQ FT		\$ 12.00	\$ -	
Plumbing	SQ FT		\$ 24.00	\$ -	
Heating/Ventilating	SQ FT		\$ 30.00	\$ -	
Air Conditioning	SQ FT	43,000	\$ 6.00	\$ 258,000.00	Chillers and RTU's need replaced.
Lighting	SQ FT		\$ 5.00	\$ -	
Wiring	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Fire Alarm	SQ FT		\$ 2.50	\$ -	
Communication System	SQ FT		\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Technology			\$ 6.00	\$ -	
Interior Doors	EACH	40	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 180,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 438,000.00</u>	

4. Building Additions Including Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Administration (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Student Services (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Kindergarten (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Primary (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Media Center (ES)	SQ FT		\$ 130.00	\$ -	
Basic (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Reading (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 140.00	\$ -	
Health Education (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 120.00	\$ -	
Computer Lab (ES, MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	
Inst. Mat. Center (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Home Economics (MS, HS)	SQ FT		\$ 170.00	\$ -	

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

5. Special Construction	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost	Remarks
Elevator	EACH	1	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	
Sprinkler Systems	SQ FT	43,000	\$ 4.00	\$ 172,000.00	
Kitchen Equipment	ALL		\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	
Waste Treatment	EACH	1	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Other (Describe in 'Remarks')				\$ -	
Sub-Total				<u>\$ 922,000.00</u>	

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

			\$ -	
--	--	--	------	--

Sub-Total			\$ -	
Sub-Total of Items 1 through 6			\$ 2,472,500.00	

7. Architectural/Engineering Fees

	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	6.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	8.0%	\$2,472,500.00	\$ 197,800.00	
Sub-Total			\$ 197,800.00	

8. Miscellaneous

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

9. Contingencies

	%	Quantity	Item Cost	Remarks
New Construction	2.0%		\$ -	
Renovations	4.0%	\$2,472,500.00	\$ 98,900.00	
Sub-Total			\$ 98,900.00	

Grand Total Project Cost			\$ 2,769,200.00	
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Worksheet Links:

- [Campus Information](#)
- [Building 1](#)
- [Building 2](#)
- [Building 3](#)
- [Building 4](#)

Reference Data from Prior Sheets (for WVDE Use Only):	
Energy Utilization Index:	48,462
Current Enrollment:	87
Program Capacity:	339
Utilization Calculation:	26%
Building(s) in Floodplain/Floodway:	0

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

LEA ID:	070103	Assessment Date:	07/05/19
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	43,253
Facility Name:	Rowlesburg School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

2 - Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site

City or Rural:	Rural
Actual Acres:	6.5
Useable Acres:	5.5
Site adequate for expansion:	Yes
Are public parks/areas adjacent:	No
% site out of flood plain:	100%
% site in flood plain:	0%

Site Remarks:	
Overall Site Condition:	3-Average

Drainage

Drainage Remarks:	
Overall Drainage Condition:	3-Average

Parking

Parking Adequately Lit:	Yes
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Adequacy of Parking:

3-Average

[Redacted]

Parking Remarks:

Overall Parking Condition:

3-Average

Bus Loading

Bus Loading Adequate:

Yes

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

Access Roads Remarks:

Overall Access Road Condition:

2-Below Average

Playfields/Playcourts

Adequacy of Playfields:

3-Average

Adequacy of Playcourts:

3-Average

[Redacted]

Playfields/Playcourts Remarks:

Overall Playfield/Playcourts Condition:

3-Average

Site Utilities

Electrical Services:

Phase:	3
Voltage:	120/208
Amps:	1600
Electric Utility Company:	AEP
Main Service Feed into Building:	
Electrical Service Remarks:	Main service feed not shown in previous evaluation.
Overall Electrical Service Condition:	3-Average

Fuel Sources:

Natural Gas:	Yes
Coal:	
Fuel Oils:	
Propane:	
Other (Specify):	
Fuel Line Size (inches):	2
Fuel Utility Company:	Mountaineer Gas
Fuel Sources Remarks:	
Overall Fuel Sources Condition:	3-Average

Water Sources:

Public:	Yes
Well:	No
Water Line Size (inches):	4
Water Utility Company:	Town of Rowlesburg

Water Sources Remarks:

Overall water sources condition not marked in previous evaluation sheet.

Overall Water Sources Condition:

Sewage Systems:

Public:

Yes

Septic:

No

Other (Specify):

Public Service District (PSD):

Town of Rowlesburg

Sewage System Remarks:

Lift station needs upgraded due to old pump and corroded pipes.

Overall Sewage System Condition:

2-Below Average

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

LEA ID:	070103	Assessment Date:	43651
County:	Preston	Total Gross Square Feet:	43253
Facility Name:	Rowlesburg School	Original Year of Construction:	1987

Individual School Utilization Analysis

	Grade Config		Age of Facility	No. of Renovations	Square Ft	Portables	Location (City, St)
Lowest Grade Level:	PK	PK - 5	33		43,253	0	
Highest Grade Level:	5						

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

Classroom Type	Number of Class Types (ES)	Number of Class Types (MS)	Number of Class Types (HS)	X	Max Students Per Room	=	Total Program Capacity	Utilization Calculation
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)	1				20		20	Current Enrollment
Kindergarten (Full Day)					20		0	87
General Purpose Classroom	3	3			25		150	Total Program Capacity
Computer Lab	n/a	1			25		25	
Art Lab	n/a	1			25		25	
Music Classroom	n/a	1			25		25	
Special Ed Pull-out	n/a	n/a	n/a		0		0	
Special Ed Level 1: (PK-5)	2				6		12	
Special Ed Level 1: (6-12)	n/a				12		0	
Special Ed Level 2: (PK-12)					12		0	
Special Ed Level 3: (PK-12)					8		0	
Special Education Classroom	1	1			6		12	Utilization Calculation

Technical Education/ Voc Ag	n/a	1		20	20	26%
Physical Education	n/a	1		50	50	
Science Classroom/Lab	n/a			25	0	Desirable Utilization
Business Education	n/a			25	0	85%
Family Liv/Cons Economics	n/a			25	0	
Totals	7	9	0		339	Difference
						-59%

Draft Bus Schedule

Year 25-26

Rowlesburg

M. Strawser AM

Green Valley ATT	6:35
Rt 72 Strawser	6:37
Rt 72 Shay	6:42
Rt 72 Nestor	6:46
Cool Springs	6:50
Rt 50 Red Rock	6:53
Rt 50 Car Wash	6:54
Rt 72 Goff	6:55
Rt 72 Cemetery	6:56
Wilson St.	6:57
Rowlesburg Park	
Student Transfer	6:58
Aurora School	7:17

Draft Bus Schedule

Year 25-26

Rowlesburg

TBD AM

Salt Lick Rd	McCord	6:27
	Masters	6:32
	Hixenbaugh	6:34
	Preston	6:36
High St		6:46
Maple Av		6:50
Catherine St		6:51
W Catherine St		6:53
Poplar St		6:56
Rowlesburg Park		
Student Transfer		6:58
River Rd	PHS PM Only	
Wiley Ln	PHS PM Only	
CPMS		7:26
KES		7:31

Draft Bus Schedule

Year 25-26

Rowlesburg

TBD PM

KES	3:10
CPMS	3:15
PHS	3:25
River Road	3:38
Wiley Ln	3:39
Rowlesburg Park	
Student Transfer	3:56
Poplar St	3:58
W Catherine St	4:01
Catherine St	4:03
Maple Av	4:04
High St	4:08
Salt Lick Preston	4:18
Hixenbaugh	4:20
McCord	4:26

Draft Bus Schedule

Year 25-26

Rowlesburg

M. Strawser PM

Aurora School	3:05	
Rt 50 Red Rock	3:20	4:11
Rt 50 Car Wash	3:21	4:10
Cool Springs	3:25	4:15
Rt 72 Nestor	3:28	4:28
Rt 72 Shay	3:32	4:20
Rt 72 Strawser	3:34	4:21
Green Valley ATT	3:38	4:30
Rt 72 Goff		4:03
Rt 72 Cemetery	3:54	4:01
Wilson St.		
Poplar St.	3:55	
Rowlesburg Park		
Student Transfer	3:56	

Budget

14 million surpluses

5% reserve would be \$744,898.90

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

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

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

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

Chart as of November 16, 2024 for this school year

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

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

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

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

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

Maintenance (Large Item)

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

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

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

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

Summer school

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

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

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

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

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

Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEVY

6,783,441 million levy carry over

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

Maintenance: Approximately \$4.4 million

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

Operations: \$ 81,562.98

Safety: Approximately \$ 316,168.00

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

Personnel: Approximately \$ 1.1 million

Each professional equal \$100,000.00 salary and benefits

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

Technology: Approximately \$ 227,783.33

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

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

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

After School/Virtual Programs: \$ 831,519.51

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

Community Usage: \$0

Test Scores GSA results

	ELA		Math
FES 3 rd	40	FES 3 rd	33
SPS 3 rd	28	SPS 3 rd	45
FES 4 th	54	FES 4 th	54
SPS 4 th	42	SPS 4 th	29

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

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Mandy White

School Principal Signature (Aurora School)

9-24-24

Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Craig Schmidt

School Principal Signature (Rowlesburg School)

9/24/24

Date

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Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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



School Principal Signature (South Preston School)

9/24/24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Craig Schmidt
School Principal Signature (Fellowsville Elementary)

9/24/24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Kim Lansberry
School Representative

9-24-24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Victoria Koch
School Representative

9-24-24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Rebecca Hershman
School Representative

9.24.24
Date

PHS

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

School Representative

Date

9/24/24

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellcia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Amanda Rhodes
School Representative

9-24-24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Gregory Cummings
School Representative

9-24-24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

Jessie Hart
School Representative

9/24/24
Date

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

731 Preston Drive Kingwood, WV 26537

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

www.prestoncountyschools.com or www.prestonboe.com

Bradley R. Martin, Superintendent

Angellicia R. Varner, Asst. Superintendent



September 24, 2024

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

School Representative

9/24/24

Date

Legal Notices

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

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

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

Legal Notices

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

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

Legal Notices

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

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

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

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

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 Call 1-800-982-6034 to place your ad!

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

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

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

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

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

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

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

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

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

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia: Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

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

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

Identify Schools: Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia: Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia: Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Proposed Action of the Board of Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia: Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

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

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Identify Schools: Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

Date & Time: October 29, 2024, at

Legal Notices

WV PO BOX 216
ey TERRA ALTA WV 26764 0216

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

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

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

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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Proposed Action of the Board of

Legal Notices

Education of the County of Preston, West Virginia:

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

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

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Identify Schools: Fellowsville Elementary and South Preston School

First Run: October 4, 2024

Second Run: October 11, 2024

Third Run: October 18, 2024

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

Legal Notices

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

Legal Notices

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

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

Hearing Procedures: A representative from Preston County Schools will

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

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

PERSONAL PROPERTY 10:15

Located at 811 Heritage Drive, Oakland, Md. 21550

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

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

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

2012 Chrysler 200 27,571, miles. Very clean

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

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

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

Sudoku Answer for Preston Journal 10/15

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

te, Inc.

Legal Notices

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

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

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

Date & Time: October 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM
Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

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

Merger of Rowlesburg School into Aurora School.

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

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

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

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

Legal Notices

Identify Schools: Rowlesburg School and Aurora School

First Run: October 4, 2024
Second Run: October 11, 2024
Third Run: October 18, 2024

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

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

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

Sign in 15 minutes prior to the meeting to speak

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

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

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

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

Merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School.

Hearing Procedures: A representative from Preston County Schools will provide an oral summary of the reasons and supporting data in connection with the proposed action of the Board. For fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the public hearing, persons may sign a register for the purpose of making statements, offering testimony, and questioning school officials. Persons wishing to speak about the effects of the proposed merger of Fellowsville Elementary into South Preston School, as well as those who wish to

Legal Notices

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

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

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

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

Qualified Newspaper Name: Preston County News

PRESTON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 4

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSALS

Preston County Public Service District No. 4 is seeking proposals from engineering firms to provide: 1) regular consulting services; 2) planning and funding application assistance; 3) design and constructor related services for water treatment plant improvements, raw water source improvements, and extensions of its water system.

Regular consulting services include attending monthly board meetings, assisting plant and field personnel with trouble shooting and evaluating changes to operating practices and repairs. Engineer will be paid for regular consulting services on a monthly basis.

The initial phase of the project development services will be to prepare a planning study evaluating

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Publication Date: Friday, October 11, 2024
Claim Deadline Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2024

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

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

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

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD MEMBER
SIGN-IN SHEET (PAYROLL)
2024-2025 School Year
DATE: 10/30/2024

Attendance – Please Initial.

Michael Hovatter

MH

Cross Kisner

CK

Shelley Miller

Shelley Miller

Lucas Tatham

LT

Jeff Zigray

JZ

Preston County Board of Education
 Wednesday, October 30, 2024 Rowlesburg 6:00 PM
 Delegations Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting Adjourned Session Special Meeting

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

13

Community Members (Print Name)	Title (Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
1. Craig Schmidt	Principal, Rowlesburg School
2. Angela Williams	Employee
3. Robin Davis	Teacher
4. Sarah Sypolt	Parent/Employee
5. Deseree Newland	Student
6. Phil Wotring	Comm Member
7. Felicia Heckart	Parent
8. Tom Wemmer	Community member
9. Matt Dewitt	PARENT
10. Mariann Plum	FES Teacher
11. Georgita Phillips	Student
12. Carol Castle	Parent comm member
13. Doug Coombs	Employee / tax payor
14. Paula Bova	
15. Edna Moreland	
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Preston County Board of Education (Proposed School Closure Hearing for Rowlesburg School) (Wednesday, October 30, 2024)

Generated by Angellicia Varner on Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM**1. Opening Business****Procedural: A. Call to Order**

- The President called the special meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mr. Kisner then lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.
- Following the pledge, Mr. Tatham advised that the meeting was a public hearing and he declared that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent were present.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that this public hearing was convened in accordance with the terms of WV Code 18-5-13a, in connection with the proposed closure of Rowlesburg School. He stated that the statute provides that members of the public: 1) Have a right to be present; 2) Have a right to submit statements and testimony; and 3) Have a right to question school officials.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. He announced that a total of thirteen (13) members of the public had signed in and indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials.
- Next, he detailed that every member of the public would be given a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony and to question school officials. He stated that five minutes had been allotted for each member of the public to address the board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that the responses of school officials to questions would not be included in the time allotted for each member of the public, that no member of the public could present more than once, and no member of the public may be granted time from another presenter.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that Mrs. Angie Varner has been designated as the time-keeper and would advise when one minute was remaining for each presentation and when time would have expired.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that it is not necessary to consume the total amount of time they had been allotted. He also indicated that written statements and materials would also be given full consideration by the Board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that all questions were to be initially directed to the Superintendent and that the Superintendent could then elect to respond to the question or could delegate the response to another school official.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that at the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, that the administration would be afforded with an opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by the public. He stated that aside from questions that may be directed to school officials and their responses, there will be no debate or dialogue between members of the public and school officials.
- Next, he stated that no decision upon the proposed closure would be made during the current meeting. He stated that the proposed closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and consolidation of PK-8 students into South Preston School would be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Preston High School. He stated that the Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.
- Next, Mr. Tatham asked Superintendent Martin to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation. (Martin provided the following statement below)
- "Thank you Mr. Tatham. Tonight we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Rowlesburg School and consolidation with Aurora School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Kindergarten through eighth grade students from Rowlesburg to Aurora for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and tonight's hearing along with a scheduled hearing at the Rowlesburg School on Wednesday, October 30th is part of the required process leading up to a potential local Board vote on this issue on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Preston High School. In summarizing the reasoning for the recommendation to close Rowlesburg School several areas were assessed. First, Rowlesburg School has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 55.5% decrease in student enrollment over an 8-year span (assessed between the 2016-17 and 2023-24 academic years) totaling a loss of 56 students. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 12% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 562 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment. Next, in assessing facilities, the Rowlesburg School is considered in good to fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain the facility were estimated at \$922,000.00. In assessing, the Aurora School, the school is considered in good condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The Aurora School has an assessed program capacity of 333 students as assessed in 2019 and 327 students as assessed in 2024, so Aurora has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Rowlesburg School which now stands at 34. Aurora's current enrollment stands at 144. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 178, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for the Aurora School. Next, the closure of Rowlesburg School is estimated to save a total of \$648,215.90. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50 with the anticipated elimination of 5.5 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Rowlesburg School over the same span of time is \$17,918.02. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Rowlesburg's is \$22,918.28. This is a difference of \$9,466.46 per student."
- Following Mr. Martin's statement, Mr. Tatham indicated that thirteen members who had signed up to address the Board this evening. However, he began by reading any submitted written statements (D. Younker) and then move on to allow each individual to address the Board. Presenters are listed below.
 - Craig Schmidle (Rowlesburg School Principal)
 - Angela Williams (Rowlesburg School Teacher)
 - Robin Davis (Rowlesburg School Teacher)
 - Sarah Sypolt (Rowlesburg School Parent and Staff Member)
 - Desiree Newland (Rowlesburg School Parent)
 - Phil Wotring (Rowlesburg Community Member)
 - Felica Reckart (Rowlesburg Parent)
 - Dr. Tim Weaver (Rowlesburg Community Member)
 - Matt Dewitt (Rowlesburg Parent)
 - Mariann Plum (Fellowsville Teacher)
 - Georgia Phillips (Rowlesburg 5th Grade Student)
 - Carol Castle (Rowlesburg Community Member)
 - Doug Coombs (PCS Bus Operator)

Discussion, Information, Procedural: B. Delegations

- Presenters listed above

2. Closing Business**Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn**

- Recommend the Board adjourn the meeting.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigra.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigra, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)- Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Transcript of Rowlesburg School Closure Meeting held on 10/30/24 at 6:00 PM at Rowlesburg School

Hello, everyone and welcome to the October 30, 2024 meeting of the Preston County Board of Education regarding the proposed school closure hearing of Rowelsburg School. It is now 6:01 the president I will call this special meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence and the vice president will then lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. We will now have a moment of silence.

(Cross Kisner) Please stand Recite the Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. As of this time, a total of thirteen (13) members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials. Of anyone present do you want to speak?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Tatham. Tonight, we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Rowlesburg school and consolidation with Aurora school at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all kindergarten through 8th grade students from Rowelsburg to Aurora for the 2025-2026 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed within WV Education Board Policy 6204 and tonight's hearings along with scheduled hearings at Rowlesburg School on Wednesday, October 30, is part of the required process leading up to the potential local board vote on this is on Monday, November 18 at Preston High School.

In Summarizing the reasoning for recommendation for closing Rowelsburg School, several areas were assessed. First Rowlesburg School has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long term statistics, the school has seen a 55.5% decrease in student enrollment over a 8 year span assessed over 2016-17 and the 2023-24 academic years totaling a loss of 56 students. During this time span Preston County Schools overall has seen a 12% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 562 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment.

Next when assessing facilities, the Rowelsburg school is considered to be in good to good to fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost to need improvement to properly maintain the facility is estimated at this point in time is \$922,000.00. When assessing the Aurora School, it was considered in good condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The Aurora School has an assessed program capacity of 333 students as assessed in 2019 and more recently 327 students as assessed in 2024.

So, Aurora has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Rowlesburg School which now stands at 34 students. Aurora's current enrollment stands at 144 students. The combined enrollment of the two schools would be 178 as it stands today, which easily could be accommodated based on capacity estimates for the Aurora School.

Next the closure of Rowlesburg school is estimated to save a total of \$648,215.90. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50 with the anticipated elimination of 5.5 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed for fiscal years 18 and fiscal years 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Rowlesburg over the same span of time is \$17,918.02. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening as well with Fiscal year 2024 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Rowlesburg's is \$22,918.28. This is a difference of \$9,466.46 per student.

Due to the small enrollment currently at Rowlesburg, students in grade K-4 are provided educational services in a single classroom setting. Students in grades 5-8 are educated in the core subjects by two teachers along with specialist teachers. This is not a desirable configuration and movement of students to Aurora would place students in traditional non-split classroom settings. In assessing Rowlesburg's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to Aurora, Aurora on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Rowlesburg had a 31.54% proficiency compared to Aurora's at 36% (a difference of 4.46%). In Math, Rowlesburg had a 32.14% proficiency compared to Aurora at 33.70% (a difference of 1.56%).

During the previous proposed school closure process of Rowlesburg School in 2018, a major expressed concern was that the proposal called for Rowlesburg students to be spread between multiple district schools including Kingwood Elementary, Central Preston Middle School, Terra Alta East Preston School, and South Preston School. The current proposal calls for all Rowlesburg students to be sent to a single school location here at the Aurora School. The Aurora School is not the closest option for Rowlesburg students at this time. Terra Alta being 0.7 miles closer, Kingwood area schools being approximately 2 miles closer than here at Aurora. However, in review of transcripts from the previous closure process, there were parents that asked why Aurora was not considered as an option and could the school have been added as an option to receive Rowlesburg area students. Concerns have been expressed by some in the Rowlesburg community about travel up and down Cheat Mountain. However, this route has been assessed by members of the Department of Transportation and no concerns have been expressed. Travel would be primarily on Route 50 which is a major highway and priority snow route by the WV department of highways due to truck traffic on the road.

It is felt that Aurora is a school that closely compares to Rowlesburg in many aspects. The schools both have relatively small enrollments yet are major community hubs. The schools currently share multiple teachers and Rowlesburg has participated in athletic cooperative teams with Aurora over the past few years due to declining enrollment numbers at Rowlesburg. For parents concerned with travel to Aurora, currently Board policy does allow Rowlesburg area students to apply for intra county transfer to Kingwood area schools and by policy would be provided with transportation pending transfer approval. Now mind you the transfer approval would be based on if there is sufficient space at the Kingwood area schools of the request.

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

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you, Mr. Martin. At this time we will now proceed to the members of the public who have signed up to address the board this evening. I will first read the written statements provided to me. As of this time, I only have one, so if you have one, please provide it to me.

This is an email from Darrin Younker to Steve Plum on October 29, 2024:

On October 21st by request of Preston County transportation director Steve Plum, I visited and drove the west side of Cheat Mountain on US Rt. 50, east of state Rt. 72. The road has a 9% grade. In my opinion a school bus can be safely operated up and down the mountain, if due care is used. As always, the county needs to make the final decision in planning this and all routes. Darrin Younker, School Bus Inspector, West Virginia Department of Education Office.

(Lucas Tatham): Okay, next we will start with public presentations. Our first person is Craig Schmidl.

(Craig Schmidl): Good evening, good evening, hello. Can you hear me?

(Lucas Tatham): It could be up a little louder

(Craig Schmidl): Good evening, good evening. Hello. Testing

(Lucas Tatham): That's good.

(Craig Schmidl): Good evening, my name is Craig Schmidl and I'm the principal of Rowlesburg School. I have worked in Preston County Schools for 25 years. I have worked in seven schools in Preston County, 5 of which as an administrator. I can honestly say that Rowlesburg School has been among my favorite places to work. Rowlesburg School is family and community oriented. At Rowlesburg School everyone works together to do what is best for our students. At Rowlesburg School, students receive more one on one instruction and adult attention than students who attend larger schools. Rowlesburg School students are fortunate to live in a modern day Mayberry. The Rowlesburg area is a beautiful place to live and call home. We respectfully ask to allow Rowlesburg School to continue to exist. Thank you. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you, Mr. Schmidl. Next on the list is Angela Williams. Mrs. Williams would you please just pull that whole mic stand closer to you so you can speak directly into it?

(Angela Williams): Hello. My name is Angela Williams

(Lucas Tatham): If you're a little bit closer to it, it works better. You have to be really close on it.

(Angela Williams): Okay. How's that?

(Lucas Tatham): Much better.

(Angela Williams): Alright, again, my name is Angela Williams. I am a teacher here at Rowlesburg School and my kids attended Rowlesburg School. I know the current situation for Rowlesburg School is not due to our current Superintendent, county staff or board, as this was set in motion by a series of factors that occurred before your tenure. You are in a position of attempting to do your best for all the students in Preston County and I do not envy some of the hard decisions you all have to make and I appreciate your time tonight. I believe in civil conversations and hope this will be the temperature of the evening.

I honestly wasn't sure if I was going to speak this time. I've addressed various boards and superintendents over the years as a teacher and former parent concerned on various impacts on Rowlesburg School and as a science & math person I always lean towards numbers, statistics and facts to support my comments but this time I'd like to focus on more non-quantitative data. I'd like to share with you what I know first-hand about small schools and about this one in particular. We have outstanding students. I have received countless accommodations on their behavior on field trips. I have substitutes leave compliments and comments about how our school feels like a community. Our discipline issues are minimal. Despite our limited staff, our students are still getting many opportunities. Our middle school classes include band, choir, STEM, careers, tech and Algebra in addition to their traditional classes. The staff is instrumental in making sure they get these opportunities. I've seen amazing dedication from a principal manning two schools and retired teachers like Robin Davis, Janice Hirst and Jim Davis who have stepped up to fill positions in our school because they care and I am grateful that my school benefits from such individuals. Our service personnel shows the same commitment to our students. Our recent trunk or treat and PTO fall festival remind me of the community and PTO support we so much appreciate. I have been asked why I remain at Rowlesburg School. Despite the increase in my work load and the demand of my time beyond the work day, I stay because I believe in the benefits of small schools and I care immeasurably about our students. Small schools are able to better support and understand these student needs. When I first started in 1999, we had a robust student body. Over the years I have seen many changes. The removal of PreK, trumped by removal of bus routes, and classroom splits all attributed to our lost enrollment. Now we have a single K-4 classroom, our 5-8 split between two core teachers as mentioned in the impact statement. The impact statement says this is a detriment and I agree that it's not ideal and should be addressed. This circles back to the across the matter and I've been wrestling with. Perhaps consolidation isn't necessarily the best answer but what other options are there? We need more staff so we can reestablish grade levels for minimalized splits. This may draw back some concerned parents of students and increase our numbers. Perhaps reestablish or extend attendance lines to bring students into the building. Now I realize that this is asking to increase, not decrease funding. While I am wishing, I also believe other schools in our county need additional staff for smaller student-teacher ratio to reap the benefits of the small school effect, further increasing funding needs. Unfortunately, this lands me square back to quantitative data and the numbers end up mattering in the long run. I support and always will support school levies, including the current one, and I realize the amount of this levy is quite modest in comparison to levies in other counties and it isn't even close to what I am proposing. So I'm wondering about thinking outside of the box and perhaps chartering new avenues. Is there a pathway toward additionally pursuing other opportunities in the form of grants and other funding sources to help keep our schools and decrease class sizes in all of Preston County creating a small school vibe county-wide? I don't know the answer to that question, and it may not be feasible, but I wanted to put it out as food for thought. In closing, I would like to say that no matter what decisions are made, at the end of the day, we will all need to come together in whatever manner possible to make our public school system the best we can because all of our students deserve it. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my thoughts. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you Ms. Williams. Next, we have Robin Davis

(Robin Davis): Hello, my name is Robin Davis and I began my career with Preston County Schools in 1987. Thirty-seven years ago, I started my first teaching job at Rowlesburg when the school was located in the trailers at the park following the flood of 85. I've left Rowlesburg on and off to work in other Preston County Schools but my heart has always been at Rowlesburg and I've worked in this building for 27 of my 37 years. I retired in 2022, but I've been here ever since as a permanent sub. My husband also taught here the majority of his career and in addition our three children attended Rowlesburg School from kindergarten through 8th grade. To say that the Davis family has deep and long-lasting ties to Rowlesburg School would be an understatement. Over the course of the last 10 years, this school has gone from 8 classroom teachers, a prek classroom, one and a half special education positions and a full-time principal down to 3 classroom teachers, a part-time special education teacher and a half-time principal. What you are witnessing is the death rattle of a dying

school. A death that has literally been brought on by a thousand cuts. A death that is the result of a vicious cycle of split classrooms, the constant threat of closure, and parents and staff seeking stability for their children and their jobs. In 2015, Rowlesburg lost its PreK and we were given our first official split, K-1. I say official because we had 6/7 and 7/8 split before that but those were not considered splits. That action was the first of many resulting in what we have today. This community has approximately 100 students in our attendance area. The current atmosphere of charter schools, microschoools and home schooling along with the reduction in staff, threats of closure and instability that I've already mentioned, have led us to this point. Additionally, the choice of the former county administration to encourage parents to send their children to other schools in the county led to one of the sharpest declines in enrollment that we have had. As much as I'd love to stand up here and ask you to vote no and to save our school, or go through the many reasons that small schools are advantageous, you've heard it all before. You heard it last night from the community whose future is also in your hands. The truth is, Rowlesburg School has nothing left to bargain with. Our K-4 students are in one classroom, we have no counselor, no student support services position and no nurse. Yes, there are people standing by in the county in case we need them, but I tell you, we need them. Our kids need to feel important enough to be given the same benefits as other schools. The county may spend more per student at Rowlesburg, but let me tell you it's a bare-bones education. We do not even have the staff at this point to do Tier 3 instruction for kids in SAT. We cannot sacrifice anymore. These kids deserve better. I realize that financially, closure seems like the only decision but please realize that we are in this deteriorating condition because of decisions that have been thrust upon us not decisions we made. If you are curious as to what happens to a community when they lose their school, just take a drive to Newburg. I say all this in the hopes you know that no matter what decision you make, and I hope it's the right one, that the adults in this building care deeply for the students that we have and we will continue to do what is right for them as long as they are in our care. Thank you for your time. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham): Thank you Ms. Davis. Next on the list is Sarah Sybolt.

(Sarah Sybolt): In September 1991 I walked into Rowlesburg School for the first time. A wide-eyed 5-year-old girl just starting 13 years of education that shaped my life. Hi. My name is Sarah Sybolt. I have many titles here at Rowlesburg School. PTO president, volunteer, PVCL, kindergarten-fourth grade aide, but my most important is parent. Let's start with a little history, shall we? In 1985 a flood wiped out our small town. The Board of Education used that disaster to begin the closure of our smaller high schools. One by one, they closed each one leaving each community devastated. They built a larger high school and stuffed all of our students into one overcrowded building. Our community, as well as many other, fought a losing battle. This is where the threats started. Pass our levy or we will close your schools. The levy passed but the schools still closed. Here we are with the same threats again. Only this time you won't consider giving us a chance levy or not, will you?

With each combined classroom, threat of closure, and redistricting you have whittled us down with our student population. Parents have run to larger schools to guarantee that their students won't have to endure the closure you keep threatening us with or to be able to give their children extracurricular activities that have been slowly taken from us. Our population has dwindled to a mere 34 students due to the Board of Education slowly bleeding the life out of us. I guess it has always been your goal to close our small schools in favor of larger ones that cannot offer the one-on-one time we can give our students. Taking students from these small classrooms where they aren't allowed to just get lost in the masses to 25-30 student rooms will destroy most of them. Our staff has come up with creative ways to educate our kids that need just a little bit extra. Each teacher here pours their heart and soul into educating our students and for that, I have been so grateful. I have had 5 children that have passed through Rowlesburg School. Each one excelled in some manner. They have all loved it here. We would have been here for all of their kindergarten through eighth grade, but you felt the need to redistrict us and take our bus away and send us to Fellowsville. The bus that had been provided to us was 3.5 miles from our house and we had to meet it on a main stretch of road. At this point, I was forced to take my students to Fellowsville as a full-time working mom. Their building is in poor condition, not nearly as good as ours. Don't get me wrong, the staff and teachers were great. Once my older children reached middle school they then went to South Preston. Never again! I will not have another student forced through that school. I made the decision to pull my student from Fellowsville before she could make it to South and took her back to Rowlesburg. At Rowlesburg, my students have been given opportunities that I believe they wouldn't have been given anywhere else. My 14-year-old daughter has attention deficient, and oppositional defiant disorder and autism spectrum disorders. Here at Rowlesburg, she was given the time and attention she needs to succeed. I have to thank the amazing middle school teachers for that. I specifically chose to bring my children back here for them. All of our staff deserve a big thank you for everything they have done for my kids as well as every other student in this school. Lets discuss better option than closing both Rowlesburg and Fellowsville. Rowlesburg School is in incredible shape. Our building is well maintained and would make a great place to house both schools. The opportunity to have not only our kids and Fellowsville's but to possibly bring some of the Fellowsville's older siblings from South would be your best possible option. Bring staff and students to us. Laurel Mountain is not nearly as bad as Cheat Mountain. Trust me, I live on the top, I would know. Give us the opportunity to take back the students that have been redistricted to other areas. There is a likelihood that a larger school population would bring back some of the students that have been moved to other schools.

(Ange Varner): One minute

(Sarah Sybolt): Like every other parent, I will have to make a decision on whether my student that attends this school will continue in Preston County public schools if Rowlesburg School closes. The answer is no. Are you willing to continue to lose students to homeschooling and unlicensed microschoools just to cut our small state certified public schools? Will In continue to work for your schools? Most likely, that answer will be the same. You're attempting to close more than just a school. This building is our student's second home and family. We love, care and support them in any way that we can. These kids deserve a real fighting chance. Save our schools. Give us a chance. Know that each one of us here will continue to fight for our students no matter the outcome. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Ms Sypolt. Next is Desiree Newland.

(Desiree Newland) Hello, I am Desiree and you all probably know me from the social studies fair

(Someone in crowd) Mic

(Desiree Newland) As a previous student at this amazing school, to start this off I just want to say I would not be standing where I am without this school. At the school, the teachers are amazing, including past teachers and the teachers that are presently in the school now. The teachers are amazing at what they do and just a short time of being here they taught me alot. They're patient and know exactly what they're doing, and how to do it. This isn't just about the teachers. This is also about the environment it is a safe space for a lot of people when they need it most. This whole building itself is in great condition and are welcome to bringing more students and in giving them a safe learning environment. We currently have a lot of empty classrooms and to promote more students. The teachers came from most of my friends and my mom my step dad. The teachers always made sure that the kids get the best education possible. The teachers and the rest of the staff do everything for the studnts. From personal experience, the teachers never give up on the students.. Here they will figure out how the kids learn and teach them and take away the damage so they get the full educational experience. And I have been currently volunteering here at the school for the past two years, I help with the activities such a fall fest, trunk or treat, ect. I also work in the K-4 classroom. And when the kids learn something new to see their faces light up is telling them that this school has alwaysdone something right, no matter what. To many people and taking away, a really good community. It is going to cause them so much more stress on the parents when their children have to go further away because decisions are made that a lot of people don't fully agree with. Please take into consideration the families that have to deal with change, when decisions are fully made. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Desiree. Next on the list is Bill Wotring.

(Phil Wotring) I would like to pass and I'll submit my comments in writing

(Lucas Tatham) OK. Thank you, Mr. Wotring. Next is Felicia Reckart. And Ms. Reckart feel free to take the mic off of the stand and so if it's more comfortable to hold it.

(Felicia Reckart) Can you Hear?hear?

(Lucas Tatham) I Can, but can you guys hear her , It's not real loud, here let me

(Felicia Reckat) Hello, my name is Felicia Reckart. I'm the mother of three children, a senior at PHS a 5 grader and a four-year old in little learners both here at Rowlesburg. First, I'd like to ask how many of you have been on a bus going up or down Cheat Mountain. Last year on the end of the year field trip and it was quite frightening. Multiple times our bus had to stop on the road to accommodate oncoming larger trucks, and there is no room for both to come through the 20 to 30 some large turns on road. The driver of the Charter bus was rather surprised because with the amount of curves and safety for us. For many years, it was determined by the DOH, that the buses with children, weren't suppose to travel route 50 due to the width of the grade and the lack of the runway ramp. In the event that the brakes would go out on the bus. This is extremely concerning to us parents. To know that the board has that our kids safety on the ack burner simply to accommodate your agenda. There are no safe areas on the mountain for the bus to deliver and in emergency, especially when descending the mountain. I wonder if. You've actually considered this bus ride that you are preparing for us to live here. Have you been on a field trip where a child gets sick on a bus? It's going to happen frequently on that ride and on two hour dismissal days. Those kids there are some of them that will eat within an hour of getting on the bus. Who's going to clean it? Are us parents responsible? To go to the school to clean our children up because can everybody just can't leave work to do that? I don't see that that's feasible. I don't think that these are things that have really been thought through. My next question and then in the six years you're talking about these closures and abandoning student buildings and all this stuff for both schools, it hasn't been discussed to be combined. We have Rowelsburg with a beautiful facility. As many have mentioned, we have that function in classrooms and many of them are already set up for classes. This beautiful school was built by FEMA preferred, all you had to do was maintain it for 30 years. Once that 30 years was up, this agenda was put into place. I feel it is a way to line the pockets. I don't think that we are considering the safety of the children. I don't think that we're really considering the staff that has dedicated their time and their lives to these kids. Before making the decision, I would like you all to actually consider the safety concerns of putting our 4 to 14 year olds on that bus twice a day. Laurel Mountain is a lot safer and it would save faculty their jobs. And it would keep the kids in the smaller classrooms that they excel. My 5th grader would have been so lost had we been in a big school. Onr kids love this, we as a Community love our school. Our teachers love our school, and our community has always came back from retirement. That should show a lot. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Ms. Reckart. Next on the list is Tim Weaver.

(Tim Weaver) Mr. Tatham Board members, I am pleased to be here tonight, but I must tell you right now, That I love this town, I love this community, with my whole heart. You will have to forgive the bias that I trust in them. As I am here for one reason only. To divine your decision. In two, you have two decision tonight, two. You have financial reasons for closing the school. I won't argue against those. However, you've also decided, or will decide that in closing school the best option for our children is to go to the Aurora School on top of Cheat Mountain. If that really makes sense to all of you sitting along that table, please raise your hand. Because apparently you have forgotten all about Preston County winters, you have forgotten how many curves there are on that mountain, including rattlesnake curve, so-called for a very good reason. How many know how many curves there are? Transportation. How many curves will check out?

(Steve Plum) 38

(Tim Weaver) I mean, 88. 88 Count them! you're only counting half of them and you're sending children up and down that mountain. Not once, not once for an extracurricular activity and not once, maybe for a ball game, but 180 times a year! Multiply that by a decade. And you think you people here think there will never be an accident on that mountain. Alright, Words do not matter to you. We've already had tremendous feedback telling you how foolish this decision is to merge the schools. You could have picked any other school in the damn county and it would have been a better choice. This is madness. Now I know the words don't matter to you because you don't listen. You're not listening to the feedback. If I go listen to the feedback tonight. So, I'm going to ask the question- transportation, board members. Mm-hmm. How far do you think a child with with flying through the air? From the back of a bus to the front. In case of a collision on Cheat Mountain with a log truck, with a stone truck, with a dump truck, with a wrecker truck, with a gas truck, and any other truck, how far? Since I'm not getting an answer; like I was trying I am going to demonstrate. This is a hypothetical. (Throws baby doll across the gym floor and it breaks apart. He goes over and picks up the pieces of the doll. He takes the baby dolls head over and puts it on the table in front of board president and states the following--)For the board president, for the superintendent.

(Ange Varner) One minute

(Tim Weaver) for parents who don't want to risk their children, their precious children, to you, the board members (and then takes the body of the baby doll and gives it to the superintendent and says-)to the Superintendent, there is an alternative enrollment. OK, It's a micro school. It's called roots of learning. And I have information here for anyone who would like to find out more about an alternative school. You may use your home scholarship money to send your child to this school. They are prepared with enough enrollment to add grades 4 through 8 so they will have a complete K through 8 program in Rowelsburg. You don't have the risk the most fundamental thing that you possess. Now there is a school bus waiting for us outside, anyone planning to vote for this reckless, dangerous high risk plan, they can join me. We have a bus driver who's willing to volunteer his time to drive us tonight up Cheat Mountain and its 88 curves to Aurora School. Please raise your hand if you are willing to take that ride.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you your time is up

(Brad Martin) Mr Combs cannot drive his bus it is against service personnel regulations

(Tim Weaver) We have one more reason why we're going to avoid the school board members doing what they should take the right vote, no. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you Mr. Weaver next on the list is Matt DeWitt.

(Matt Dewitt) I am submitting my letter

(Lucas Tatham) You're submitting yours. OK, thank you,. Next is Mary Ann Plum. Miss. Miss, Do you want to use this mic.

(Mariann Plum) Yeah I'm here this evening, to support this school because they have supported us. Many of the people that are here with children that we have and children go back and forth. So, I once again I am here to support those kids and how much these people love their child. And I do agree with what Ms Davis said. About that death in both communities and I hope that you consider that. When these children have to go someplace different than their home and I have to leave that there will be counselors. That you will make sure that they're not just putting any where forgotten because it's going to be a big change if that happens. I'm sure some of you've lost family members that you love dearly and to a child it is deep to them. It's happening right now because they love all these people, they love their teachers, especially the little ones that have experienced several teachers. And so, I really hope,that everybody thinks about their childhood and that they receive support. Even if the schools remain open, these children need support because they're hearing all of this from their parents. They are here to support their schools, and it has to tear their hearts. And right now we don't have full time counselors. We at Fellowsville have a counselor for a few hours on Tuesday morning and they can come down on Thursday afternoon if needed. You know and so these kids and teachers depend on each other for support in the school. You would think that the teachers are supporting the kids but the kids are supporting the teachers as well. You know, they make they make life worth living. And this might not be as big, of an out pouring as you saw last night, but the heart and soul is just the same as last night. And the things that the people were saying are from the heart. They've got a passion and I pray please do not take anything personal. About what they're saying, they're very passionate. This this end of the county these people have been raised in this area, they will fall. No, but those farm kids, they're a little bit, hardier, different. And you've got a lot of that and the kids that still do chores. When you don't see that there, you have a lot more kids that do chores and family work and do family things. Then sit at home and play a lot of games that you hear at these other other, other counties and kids and all the gaming they do so it's a different atmosphere. And I and I need to publicly apologize some of the statements that I had said last evening.

(Ange Varner) One minute.

(Mariann Plum) Offended Mr. Hoit and Mr. Miller at South Preston and I am so sorry. I've never tried to hurt somebody or those teachers or those children. They love their school just as much as we do, and I am so sorry that I hurt you. If anything I said offended you, I am so sorry, but please remember these babies. Please remember these kids and these teachers because it is just like what Ms Davis said its a death it's a terrible death. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you. Ms Plum, next is Georgia Phillips.

(Georgia Phillips) Hi. My name is Georgia Phillips and I am in the 5th grade at Rowelsburg School. I have attended both Fellowsville and Rowelsburg. I love both and I want to be in a small school, not in a big school. You guys are doing this Wrong. You are hurting our feelings. Please let us keep our school and I have amazing teachers that help me learning. I have a funny principal. Thanks for having letting me have your attention. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Georgia. Thank you. Next is Carol Castle.

(Carol Castle) She didn't tell you she got straight A's and we just saw the report card today, so that's what the little school does for it kids. A growing number of critics are asking do big schools produce better students? In the 1970s and for educators begin to question whether the failings of the nation schools weren't directly related to their size. Large schools, they believe bread, bread and alienated a nation, which in turn fostered poor student achievement, violence, high dropout rates. Today, riding on a wave of real world success and a mountain of evidence, a full-fledged small school movement has emerged, is transforming public education in several big cities and in rural areas, reinvigorating along local schools. All the data The movement had was has received endorsement from the. High officers in May 1999, prompted largely by the shooting at Columbine Vice President Al Gore, criticized the practice of herding our students in the overcrowding factory style school, a panel of school security experts was convened by, Education Secretary Richard their top recommendation had nothing to do with gun control, metal detectors or police on the premises. Rather, they said, reduce the size of the our Nation's schools. Small schools for a powerful antidote to the sense of alienation that can lead to bias. In September, Riley helped the National Press Club that the nation needs to create small, supportive learning environments that gives students a sense of connection size matters. Small supportive learning environments that give students a sense of connection. That sounds a lot like Fellowsville and Rowelsburg School. According to the U.S. Department of Education a report of the violence and discipline problems in the US public schools compared to schools with fewer than 200 students, big schools have 825% more violent crime, 270% more vandalism 394% more fights and assaults and 1000% more weapon incidents. Where are we hurting our children? The federal government now provides a small amount of money. The street, seeking to restructure large high schools by breaking them into small learning communities. But the real action was at the local and state level, where the notion that large schools offer superior learning opportunities. And persist despite substantial evidence to the contrary. Poverty research has consistently shown that poverty exercises a substantial negative effect on students achievement the impact of poverty is significantly reduced when kids attend school. In fact, the larger the school, the more likely force students are the fault to fail the small smaller the school, the more likely they are to succeed. Craig Holly of Ohio University and Robert Michael of Marshall University recently studied this relationship in Georgia, Georgia, Montana, Ohio and Texas, and all four states smaller schools cut poverty impact on test scores and poverty's impact on test scores by 20 to 70%. Collaboration and advances in technology continue to broaden curriculum in small schools. Very small schools may not be able to offer many advances. or specialized courses but bigness is not guaranteed. Richard Flow William researcher William Flower concluded above 400 students increases enrollment make little difference in improving student access

(Ange Varner) One minute

(Carol Castle) Isn't that why we're here, now with all the evidence on how important the small Community Schools are and the success of our children children, I challenge you to look at these children. Walk the halls of the school. Look them in the face. And I'm not talking about just Rowelsburg and Fellowsville. I'm talking about all of them, because the more kids you dumped into the system, the more you reduce their chances of success. And the magic number for a class size and all the research is about 15 to 18 students. How many classes do you have that are that small other than Fellowsville, Aurora and Rowlesburg. So, look at the kids and you're not just doing a disservice to our kids, you're doing it to every kid that you're dumping them into a bigger school. Or, and is it worth that for a AAA rating to have a football team or a basketball team that competes? There's ways to raise money. There's lots of grants, there's and lots of things to pay for the extra stuff. (Applause)

(Brad Martin) Let's start, I appreciate your comments. I think part of what you've said is has been a contributing factor in the decision to looking at Rowleburg students going to Aurora because the size of Aurora Schools and the size of the projected enrollment with the potential movement would be about 170 students which would be under the 200 student threshold. I certainly understood the potential issues transportation issues have been discussed earlier, but I did want to, reindicate What you're saying is? What we are proposing for the potential move of the Rowelsburg studnets is

(Carol Castle) Can I say something

(Brad Martin) Yes, ma'am.

(Carol Castle) I think Aurora's a great School. But I agree with some of them that mentioned about that mountain. I watched the go pro video and when I was a child I got sick every single time. And if you've ever had a child, that gets car sick, there's nothing that feels worse. (Applause)

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you, Miss Castle. Next on the list is Doug Coombs.

(Doug Coornbs) First of all I do not have my bus with me and I am not taking anyone up the mountain tonight My run ran over

(Brad Martin) That is ok, I just wanted to emphasize that you are not allowed by law to preform that duty. Absolutely

(Doug Coombs) I think you have. I'll get right to it. Between 2016 and 2018, they redesigned and the district line they took Laurel Mountain away from the school. The reason that the board gave it that time and people was it was unsafe in the winter time to bring the students down the bottom of that mountain. That was the reason. Now. This board is saying it is safe and safe to take them up? Does anybody know how many turns Laurel Mountain has in it? Laurel Mountain has 16 curve and it's 8% grade. Cheat Mountain has 38, 38 curves and 9% grade. That math don't add up if Laurel was unsafe. Especially if your experts that you got say now with that now say that they can't. He's in. I mean, I gave Mr Martin this and I'm sure that's why the attorneys here today. Education section 18-2-5B. All the way down. This is a county board may not create, nor may a state board permit the creation of a new bus route or transportation of a student in any of the grade level pre kindergarten through 5th grade to and from any school, including in included in a school closure consolidation. Under a new construction project this was approved July 1st of 2008, which exceeded by more than 30 minutes. The recommended duration of the one Way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the State Board in accordance with subsection a of this section, subsection A says an elementary student may only be on the bus 30 minutes. 30 minutes. Thirty minutes is one hour. I've also. I've got the roster, not roster the two school bus route here. They're going to start picking students up at 6:20. The doors don't even open at Aurora until 7:40 in the morning. And Mr. Mr. Martin and Mr. Plum want to argue with you and tell you this is not a creation of new route. It is creation of a new route, because you won't have to put the driver in the transfer. That makes it a new route under your own regulation. We also want to tell you that that is a medial time. You know that's. That's every fact, it is working and it says students, once the second student is on that bus is pre-K through 5th grade then left when that time is started. You heard what it said. They cannot apply, which they already have applied for a waiver because also they're going to be cutting routes, you're going to be cutting routes at the end of the year. You can our student student enrollment dropping, but this is also going to affect Fellowsville. God didn't make the meeting yet because some of those students, when they drop when they drop, allowed off. Because they're closing that school thing. You. Students on that bus or on. That bus, more than one hour. You've registered regulation. I might not have a I don't have a dog in this fight here at this school, but I do have a dog in the fight for the safety of the students. I've drove a truck up and down that mountain, OK? You have the expert come in and say, well, it's safe to drive. 17 curves versus 38 curves, 8% grade versus 9%. Would you allow your children to go up and down that mountain 360 days a year. That's what it would be, 180 up and down. You don't really need to think about that. Before you do something, peace 2. Believe you open yourself up for lawsuits or what have. You you don't need that. County doesn't need.

(Ange Varner) One Minute

(Doug Coombs) In closing, I just want to say like. I said I love all these things. Would Aurora be a good fit for these kids? Yes, but you need to figure a way to get them up there in a timely manner that doesn't break, break your regulation and you need to be able to get them up in a safe manner, there's \$200,000.00 school bus that is four wheel drive will take care of that problem. I don't know how you will take care of them getting them up there. In the timing there, without putting more routes down here to help with the drivers for their already double routes like we do in Aurora. In the Lord, thank you. (Applause)

(Brad Martin) Mr Coombs You're you're correcting the fact that we did apply for the waiver that that is in terms of the process for submission to the state board that I Felt with in good faith that I could not fall within the regulation we would need an excess of the 30 minutes. I don't think there's any argument. For sure. That I can't, and I can't say that there is no concern point. I mean that is the biggest concern with this process is transportation. I think what you discussed with the bus, the possibility, the other thing I would say is the savings of the service personnel positions associated with potential closures. It is a possibility to add additional routes that could address some of the time parameters that you discussed, we would have to be picking up as early because through the process I believe I don't have the numbers directly in front of me where we would be saving somewhere near about 9 to 10 service personnel positions. So that potentially could create the opportunity to create some additional bus position in these areas to try to offset some of these. Time issues that are associated with the three times faster than our we've got.

(Doug Coombs) The maintenace on these buses will wear out three times as fast as other buses. This is something you all will need to think about too.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you. Was there anyone that signed up that I did not call? OK, there was one item on our agenda tonight and that was to receive public comment verbally and in writing regarding the proposed school closure. I would like to remind everyone and reiterate that no decision upon the proposed closure will be made tonight. The proposed closure of Roseburg School and consolidation of kindergarten through 8th grade students into Aurora School will be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18th, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Preston High School, the board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following Board's deliberations. At this time, I requested a motion to adjourn.

(Cross Kisner) So moved.

(Jeff Zigray) Second

(Lucas Tatham) Moved by Mr. Kisner. Second, by Mr. Zigray. OK. The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion amongst board members? Not hearing any, I call the vote.

(Brad Martin) Voting is open Motion passes 5 – 0 Time is 7:06pm.

(Lucas Tatham) Thank you everyone. This meeting is adjourned.

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD MEMBER
SIGN-IN SHEET (PAYROLL)
2024-2025 School Year
DATE: 10/28/2024

Attendance – Please Initial.

Michael Hovatter

MH

Cross Kisner

Absent

Shelley Miller

Shelley Miller

Lucas Tatham

Lucas Tatham

Jeff Zigray

JZ

Preston County Board of Education
 Thursday, October 28, 2024 Aurora 4 PM
 Delegations Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting Adjourned Session Special Meeting

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

Community Members (Print Name)	Title-(Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
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Preston County Board of Education (Proposed School Closure Hearing for Rowlesburg School) (Monday, October 28, 2024)

Generated by Angellicia Varner on Monday, November 4, 2024

Members present

Lucas Tatham, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

1. Opening Business

Procedural: A. Call to Order

- The President called the special meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mrs. Miller then lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.
- Following the pledge, Mr. Tatham advised that the meeting was a public hearing and he declared that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent were present.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that this public hearing was convened in accordance with the terms of WV Code 18-5-13a, in connection with the proposed closure of Rowlesburg School. He stated that the statute provides that members of the public: 1) Have a right to be present; 2) Have a right to submit statements and testimony; and 3) Have a right to question school officials.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. He announced that a total of zero members of the public had signed in and indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials.
- Next, he detailed that if any member of the public had been present that every member of the public would have been given a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony and to question school officials. He stated that five minutes had been allotted for each member of the public to address the board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that the responses of school officials to questions would not have been included in the time allotted for each member of the public, that no member of the public could present more than once, and no member of the public may be granted time from another presenter.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that Mrs. Angie Varner has been designated as the time keeper and would have advised when one minute was remaining for each presentation and when time would have expired.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that had speakers been present that it is not necessary to consume the total amount of time they had been allotted. He also indicated that written statements and materials would also be given full consideration of the Board.
- Next, Mr. Tatham advised that all questions were to be initially directed to the Superintendent and that the Superintendent could then elect to respond to the question or could delegate the response to another school official.
- Next, Mr. Tatham stated that at the conclusion of all presentations by members of the public, that the administration would be afforded with an opportunity to respond to any information that has been presented by members of the public. He stated that aside from questions that may be directed to school officials and their responses, there will be no debate or dialoge between members of the public and school officials.
- Next, he stated that no decision upon the proposed closure would be made during the current meeting. He stated that the proposed closure of Rowlesburg School and consolidation of PK-8 students into Aurora School would be the subject of a meeting scheduled for November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Preston High School. He stated that the Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.
- Next, Mr. Tatham asked Superintendent Martin to provide a summation of the executive summary and impact statement for the proposed closure and consolidation. (Martin provided the following statement below)
- "Thank you Mr. Tatham. Tonight we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Rowlesburg School and consolidation with Aurora School at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all Kindergarten through eighth grade students from Rowlesburg to Aurora for the 2025-26 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed in WVBE Policy 6204 and tonight's hearing along with a scheduled hearing at the Rowlesburg School on Wednesday, October 30th is part of the required process leading up to a potential local Board vote on this issue on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Preston High School. In summarizing the reasoning for the recommendation to close Rowlesburg School several areas were assessed. First, Rowlesburg School has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long-term statistics, the school has seen a 55.5% decrease in student enrollment over an 8-year span (assessed between the 2016-17 and 2023-24 academic years) totaling a loss of 56 students. During this same time span, Preston County Schools overall has seen a 12% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 562 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state-level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment. Next, in assessing facilities, the Rowlesburg School is considered in good to fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost for needed improvements to properly maintain the facility were estimated at \$922,000.00. In assessing, the Aurora School, the school is considered in good condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The Aurora School has an assessed program capacity of 333 students as assessed in 2019 and 327 students as assessed in 2024, so Aurora has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Rowlesburg School which now stands at 34. Aurora's current enrollment stands at 144. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 178, which again can easily be accommodated based on capacity estimates for the Aurora School. Next, the closure of Rowlesburg School is estimated to save a total of \$648,215.90. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50 with the anticipated elimination of 5.5 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed between FY 18 and FY 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Rowlesburg School over the same span of time is \$17,918.02. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening as well with FY 24 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Rowlesburg's is \$22,918.28. This is a difference of \$9,466.46 per student."
- Following Mr. Martin's statement, Mr. Tatham indicated that zero members who had signed up to address the Board this evening. He then moved to close out the meeting.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: B. Delegations

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

2. Closing Business

Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn

- Recommend the Board adjourn the meeting.
- Motion by Michael Hovatter, second by Shelley Miller.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Lucas Tatham, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (3-0)- Meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM

Transcript of Rowlesburg School Closure Meeting held on 10/29/24 at 4:00 PM at Aurora School

Hello, everyone as president I will call this special meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Ok board member Shelley Miller will now lead all of us present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

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

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

Members of the public, in order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. As of this time, a total of zero (0) members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials. Of anyone present do you want to speak? OK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Tatham. Tonight, we are here to receive public input on the proposed closure of Rowlesburg school and consolidation with Aurora school at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all kindergarten through 8th grade students from Rowlesburg to Aurora for the 2025-2026 academic year. The school closure and consolidation process is detailed within WV Education Board Policy 6204 and tonight's hearings along with scheduled hearings at Rowlesburg School on Wednesday, October 30, is part of the required process leading up to the potential local board vote on this is on Monday, November 18 at Preston High School.

In Summarizing the reasoning for recommendation for closing Rowlesburg School, several areas were assessed. First Rowlesburg School has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing long term statistics, the school has seen a 55.5% decrease in student enrollment over a 8 year span assessed over 2016-17 and the 2023-24 academic years totaling a loss of 56 students. During this time span Preston County Schools overall has seen a 12% decrease in enrollment totaling a loss of 562 students. This substantial loss of student enrollment at both the school and district level has a hugely negative impact on district finances as state level funding is primarily derived by student enrollment.

Next when assessing facilities, the Rowlesburg school is considered to be in good to good to fair condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The estimated cost to need improvement to properly maintain the facility is estimated at this point in time is \$922,000.00. When assessing the Aurora School, it was considered in good condition as assessed by Thrasher Engineering in 2019. The Aurora School has an assessed program capacity of 333 students as assessed in 2019 and more recently 327 students as assessed in 2024. So, Aurora has plenty of capacity to accommodate the current enrollment of Rowlesburg School which now stands at 34 students. Aurora's current enrollment stands at 144 students. The combined enrollment of the two schools would be 178 as it stands today, which easily could be accommodated based on capacity estimates for the Aurora School.

Next the closure of Rowlesburg school is estimated to save a total of \$648,215.90. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50 with the anticipated elimination of 5.5 professional and 4.5 service personnel positions. In addition, the average per-pupil expenditure for the entire district as assessed for fiscal years 18 and fiscal years 24 is \$11,540.72 while the average for Rowlesburg over the same span of time is \$17,918.02. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening as well with Fiscal year 2024 numbers showing the county per pupil expenditure to be \$13,451.82 while Rowlesburg's is \$22,918.28. This is a difference of \$9,466.46 per student.

Due to the small enrollment currently at Rowlesburg, students in grade K-4 are provide educational services in a single classroom setting. Students in grades 5-8 are educated in the core subjects by two teachers along with specialist teachers. This is not desirable configuration and movement of student to Aurora would place students in traditional non-split classroom settings. In assessing Rowlesburg's proficiency results on the most recent WV General Summative Assessment compared to Aurora, Aurora on average has performed favorably. In ELA, Rowlesburg had a 31.54% proficiency compared to Aurora's at 36% (a difference of 4.46%.) In Math, Rowlesburg had a 32.14% proficiency compared to Aurora at 33.70% (a difference of 1.56%).

During the previous proposed school closure process of Rowlesburg School in 2018, a major expressed concern was that the proposal called for Rowlesburg students to be spread between multiple districts schools including Kingwood Elementary, Central Preston Middle School, Terra Alta East Preston School, and South Preston School. The current proposal calls for all Rowlesburg students to be sent to a single school location here at the Aurora School. The Aurora School is not the closest option for Rowlesburg students at this time. Terra Alta being 0.7 miles closer, Kingwood area schools being approximately 2 miles closer than here at Aurora. However, in review of transcripts from the previous closure process, there were parents that asked why Aurora was not considered as an option and could the school have been added as an option to receive Rowlesburg area students. Concerns have been expressed by some in the Rowlesburg community about travel up and down Cheat Mountain. However, this route has been assessed by members of the Department of Transportation and no concerns have been expressed. Travel would be primarily on Route 50 which is a major highway and priority snow route by the WV department of highways due to truck traffic on the road.

It is felt that Aurora is a school that closely compares to Rowlesburg in many aspects. The schools both have relatively small enrollments yet are major community hubs. The schools currently share multiple teachers and Rowlesburg has participated in athletic cooperative teams with Aurora over the past few years due to declining enrollment numbers at Rowlesburg. For parents concerned with travel to Aurora, currently Board policy does allow Rowlesburg area students to apply for intra county transfer to Kingwood area schools and by policy would be provided with transportation pending transfer approval. Now mind you the transfer approval would be based on if there is sufficient space at the Kingwood area schools of the request.

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

Thank you Mr Martin At this time we would normally proceed to the members who have signed up to address the board this evening. However, we have no one signed up. This is the only matter we have on our agenda for this special meeting this evening. There is nothing that we have missed, so at this time I will entertain a motion to adjourn. So moved, it has been moved by Mr. Hovatter, second, seconded by Ms. Miller, is there any discussion? Seeing none, I will call for the vote. Voting is open Motion passes 3-0 it is 4:13 pm. Thank you everyone.

Re: School closure

From wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 9/30/2024 4:34 PM

To Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Bruce Huggins <bhuggins@k12.wv.us>; Pamela Feathers <pamela.feathers@k12.wv.us>; Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

Mr. Martin,

I appreciate your quick reply. While I know you considered many things, the BOE's most important job is safely transporting children to and from school. That, above all else, is paramount in parents' minds. This plan fails to do that. Present it how you will. Would you send your child on a bus from Rowlesburg up and down Cheat Mountain 180 times a year? Let the Board member who would support this plan step forward and volunteer to send your child from Rowlesburg to Aurora on the bus. Otherwise, you should vote NO. This is a bad plan, and I will do everything possible to stop it.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
Co-Owner

River House Lodge
43 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouselodge.org
304-454-2095

On Monday, September 30, 2024 at 09:51:23 AM EDT, Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Dr. Weaver,

The decision on where to potentially relocate remaining Rowlesburg students was not an easy one and several factors were assessed when making the decision (building capacity, similarity of educational placement, and feedback from the hearings associated with the previous closure measure from 2018. I would say that Board policy at this time allows for Rowlesburg area students to request intra-county transfer if so desired and be availed with transportation, so attendance to Kingwood-area schools is an option as long as class sizes permit. It pains me to take the steps that have been proposed, but the continually decreasing numbers at both schools make this move needed.

Bradley R. Martin
Superintendent, Preston County Schools
(304) 329-0580 ext. 225
(304) 288-0941

From: wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 1:55 PM

To: Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Bruce Huggins <bhuggins@k12.wv.us>; Pamela Feathers <pamela.feathers@k12.wv.us>

Subject: School closure

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Brad Martin
Superintendent of Preston County Schools
Kingwood, WV

Dear Mr. Martin,

The closure of Rowlesburg School as an elementary and middle school was inevitable. However, where to send the few remaining kids was not. Only those unfamiliar with southern Preston geography could consider sending our kids to Aurora. To those actually living in this area, your decision seems preposterous. On this, you will get pushback. If you persist, you will get a court appearance. Although I don't want to do it, I will personally file an injunction. Sending children up and down Cheat Mountain is dangerous on its face, wholly unnecessary, and amounts to child neglect. Cheat Mountain is dangerous any time of the year, but in the winter, the risk escalates.

Please do the sensible thing and send the Rowlesburg kids to Kingwood.

Sincerely

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.

121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
304-454-2095

Re: School closure

From wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>
Date Mon 9/30/2024 4:38 PM
To Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

Mr. Kisner,

I appreciate your quick reply. While I know that Brad considered many things, the BOE's most important job is safely transporting children to and from school. That, above all else, is paramount in parents' minds. This plan fails to do that. Present it how you will. Would you send your child on a bus from Rowlesburg up and down Cheat Mountain 180 times a year? If yes, then please be the first board member to step forward and send your child up and down Cheat Mountain. Otherwise, vote NO. I will strongly oppose this plan. It is dangerous and made lead to injury or death for kids in Rowlesburg. You have been forewarned.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
Co-Owner

River House Lodge
43 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouselodge.org
304-454-2095

On Monday, September 30, 2024 at 09:12:11 AM EDT, Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Mr. Weaver,

Good morning and thank you for reaching out. While I understand your possible concern, I do want to make sure that I am up front that I support Mr. Martins' decision on this item. I believe Aurora is the best placement for these students for a number of reasons but most importantly because I believe it will offer the students the best opportunity for positive educational outcomes and success, which is in fact our main goal. Looking at only a single factor, such as transportation risk, would be short sighted on Mr. Martin's part and I appreciate that he took into consideration the entirety of all the variables involved. There is no doubt this decision had much to consider since both options have benefits and negatives, but my personal analysis indicates that Mr. Martin has attempted to make his decisions with all students and stakeholders affected to provide the best possible solution. I would like to offer that if a parent has a concern, there are potential options that can be provided to assist and alleviate those based on circumstances. Please have them reach out to Mr. Martin to start those discussions as you hear them. I always appreciate hearing from you and understanding your perspective as well as your community support and advocacy - our country needs more citizens that care and participate. Thank you again for reaching out and have a great day --CK

--
Cross Kisner

From: wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 1:55 PM

To: Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Bruce Huggins <bhuggins@k12.wv.us>; Pamela Feathers <pamela.feathers@k12.wv.us>

Subject: School closure

You don't often get email from wtcweaver@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Brad Martin
Superintendent of Preston County Schools
Kingwood, WV

Dear Mr. Martin,

The closure of Rowlesburg School as an elementary and middle school was inevitable. However, where to send the few remaining kids was not. Only those unfamiliar with southern Preston geography could consider sending our kids to Aurora. To those actually living in this area, your decision seems preposterous. On this, you will get pushback. If you persist, you will get a court appearance. Although I don't want to do it, I will personally file an injunction. Sending children up and down Cheat Mountain is dangerous on its face, wholly unnecessary, and amounts to child neglect. Cheat Mountain is dangerous any time of the year, but in the winter, the risk escalates.

Please do the sensible thing and send the Rowlesburg kids to Kingwood.

Sincerely

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.

121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
304-454-2095

Preston County Board of Education
members:

I thought you'd be interested
in the enclosed articles

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Merriam

From Oct 18, 2024 Dominion Post

Why early school start times are bad for kids

By WENDY TROXEL

Though my kids are now off to college, the sound of school buses outside my window, picking up high school students at 6:45 a.m., still makes me cringe. As a parent, I empathize deeply with the families sending their teens off to school at such an early hour. As a sleep researcher, I feel this secondary trauma especially intensely, knowing all too well just how damaging early school start times are for adolescent sleep.

Adolescents require eight to 10 hours of sleep per night for optimal health. However, more than 70% of teens fall short of this target, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, largely due to the conflict between early school start times and adolescents' biologically driven tendency to be night owls.

When children become teens, they experience a delay in their circadian rhythms that govern when they feel most awake and when they feel sleepy. This is driven in part by a shift in the release of the hormone melatonin — about two hours later than when melatonin is released in adults or younger children.

Effectively, this means waking a teenager at 6 a.m. is the biological equivalent of waking an adult up at 4 a.m. Recognizing this clear developmental shift in sleep-wake schedules, the American Academy of Pediatrics and many other medical organizations all recommend that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Unfortunately, most middle and high schools across the country and in Utah, begin much earlier, forcing students to wake up

before their bodies are ready.

There is a solution to this problem. In Seattle, for example, high schools delayed start times from 7:50 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. The results were significant: Students gained more sleep, reported feeling less tired, and showed improved academic performance. Locally, the Salt Lake City School District delayed middle and high school start times, recognizing the potential benefits for students' health and academic success. These changes reflect a growing awareness of the importance of aligning school schedules with adolescent sleep needs.

Although outcomes of the Salt Lake City School District start time change have yet to be published, research conducted in school districts around the country demonstrates significant public health benefits of later school start times. When schools start later, teens get more sleep. Not surprisingly, a well-rested teen is happier, more alert, and able to learn. Studies have even shown that with later school start times, attendance improves and graduation rates go up.

Beyond the public health benefits, my research with colleagues at RAND has demonstrated substantial economic benefits of this shift. Our analysis estimated that delaying school start times to 8:30 a.m. could contribute \$83 billion to the U.S. economy over a decade. This projected gain is due to higher academic and professional achievement, reduced car crash rates, and better overall health.

With later school start times, attendance improves and graduation rates go up.

While systemic changes are crucial, families can also play a pivotal role in promoting healthy sleep habits.

Here are some strategies:

Set a consistent sleep schedule. Encourage teens to go to bed and wake up around the same time every day, even on weekends. This can be very challenging for parents to enforce and teens to adhere to, but aim for keeping weekend wake-up times within a couple of hours of weekday wake-ups.

Limit screen time before bed. Reduce blue light exposure and the stimulating content consumed on electronic devices.

Have a wind-down routine. Encourage winding down with calming activities like reading or listening to music before bedtime.

Encourage healthy school start times. Engage with school boards and your community to discuss strategies to promote healthy sleep and overcome challenges to delaying school start times.

By working together, parents, schools, and communities can help ensure that teens get the rest they need to thrive. The shift to later start times is much more than a logistical change; it's a commitment to the health and future of the next generation.

Wendy Troxel is a senior behavioral and social scientist at RAND and author of *Sharing the Covers: Every Couple's Guide to Better Sleep*. She holds adjunct professor positions at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Utah and is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified behavioral sleep medicine specialist.



Outlook

Fw: Road evaluation

From Steve Plum <splum@k12.wv.us>
Date Tue 10/29/2024 12:17 PM
To Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Stephen E. Plum
Director of Transportation
Preston County Schools

From: Darrin Younker <dyounker@k12.wv.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Steve Plum <splum@k12.wv.us>
Subject: Road evaluation

On Oct 21st by request of Preston County transportation director Steve Plum, I visited and drove, the west side of Cheat Mountain on US Rt. 50, east of state RT. 72. The road has a 9% grade. In my opinion a school bus can be safely operated up and down the mountain, if do care is used. As always, the county needs to make the final decision in planning this and all routes.

Darrin Younker
School Bus Inspector
WVDE Office



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330
Building 6, Suite 650
304-582-8553 cell
304-558-6300 office
dyounker@k12.wv.us

In September 1991, I walked into Rowlesburg School for the first time. A wide-eyed 5-year-old girl just starting 13 years of education that shaped my life.

Hi! My name is Sarah Sypolt. I have many titles here at Rowlesburg School. PTO President, Volunteer, PVCL, Kindergarten-4th Grade Aide, but my most important...PARENT!

Let's start with a little history. Shall we? In 1985 a flood wiped out our small town. The Board of Education used that disaster to begin the closure of our smaller high schools. One by one, they closed each one leaving each community devastated. They built a larger high school and stuffed all of our students into one overcrowded building. Our community, as well as many others, fought a losing battle. This is where the threats started, "Pass our levy or we will close your schools!" The levy passed but the schools still closed. Here we are with the same threats again. Only this time, you won't consider giving us a chance levy or not, will you?

With each combined classroom, threat of closure, and redistricting you have whittled down our student population. Parents have run to larger schools to "guarantee" that their students won't have to endure the closure you keep threatening us with or to be able to give their children extracurricular activities that have been slowly taken from us. Our population has dwindled to a mere 34 students due to the Preston County Board of Education slowly bleeding the life out of us. I guess it has always been your goal to close our small schools in favor of larger ones, that cannot offer half of the one-on-one time we can. Taking students from these small classrooms, where they aren't allowed to just get lost in the masses, to 25-30 student rooms will destroy most of them. Our staff has come up with creative ways to educate the kids that need just a little bit extra. Each teacher here pours their heart and soul into educating our students, and for that, I have been so grateful.

I have had 5 children that have passed through Rowlesburg School. Each one excelled in some manner. They all love it here. We would have been here for all of their Kindergarten through 8th grade educations, but you felt the

need to redistrict us and take our bus. A bus that had been provided to us as long as I can remember. As a full-time, working mother I had no way to get them to the new "in-district" bus stop you provided 3.5 miles out of the way, on a main stretch of road. I was forced to take my students to Fellowsville. I was not nearly as happy with the facilities there. The building is in poor condition (I blame the Board for this as well. Maintenance?) Don't get me wrong, the staff and teachers were great. Once my older children reached middle school they then went to South. NEVER AGAIN! I will not have another student forced through that school. I made the decision to pull my student from Fellowsville before she could make it to South and took her back to Rowlesburg.

At Rowlesburg, my students have been given opportunities that, I believe, they wouldn't have been given anywhere else. My 14-year-old daughter has ADHD/ODD and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Here at Rowlesburg, she was given the time and attention she needs to succeed. I have to thank the AMAZING middle school teachers for that. I specifically chose to bring my children back here for them. All of our staff deserve a big THANK YOU for everything they have done for my kids as well as all of the others.

Let's discuss better options than closing both Rowlesburg and Fellowsville. Rowlesburg School is in incredible shape. Our building is well maintained and would make for a great place to house both schools. The opportunity to have not only our kids and Fellowsville's but to possibly bring some of the Fellowsville students' middle school siblings from South would be your best possible option. Bring staff and students to us. Laurel Mountain is not nearly as bad as Cheat Mountain. (Trust me, I live on the very top. I would know.) Give us the opportunity to take back the students that have been redistricted to other areas. There is a likelihood that a larger school population would bring back some of the students that have been moved to other schools.

Like every other parent, I will have to make a decision on whether my student, that attends this school, will continue in Preston County Public Schools. If Rowlesburg closes, the answer is no. Are you willing to continue to lose students to homeschooling and unlicensed micro schools just to cut our small state certified public schools? Will I continue to work for your schools? Most likely, that answer will be the same. You're attempting to close more than just a school. This building is our students' second home and family. We love, care for, and support them in any way that we can. These kids deserve a real fighting chance.

Save our schools. Give us a chance. Know that each one of us here will continue to fight for our students no matter what the outcome.

Closing Meeting Speech

Hello everyone. I am Deseree, a previous student at this amazing school. To start this off I just want to say I would not be where I am today without Rowlesburg school. My best grades were at this school. The teachers are amazing, including past teachers that had been here and the teachers that are present in the school now. The teachers are amazing at what they do. In just a short time of being here I had become one of the top readers in the state and that is all thanks to this school and the teachers. They are patient and know exactly what they are doing and how to do it. This isn't just about the teachers; this is also about the environment the school provides. The school is a safe space for a lot of people, and it helps them when they need it most. The school building itself is in great condition and they are more than welcome to bringing more students in and giving them a safe learning environment. We currently have a lot of empty classrooms and there is more than enough room for more students. Some of the best people I know came from Rowlesburg, that includes most of my friends and my mom and stepdad. The teachers always make sure that the kids get the best education possible. The teachers and the rest of the staff put their everything into the students. From personal experience the teachers never give up on students here they will figure out how the kids learn and teach them in a way that they understand it, so they get the full educational experience. I am currently volunteering in the school, and I have been for the past two years. I help with activities such as fall fest, trunk or treat, etc. I also work down here for three days a week in k-4 and whenever all those kids learn something new just seeing their faces light up is telling me that this school has always done things right no matter what. The school is important to man people and taking it away is going to ruin a good community. Its going to cause so much more stress on the parents when their children have to go farther away because decisions were made that a lot of people didn't fully agree with. Please take into consideration the families that have to deal with the changes before decisions are fully made. Thank you.

Name: Phil Wotring, RHS Class of 1959, Graduated 65 years ago from the Original high school.

The school, which was condemned by the Board of Education, is now and will continue to be, an integral part of the Rowlesburg community.

One of the many attractions in the school is the Preston County Sports museum. I therefore ask that if the new Rowlesburg School closes that the trophies and trophy case be moved into it. I will be submitting a letter on behalf of the alumni of both Rowlesburg Schools to the board formally request^{ing} the transfer. It is important that this important part of our history not be lost.

Would there be any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Phil Wotring

Hello, my name is Felicia Reckart, I'm the mother of 3 children a senior at PHS, a 5th grader and a 4yr old in Little Learners both here in Rowlesburg. First I'd like to ask how many of you have been on a bus going up or down Cheat Mountain? I was last year for the end of the year trip to DC & it was quite frightening, multiple times our bus had to stop in the road to accommodate on coming large trucks as there isn't room for them both to come through the 20-30 some large turns on the road. The driver of the charter bus was even surprised the decision was made to take that route for the field trip as the road doesn't provide adequate safety measures. For many years it was determined by DOH that buses with children were not allowed to run that strip of Rt. 50 due to the width, grade and lack of run away ramp in the event breaks would go out. This is extremely concerning to know that the board has put our kids safety on the back burning simply to accommodate their agenda. There are no safe areas on the mountain for the bus to pull over in an emergency, especially when descending the mountain. I wonder if any of you actually considered this bus ride you are proposing to us as citizens who live in this community & travels these roads daily? In the event of an emergency that closes the mountain how do you propose our children will get home, what is the alternative route in your plan? Have any of you been on a field trip where a child gets sick on the bus? Its going to happen frequently on Cheat Mountain & once 1 kid starts it doesn't end with 1 kid. These kids will be getting sick daily & who's going to be cleaning the buses & helping the small children get cleaned up? Will we be expected to supply a change of clothes or will we be called frequently to come clean up & change our kids covered in vomit? Most of us parents work so its going to become a huge inconvenience for everyone if were having to go to the school daily for clean up. Some of these children will be boarding the bus within an hour of eating lunch on 2hr dismissal days & I would expect that to cause a good many sick bellies. I don't think that should be a daily requirement for the drivers or anyone for that matter. We all

know it occasionally happens but kids on a steep mountain full of turns seems like asking for a daily disaster.

My next question is why in the 6yrs of talks of closing these 2 schools has it always been plan to shove them into other communities & abandon 2 buildings & all staff for both schools. Why can't we combine Rowlesburg with Fellowsville to create 1 school utilizing a beautiful functioning building & all current staff? We at Rowlesburg have a beautiful facility with all current amenities, functioning class rooms, rooms set up for CTE classes (such as the home ech room or computer lab), we have a great gym & large library. This beautiful school was built by FEMA for the county and once the 30yr obligation was met the county started trying to push for its closure, why? ~~You had no problems~~ spending millions to build a new school that costs more per student than any other facility but maintenance on a building that was handed to you free is too much? Fellowsville is in major disrepair & would cost more than is feasible to repair but our school is not, & what is the game plan for these buildings? With the other schools that have been closed in previous years they sit abandoned until you can legally auction them off. A facility like Rowlesburg should not sit to rot & become an eye sore ~~for our community~~. Is there a plan for the staff that has dedicated so much of their time to our students or are we just going to put 2 schools worth of staff on the chopping block & hope it works out for them? Combining the schools could help us help the people who have spent so much time loving our kids when were not around. I think it would also be quite helpful for our students going to a new school with new friends to see some very familiar faces. The kids in these communities are used to small classes & personalized attention, throwing them into larger schools where they won't get the same kind of experience will be educationally devastating to some of these kids. Many students around the county would benefit greatly from what smaller schools can offer but our schools are never offered to those students. The county simply throws them in classes with others who

have the same needs & they are most often looked over & shoved through grade by grade. I know this from experience with my oldest as he was in Bruceton, Terra Alta, Rowlesburg & now PHS, 2 out of 4 schools cared enough about him to try, I'm sure you already know it wasn't Bruceton or PHS. My ~~5th grader was~~ struggling a few years back he had always been a little above his peers but he hit a point where things were harder for him & he was becoming very frustrated & giving up in a lot of aspects. We had the talks about possibly looking into medicating because that's what the BOE likes to push, got to get those extra funds, none of us really thought that was going to help & after medicating my oldest I make that a last option. Because of the smaller size of school the teachers, aids, counselor & even multiple members of staff were able to sit with him & really figure out what he needed. All he really needed was some noise canceling headphones, a fidget or 2 when learning something new & occasionally a quiet place to take a 5 minute breather, calm down, relax & try again. In a class of multiple rooms of 20-30 kids he would have been labeled a problem & pushed through. He's excelling & I can honestly say that's 100% because of the staff at Rowlesburg because they have the opportunity to know & care about our kids the way they deserve. My daughter is well known here because my sons weren't numbers & faceless names the staff knows all of us & that does matter in our small kids lives when the people they ~~spend the majority of their time away from their families~~ know them like family. Because the push for this closure has been shoved down our throats for so many years we have lost multiple students to other schools, virtual & home school without that push our population wouldn't be so low. This is a problem that was created by the board to push their agenda again showing they don't really care for our students. I ~~often wonder if the reasoning~~ behind sending our children up the most dangerous part of 50 in the county isn't fueled by the extra money the county would receive from each student sent to Aurora since they receive extra funding for ~~being an extreme remote school~~. If you truly care about the students that make your pay checks possible

consider combining the schools instead of putting our 4-14yr old kids in danger twice a day.

Carol Castle

Average U.S. test scores are lower than average scores in countries to which the United States is frequently compared, in part because the share of disadvantaged students in the overall national population is greater in the United States than in comparison countries. Jan 28, 2013



Economic Policy Institute

<https://www.e>

Small schools have higher graduation rates and, on a per graduate basis, they cost about the same or less than large schools. Vermont is one of a few states that recognize the effectiveness of small schools and provide additional financial support to maintain them. Mar 19, 2012



Institute for Local Self-Reliance

<https://ilsr.org>

Strengths of small schools: Students are more likely to master curriculum in a smaller learning environment.



GreatSchools

<https://www.greatschools.org>

Whereas large schools rely much more on external measures for controlling student behavior—metal detectors and security guards—smaller schools stress engagement of the faculty, school community, and students. Feb 1, 2002

The intimate setting of smaller schools contributes to increased student engagement and academic achievement. Students feel more connected to their learning environment, leading to higher levels of motivation and attentiveness. Aug 10, 2023

Smaller School, Bigger Benefits: Enhancing the Educational ...



Nord Anglia Education

<https://www.nordangliae>

Here we go again , and I've heard it said that insanity is doing something over and over and expecting a different result. But yet that is exactly what we are doing here again. How many schools must be closed to balance the budget? From what I have seen since the mid 70's many schools have been closed but yet we can not make a budget work and here we go again. I think its time to ask tuff questions and look at what research shows and make smarter decisions where our children our most valuable assets are concerned. There is a large volume of evidence that consolidation does not work for our children and cost more over all

One of the most effective ways to improve student achievement and curb school violence is to reduce the size of the nation's schools. Hundreds of studies have found that students who attend small schools outperform those in large schools on every academic measure from grades to test scores. They are less likely to dropout and more likely to attend college. And go on to be productive members of society. Is'nt that our goal.

Small schools also build strong communities. Parents and neighbors are more likely to be actively involved in the school. The students benefit from community support and the school in turn fosters connections among neighbors and encourages civic participation.

Operational Funding

State and local policymakers often prefer large schools, because they believe them to be less expensive to operate. Such policies are short-sighted. Small schools may require higher levels of annual per pupil funding, but over all they are far more cost-effective. Small schools have higher graduation rates and, on a per graduate basis, they cost about the same or less than large schools. And that is what is important, Vermont is one of a few states that recognize the effectiveness of small schools and provide additional financial support to maintain them. Is the Children of Preston county less important than those of Vermont. I do not believe so.

In 2000, the Florida legislature passed the statute , that recognizes the benefits of small schools and prohibits, as of July 2003, the construction of large schools. [Read More](#)

This article originally appeared in the Summer 2000 issue of our New Rules Journal.
Jack and the Giant School

I will bet most of the people here has no idea where all the crazy school consolidation got it big foot hold on our country. It started out of fear over 60 years ago and sadly most ideas born in fear are bad ones. The fear was caused by a small orb a little larger than a beach ball. Not what was in the best interest of our children.

by Stacy Mitchell

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first artificial object into Earth's orbit. Dubbed Sputnik, the satellite measured only two feet in diameter, but it had a profound impact on the American psyche.

Among its many impacts, Sputnik galvanized a movement to modernize and enlarge America's schools. The best and the brightest agreed that small schools burdened our ability to win the Cold War. The campaign to abolish them was led by Harvard University President James Bryant Conant, who contended that those who resisted school consolidation were "still living in imagination in a world which knew neither nuclear weapons nor Soviet imperialism"

State and local governments began aggressively closing small schools and herding kids into larger facilities. Now you know how it started .

But, a growing number of critics are asking, do big schools produce better students? In the 1970s a handful of educators began to question whether the failings of the nation's schools weren't directly related to their size. Large schools, they believed, bred alienation and isolation, which in turn fostered poor student achievement, violence and high dropout rates.

Today, riding on a wave of real-world success and a mountain of evidence, a full-fledged small schools movement has emerged. It's transforming public education in several big cities and, in rural areas, reinvigorating a long-standing fight to rescue local schools from the jaws of consolidation.

The movement has received endorsement from high offices. In May 1999, prompted largely by the shootings at Columbine a large school. Vice President Al Gore criticized the practice of "herding all students into overcrowded, factory-style schools" A panel of school security experts was convened by Education Secretary Richard Riley. Their top recommendation had nothing to do with gun control, metal detectors or police on the premises. Rather, they said, reduce the size of the nation's schools. Small schools are a powerful antidote to the sense of alienation that can lead to violence.

In September, Riley told the National Press Club that the nation needs to "create small, supportive learning environments that give students a sense of connection. . Size matters." Small supportive learning environments that give students a sense of connection. That sounds like Fellowsville and Rowlesburgs schools

According to the U.S. Department of Education's report, Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools: 1996-97,, compared to schools with fewer than 200 students, big schools (900 or more) have 825 percent more violent crime, 270 percent more vandalism, 394 percent more fights and assaults and 1000 percent more weapons incidents. Where are we herding our children to?

The federal government now provides a small amount of money to districts seeking to restructure large high schools by breaking them into small learning communities. But the real action is at the local and state level, where the notion that large schools offer superior learning opportunities persists, despite substantial evidence to the contrary.

In 1996, Kathleen Cotton, a research specialist with the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, reviewed the results of over 100 studies on school size. "Student achievement in small schools is at least equal and often superior to achievement in large schools," she concluded. "In addition, a large body of research in the affective and social realms overwhelmingly affirms the superiority of small schools."

Aside from financial resources, many teachers and researchers believe that school size is the single most important factor in the success of public schools. In her 1999 review of school size studies, Mary Anne Raywid of Hofstra University writes that the relationship between size and positive educational outcomes has been "confirmed with a clarity and at a level of confidence rare in the annals of education research."

Achievement: Small school students equal or outperform large school students. Indicators used include grades, test scores, honor roll enrollment, subject-area achievement, higher-order thinking skills and years of education attained after high school. These findings hold even when other variables, such as student attributes or staff characteristics, are taken into account. Many small schools are in rural areas, but researchers have concluded that it is the smallness of the school, not its setting, that makes it successful.

Sense of belonging: Large schools function like bureaucracies, small schools more like communities. Small school students are less likely to feel alienated and more likely to report a strong sense of belonging. Students in large schools tend to be relatively anonymous and easily slip through the cracks. Small schools enable teachers to work more closely with a smaller number of students. This encourages teachers to go the extra mile and enables them to respond to individual needs. The result is that both students and teachers have a more positive attitude about school.

Parental involvement: Kids are not the only ones who are alienated by large schools. Parents are as well. Studies have found that small schools parents are more likely to be involved in their child's education and to volunteer at the school. In rural areas, this is due in part to the fact that small, local schools are close to home, while consolidated schools may be many miles away.

Attendance/Dropout: Closely connected to a strong sense of belonging, students at small schools have higher attendance rates. Students who transfer from large to small schools also exhibit improved attendance. Small schools graduate more of their students. In Nebraska, only 3 percent of those attending high schools with fewer than 100 students dropped out, compared to a statewide average of 15 percent.

Extracurricular activities: Studies have found that participation in extracurricular activities improves attendance and academic performance. Students at small schools exhibit higher rates of participation in extracurricular activities and individuals participate in a wider variety of activities. In a large school only the most talented will be recruited for the basketball team or the drama club. The result is that a small number of gifted students dominate the sports and activity rosters, while the vast majority of students do not get those opportunities.

Poverty: Research has consistently shown that poverty exercises a substantial negative effect on student achievement. The impact of poverty is significantly reduced when kids attend small schools. In fact, the larger the school, the more likely poor students are to fail; the smaller the school, the more likely they are to succeed.

Craig Howley of Ohio University and Robert Bikel of Marshall University recently studied this relationship in Georgia, Montana, Ohio and Texas. In all four states, smaller schools cut poverty's impact on test scores, by 20 to 70 percent.

Curriculum: Even the smallest schools (100-200 students) are able to offer core curricula comparable to schools of more than 1,200. Moreover, small schools tend to be more flexible and allow teachers to exercise greater control over curricula. As a result, small schools more often apply innovative teaching methods, which have been shown to improve student achievement.

Very small schools may not be able to offer many advanced or specialized courses, but bigness does not guarantee breadth. Researcher William Fowler concluded, "Above 400 students, increases in enrollment made little difference in improving students' access to courses or in offering teachers the opportunity to teach more specialized classes."

Collaboration and advances in technology continue to broaden curriculum at small schools.

Now With all the evidence on how important small community schools are to the success of our children. I challenge each and every board member to walk the halls of the schools in this county look in to the faces of these children. And I mean all the children, not just Fellowsville or Rowlesburg but all because every time you vote to increase the size of a school you are reducing their chance of success and safety. You are also increasing the cost per graduate for our tax payers. Who have been criticized for expecting accountability for the money they have already given you. Don't you think the time has come to be leaders in education put the best interest of the children first. There is numerous grants available to help fund our schools. The general public might not be aware of all the grants but you should be. I found it simple to acquire a grant for math or science for rowlesburg school, but I also found that some in the administration try to keep the public from knowing this, shame on them. If you vote to close these two schools instead of doing what is right for the kids shame on you. Buses can travel both ways not just taking our children out of their community but bring other students from other crowded schools giving them a better chance to succeed. And keeping more of the schools at the magic number for success of 200 or less. and yes, there is statistics that show k though 12 schools of 200 or less rate the highest in every measure for success of a school. Take a look around what have we done? will we continue down a failing path that does not work, if so the exodus you have seen from the public system will multiply drastically. Because parents want their children to learn and be safe.



Bois Blanc Pines School District

Bois Blanc Pines School District is a public school district located in Bois Blanc Township in the U.S. state of Michigan.^[1] The district had an enrollment of four students for the 2021–22 school year.^[2] It ranks as the smallest district in the state in terms of enrollment and among the smallest in the nation. The district contains one school, Pines School Elementary, which is a one-room schoolhouse that provides K–8 primary education. It is one of the last functioning one-room schoolhouses in the state of Michigan.^[3]

Location

The school district serves the entirety of Bois Blanc Township on Bois Blanc Island in Lake Huron.^[4] The district contains one school located at 100 Sioux Avenue (or Lime Kiln Point Road) in the unincorporated community of Pointe Aux Pins on the southern coast of the island at 45°44′03.7″N 84°28′43.0″W﻿ / ﻿45.734361°N 84.478611°W﻿ / 45.734361; -84.478611. The district is conterminous with Bois Blanc Township, which covers a land area of 35.11 square miles (90.93 km²) and had a population of 100 at the 2020 census.^[5]

The district is part of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District.^[6] It is one of only four insular school districts in the state of Michigan, along with Beaver Island School District, Grosse Ile Township Schools, and Mackinac Island School District.

History

The district's only building, Pines School Elementary, was built in 1936.^[7]

Bois Blanc Pines School District



**BOIS BLANC
PINES**
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bois Blanc Township, Mackinac County,
Michigan

District information

Grades	K–8
President	Suzette Cooley-Sanborn
Vice-president	Chris Hasbrouck
Superintendent	Daniel Reattoir

Schools 1

Students and staff

Students	4 (2021–22)
Teachers	1
Student–teacher ratio	4:1

Other information

District area	35.1 sq mi (90.9 km ²)
Website	Official website (https://boisblanc.eupschools.org)

As an insular municipality, Bois Blanc Township has largely remained a retirement community and resort destination with very few permanent residents. It is consistently ranked as one of the least-populated municipalities in the state, as well as being one of the most remote and inaccessible. It recorded its lowest population of 25 at the 1970 census and more recently 95 at the 2010 census and 100 at the 2020 census.^[8]

Prior to 1993, Michigan public schools earned revenue primarily through property taxes. Bois Blanc Township contained around 300 taxable residences that were primarily summer cottages. Almost the entire source of income revenue for the district came from taxing these non-permanent residencies. However, in 1994, state law changed to significantly reduce property tax allocation to public education and instead increased sales tax revenues, which the township earned very little. Additionally, the state implemented a new state-funded compensation rate to be determined by the number of students enrolled in a district. At the time, Bois Blanc Pines School District had an enrollment of only five students and an annual operating cost of \$75,000—half of which paid the salary to the district's only teacher.^[3]

Because of the school's financial constraints, it immediately began running a deficit, and it was in danger of closing by the end of the decade. State lawmakers saw the need to allocate more funding to Bois Blanc Pines School District despite its low enrollment, but a proposal to extend extra funding to the small district was vetoed by Governor John Engler. Because of the township's remoteness, a merger with a mainland school district was largely implausible—necessitating the township to maintain its own independent school district, despite very low enrollment and sources of revenue.^[3]

Recent history

The Bois Blanc Pines School District remained open, despite financial hardships due to changes in the state's educational revenue policies. The district's only building, Pines School Elementary, serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade. The district does not provide secondary education after the eighth grade. When a student reaches ninth grade, they attend Cheboygan Area Schools on the mainland in Cheboygan. The school district pays the expenses of ferry transportation and housing for the student to continue their education at Cheboygan High School.^[3] Very few school-aged children live in the township. In 2000, the township recorded only four residents under the age of 14.^[8]

In order to increase its revenue, Bois Blanc Pines School District is an "out-of-formula district" that is allowed to keep its non-homestead tax revenue on properties not permanently occupied. By doing so, the district does not collect grant money from the state but does receive state educational funding in other forms. In 2015–16, the district spent \$63,749 per student with an enrollment of only two. For comparison, the average spending-per-student in the state of Michigan was \$9,996 per student.^[9] Because of its very low population, the district often ranks near the top in spending money per student in their budget. In 2016–17, the district spent \$64,229 each for two students, which was the second highest spending-per-student after Wells Township School in Marquette County, which enrolled 10 students at \$64,494 per student.^[10]

In the 2018–19 and 2019–20 school year, the district allocated \$61,502 per student, which again ranked the district highest of the state's 827 school districts.^[11]

In 2019–20, the district received \$15,916 per student from the state as part of the Foundation Allowance revenue program, which by far ranked Bois Blanc Pines School District as the highest recipient in the state under the program.^[12] The district paid its lone teacher \$53,267 per year, which is below the state teaching average salary of \$62,170.^[11] For the 2020–21 school year, the school district had one teacher and four students.^[2]

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Interestingly, the study also shows how, over time, when students remain in smaller classes, they continue to make gains on their peers in larger classrooms. Classes that had 13-17 students fared the best, while classes with 22-25 students began to significantly fall behind.

Determining the Best Classroom Size for Maximum Student Performance

Raymond Ge

In addition to Florida's overall rank as #1 for Education Freedom, Florida also earned high rankings in the following categories: #1 for Academic Transparency due to Florida's expansive legislation allowing parents to access classroom materials and Florida's Parental Bill of Rights. Sep 12, 2024

Florida Ranks #1 in Education Freedom for Third Year in a Row



Governor Ron DeSantis

<https://w>

West Virginia Code Chapter 18. Education § 18-2E-5d.

Standards for the duration of school bus transportation times for students to and from school

Current as of January 01, 2020 | Updated by [FindLaw Staff](#)

(a) The high quality standards for transportation adopted by the state board pursuant to section five of this article shall include standards for the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for students to and from school under normal weather and operating conditions as follows:

- (1) For elementary school students, thirty minutes;
- (2) For middle school, intermediate school and junior high school students, forty-five minutes; and
- (3) For high school students, sixty minutes.

(b) A county board may not create a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels prekindergarten through grade five to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after July 1, 2008, which exceeds by more than fifteen minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the state board in accordance with subsection (a) of this section unless:

- (1) The county board adopts a separate motion to approve creation of the route and request written permission of the state board to create the route; and
- (2) Receives the written permission of the state board to create the route.

* (c) A county board may not create, nor may the state board permit, the creation of a new bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels prekindergarten through grade five to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after July 1, 2008, which exceeds by more than thirty minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the state board in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(d) The state board shall provide technical assistance to county boards with the objective of achieving school bus transportation routes for students which are within the recommended time durations established by the state board.

PRESTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD MEMBER
SIGN-IN SHEET (PAYROLL)
2024-2025 School Year
DATE: 11/18/2024

Attendance – Please Initial.

Michael Hovatter

ML

Cross Kisner

CK

Shelley Miller

SM

Lucas Tatham

LT

Jeff Zigray

JZ

Preston County Board of Education
 Monday, November 18, 2024 PHS 6:00 PM
 Delegations Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting Adjourned Session Special Meeting

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

Community Members (Print Name)	Title—(Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
✓ 1. <i>Tracy Shumley</i>	<i>Principal</i>
✓ 2. <i>Georgia Phillips</i>	<i>Georgia Phillips</i>
✓ 3. <i>Carol Castle</i>	<i>Carol Castle</i>
✓ 4. <i>Ashley Wilt</i>	<i>Ashley Wilt</i>
✓ 5. <i>Sophia W. It</i>	<i>Sophia Wilt</i>
✓ 6. <i>Caitlin W. It</i>	<i>Caitlin Wilt</i>
✓ 7. <i>Buck Jennings</i>	<i>Del.</i>
✓ 8. <i>Robertta Gribble</i>	<i>Robertta Gribble / Community Member</i>
✓ 9. <i>Rick Rhodes</i>	<i>Community Member</i>
✓ 10. <i>Tabatha Funk-Osborne</i>	<i>Community member</i>
✓ 11. <i>Donald Bub Funk</i>	<i>parent</i>
✓ 12. <i>Buck Jennings</i>	
✓ 13. <i>Doug Coombs</i>	
✓ 14. <i>ARTHUR BOYLAN</i>	<i>GRAND PARENT</i>
✓ 15. <i>Becky Bolyard</i>	<i>Parent / Teacher</i>
✓ 16. <i>Christine Feathers</i>	<i>Parent</i>
✓ 17. <i>Logan Stephens</i>	<i>Student</i>
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Preston County Board of Education
 Monday, November 18, 2024 PHS 6:00 PM
 Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Regular Meeting Adjourned Session Special Meeting

Please print names.

County Office Staff	Signature
Bradley Martin, Superintendent	<i>Brad Martin</i>
Angellicia Varner, Asst. Superintendent	<i>Angel Varner</i>
Angela Zofchak	
Justin Hough	
Jana Miller	<i>Jana Miller</i>
Katrina Kerstetter	<i>Katrina Kerstetter</i>
Katie Rush	
Brenda Layton	
Steve Plum	SP ✓
Matt Murray	MM ✓
Dani Kelley	
School Personnel	Signature
1. <i>Craig Schmitt</i>	<i>Craig Schmitt</i>
2. <i>Rhonda Phillips</i>	<i>Rhonda Phillips</i>
3. <i>Angela Williams</i>	<i>Angela Williams</i>
4. <i>Shonda Zinn</i>	<i>Shonda Zinn</i>
5. <i>Hillary Barkaw</i>	<i>Hillary Barkaw</i>
6. <i>Tina Walker</i>	<i>Tina Walker</i>
7. <i>Michael Yates</i>	<i>Michael Yates</i>
8. <i>Kimberly Nesci</i>	
9. <i>Jennifer Sanders</i>	<i>Jennifer Sanders</i>
10.	
Media (Print Name)	Signature
1. <i>Jacob Martin</i>	<i>Jacob Martin</i>
2.	
3.	
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10.	
Community Members (Print Name)	Title--(Employee, Parent, Community Member or Student)
1. <i>Vicki Hovatter</i>	<i>Robert S. McGinn - Community member</i>
2. <i>Pam Heathers</i>	<i>Rick Rhodes - Community member</i>
3. <i>Vanessa Hayes</i>	<i>Angel Younker</i>
4. <i>Walter Lashley</i>	<i>Walter Lashley</i>
5. <i>Crystal Johnson</i>	<i>Buddy Adams</i>
6. <i>Polyton Johnson</i>	<i>Carlynn Funk</i>
7. <i>Joyce Spiker</i>	<i>Elndra Jennings</i>
8. <i>Kartee Hill</i>	<i>Bessie Funk</i>
9. <i>Logan Field</i>	<i>Christina Lyons</i>
10. <i>Linda Schooley</i>	<i>Jamie Eickelberry</i>

Andy Nesci
Chris Kerns
Makayla Mattick
Nathan Raybeck
LISA Swisher

Danny Ridman
Ashley Ridman
Bentley Ridman
Elizabeth King
Rebekah Yates

Sarah Sygott
Deseree Newland
Deacon Newland
Emmalynn Newland
Sheila Corbin

Raenelle Corbin

Julie Nesci

Jmy Nesci

Dr. Weaver,

I will confer with Mr. Tatham and our counsel to determine if this would warrant a local re-vote on the matter to take this additional information into consideration. This information will be most certainly be included with our submission to the WV BOE related to the possible closure of Rowlesburg and merger with Aurora.

Bradley R. Martin
Superintendent, Preston County Schools
(304) 329-0580 ext. 225
(304) 288-0941

From: wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:31 AM

To: Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>

Subject: Re: A serious procedural error was made at the Board of Education meeting tonight

Mr. Kisner,

After the meeting, the board members, including you, told me they were unaware of the wreck on Cheat Mountain on November 6 and the closure of the mountain to traffic for the next eight hours. The exception was Mr. Hovatter. Mr. Martin and the Board Attorney were also unaware. Mr. Tatham and I did not have a chance to speak afterward. This information was essential in deciding whether to merge Rowlesburg and Aurora Schools.

The proper procedure would have been for the President and Board attorney to hear my information, *januis clausis*. They should have waived the sign-up rule if they deemed the new information material to the vote on merging the Rowlesburg School with Aurora School.

Whether or not Cheat Mountain, as a bus route 180 days a year, increases the safety risk is not a matter of opinion. That is true, *prima facie*. The mountain with a 9% grade, 38 curves, no pull-offs, shear cliff sides separated only by guard rails, and a history of truck wrecks is sufficient to make a claim. The direct evidence is the most recent wreck on November 6th. You also heard testimony from area residents about prior incidents on the mountain and serious weather conditions. The only difference of opinion is how much the risk is raised. You are prepared to gamble the lives of kids in the Rowlesburg area. I am not.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
Co-Owner

River House Lodge
43 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouselodge.org
304-454-2095

On Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 09:14:40 AM EST, Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Mr. Weaver,

Thank you again for caring about our county, community, and specifically our students. I would first offer that nothing was out of procedure and that Mr. Tatham followed policy to a T by my personal understanding of it. If Mr. Tatham had allowed you to speak out of order, it could have resulted in

further chaos and put the board into an issue as we would almost have to allow any other person(s) not signed up to speak as well, unless we wanted to discriminate.

With that said - it is a safe assumption that all board members are aware that wrecks happen and that statistically they have most certainly happened on Cheat Mt. during the timeframe a bus will potentially be on that route. If 1 of the 3 board members which voted yes to close feel this information would change their vote, I do believe they can move to reconsider the matter, and the rest of your dominos would potentially fall where you have outlined. I doubt that is the case as I don't believe any of the participating parties went into this decision as blind or shortsighted as you have assumed us.

Further I would not put anyone through this process again if I can help it - the members of the board took on this responsibility and it was our duty but the idea of putting the students through this process again certainly weighed heavily on my heart as I personally considered and tried to find a way to buy more time for Fellowsville.

There were / are no perfect solutions to our situations - we all have to make the decisions based on the information in front of us and I'm sorry that you and I come to different conclusions at times. I do truly appreciate that you care and are working to improve our world. Have a great day --CK

--
Cross Kisner
304-506-7105

From: wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 10:00 PM
To: Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>
Subject: A serious procedural error was made at the Board of Education meeting tonight

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Superintendent:

At the Preston County Board of Education meeting to vote on school closures, the PCBOE President, Mr. Tatham, should have allowed board members to hear vital new information from a community resident. This information would have impacted the vote to close the Rowlesburg School and merge the students into the Aurora School. On November 6, 2024, a tractor-trailer truck and another vehicle were involved in a severe wreck on Cheat Mountain, the route chosen to bus Rowlesburg children to Aurora School. The road was closed for 8 hours because of a resulting fuel spill. Not knowing this information, the BOE attorney informed the President that he should not recognize the resident as he had arrived too late to sign the speaker's sheet.

The accident on Cheat Mountain happened in the afternoon when school buses were leaving the Aurora School. My wife and I were held up at the top of the mountain and had to find another route to Rowlesburg. Had a bus encountered the wreck on the mountain that day, the driver would have had no choice but to wait for the road to be cleared of hazardous waste before proceeding. No school bus or large vehicle can turn around on US Rt. 50 on Cheat Mountain. The wait would have been eight hours. Even if a wrecker had been allowed to tow the bus back to the top so it could turn, the delay in delivering four-year-olds to their homes in the Rowlesburg area would have been hours.

The BOE President and Board attorney allowed the vote on Rowlesburg School without hearing this vital information. Board members acknowledged after the meeting that they did not know about the wreck.

I ask that the vote on the Rowlesburg School closure and merger with Aurora School be rescinded at the next BOE meeting and re-voted upon with the vital information I have provided. Most assuredly, under these circumstances, the West Virginia Board of Education should not approve a request from the Preston County School Superintendent, Mr. Martin, to be granted a waiver for the Rowlesburg-Aurora consolidation.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.

121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouselodge.org
304-454-2095

Photos of wreck on Cheat Mountain November 6, 2024

From wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 11/19/2024 12:36 PM

To Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; WVDE - Superintendent <superintendent@k12.wv.us>; Darcel Vermillion <dvermill@k12.wv.us>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Superintendent,

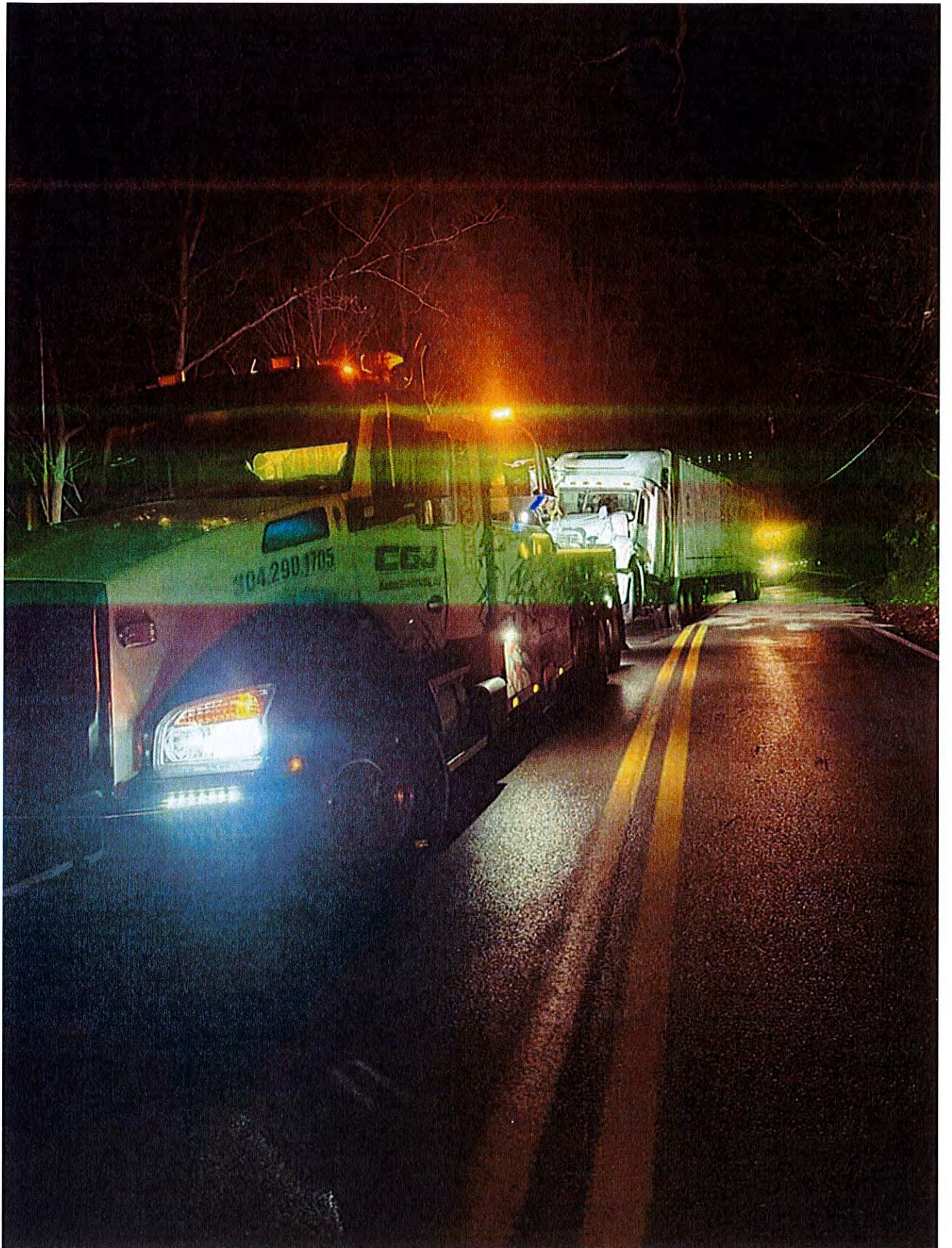
This is part of the information the PCBOE should have seen before deciding to merge Rowlesburg and Aurora Schools—but it didn't. The president's ruling to prevent a community resident from presenting this information meant the Board of Education members voted with incomplete knowledge of the risks inherent in bussing children up and down Cheat Mountain to the Aurora School.

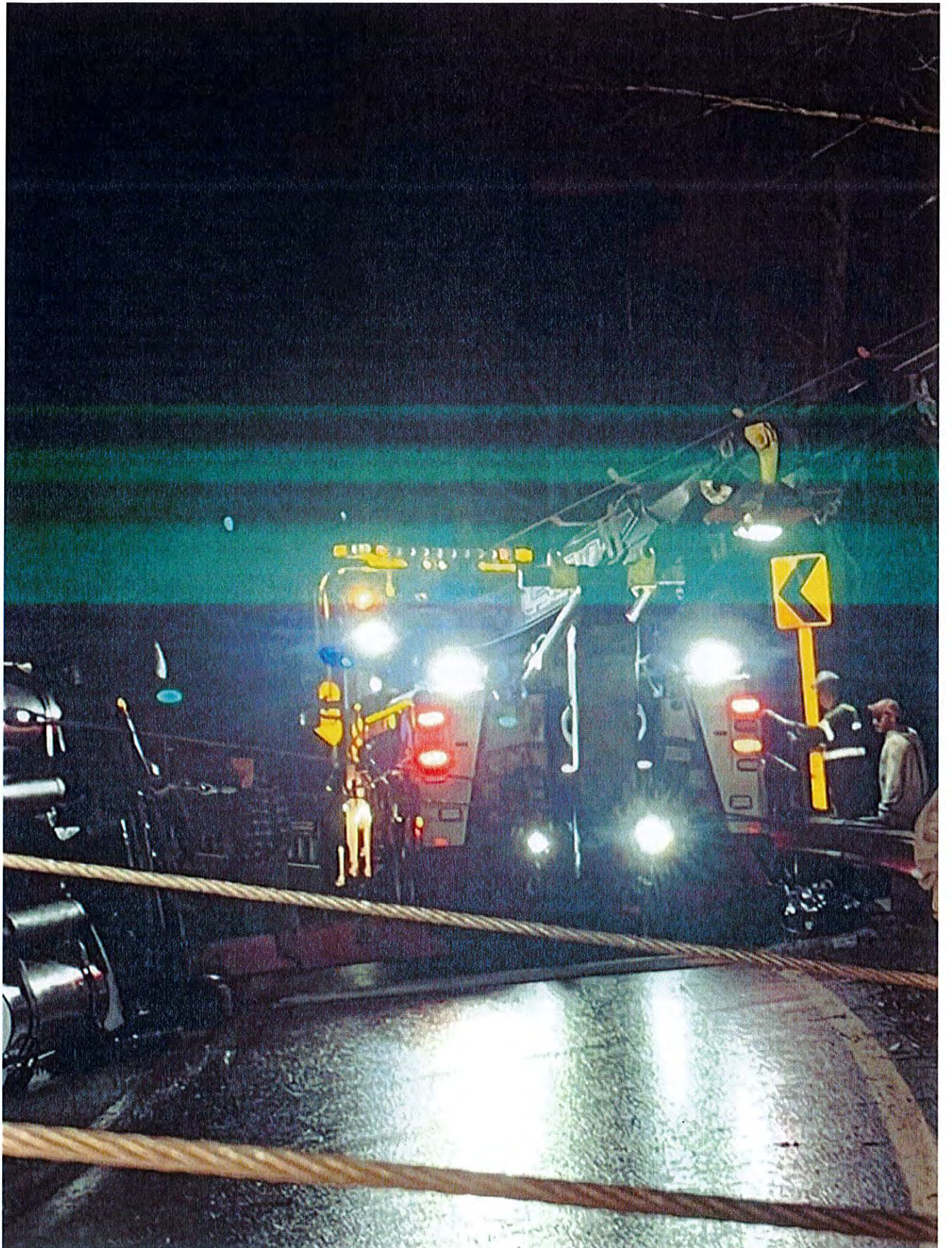
Again, I'd like to ask that the vote be retaken based on this new information.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
304-454-2095







W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
Co-Owner

River House Lodge
43 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouselodge.org
304-454-2095

A serious procedural error was made at the Board of Education meeting tonight

From wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 11/18/2024 10:01 PM

To Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Superintendent:

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The BOE President and Board attorney allowed the vote on Rowlesburg School without hearing this vital information. Board members acknowledged after the meeting that they did not know about the wreck.

I ask that the vote on the Rowlesburg School closure and merger with Aurora School be rescinded at the next BOE meeting and re-voted upon with the vital information I have provided. Most assuredly, under these circumstances, the West Virginia Board of Education should not approve a request from the Preston County School Superintendent, Mr. Martin, to be granted a waiver for the Rowlesburg-Aurora consolidation.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.

121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouseelodge.org
304-454-2095


 Outlook

Re: A serious procedural error was made at the Board of Education meeting tonight

From wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 11/19/2024 3:58 PM

To Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>

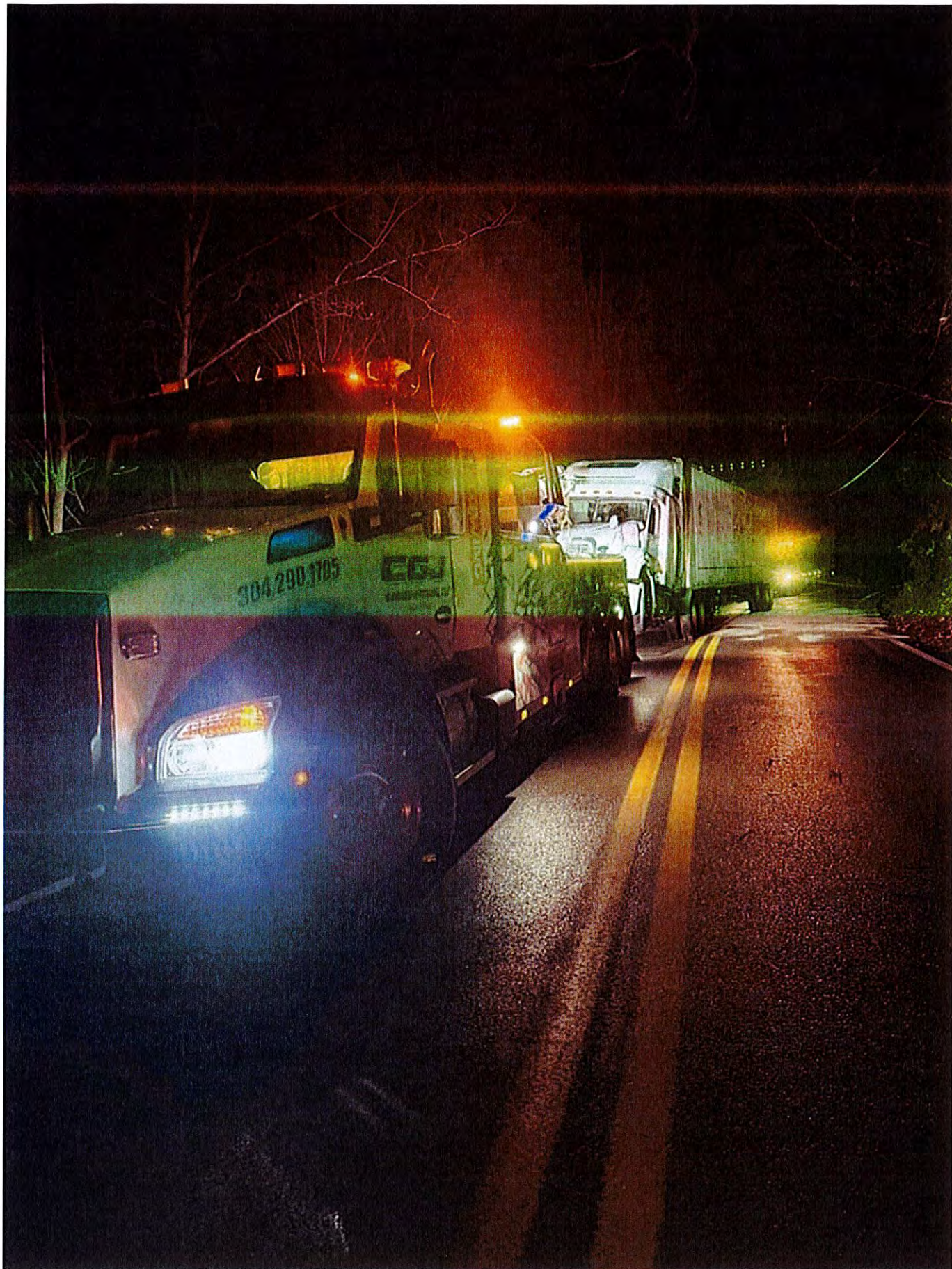
 1 attachment (1,010 bytes)

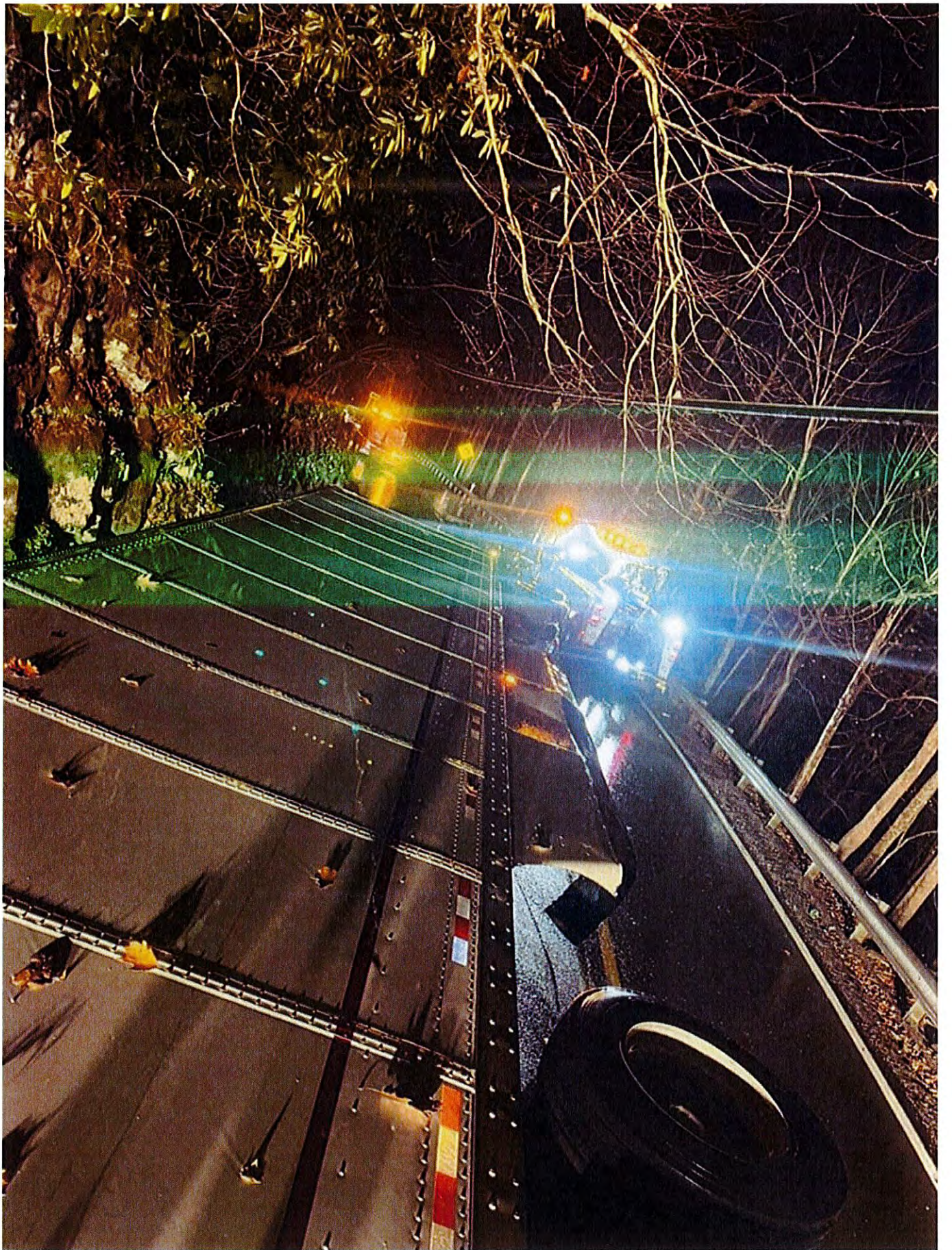
Authorities investigate a fatal crash on U.S. Route 50 Preston County News wvnews.com 2.webloc;

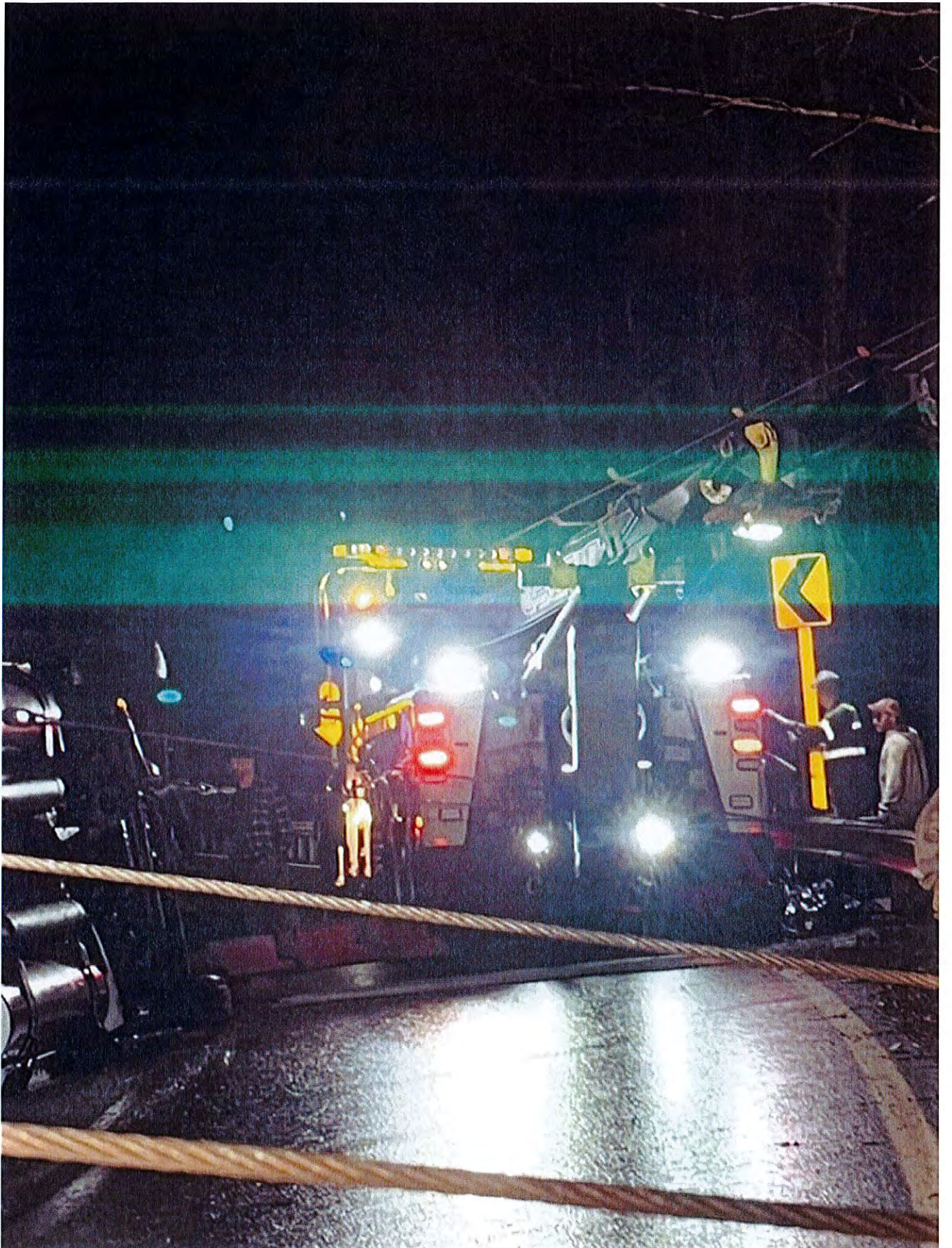
Not sure whether I sent these to you. This was the wreck that blocked traffic for 8 hours on Cheat Mountain on November 6th.

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
Co-Owner

River House Lodge
43 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
www.riverhouselodge.org
304-454-2095









On Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 03:06:49 PM EST, Bradley Martin <brmarti@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Fw: Follow Up From Conversation on 11/19/24

From wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 11/21/2024 1:23 PM

To Micah Whitlow <micah.whitlow@k12.wv.us>; Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>

 2 attachments (48 KB)

Policy 11-6- Intra-County Student Transfers- 5-4-20 (edit unmarked).docx; Preston County Schools- Attendance Zone Procedural Directive (FINAL VERSION!!!)- CLEAN VERSION NO EDIT MARKS- Edited 11-19-24.docx;

[EXTERNAL SENDER]: Do not click links, open attachments or reply to this email unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Micah,

Here are additional pictures of Cheat Mountain wrecks I received from area residents. I would appreciate including these with materials for the State Superintendent and State BOE members. There may be more such pictures.

Best.

Tim Weaver

W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425
304-454-2095

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: wtcweaver@yahoo.com <wtcweaver@yahoo.com>

To: Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us>; Lucas Tatham <lucas.tatham@k12.wv.us>; Cross Kisner <cross.kisner@k12.wv.us>; Jeffrey Zigray <jzigray@k12.wv.us>; Shelley Miller <semiller@k12.wv.us>; Michael Hovatter <michael.hovatter@k12.wv.us>

Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 12:56:40 PM EST

Subject: Re: Follow Up From Conversation on 11/19/24

Dear Superintendent,

Thanks for your email on the steps you plan to take to ease transfers from Rowlesburg District to Kingwood Elementary and Central Preston Middle Schools. Next year, if your plan is approved by the State, there will be no Rowlesburg District, only Aurora. How do you plan to continue the open portal for transfers from Aurora District to Kingwood schools? That step is best taken by amending the closure and consolidation policy this year to make Kingwood the receiving district.

I am including additional pictures of wrecks on Cheat Mountain, 2003-2008, shared by area residents. The absence of photos in other years does not mean no accidents occurred; it is only that these residents did not take pictures.

As time passes, I expect others to come forward with more photos.

Given the growing pictorial proof of the safety risk Cheat Mountain presents, I wonder whether the State BOE will endorse this plan. Perhaps, it would be best to prepare a modified closure and consolidation plan for Rowlesburg, making Kingwood district the receiver. It is by far the safer option.

Sincerely,

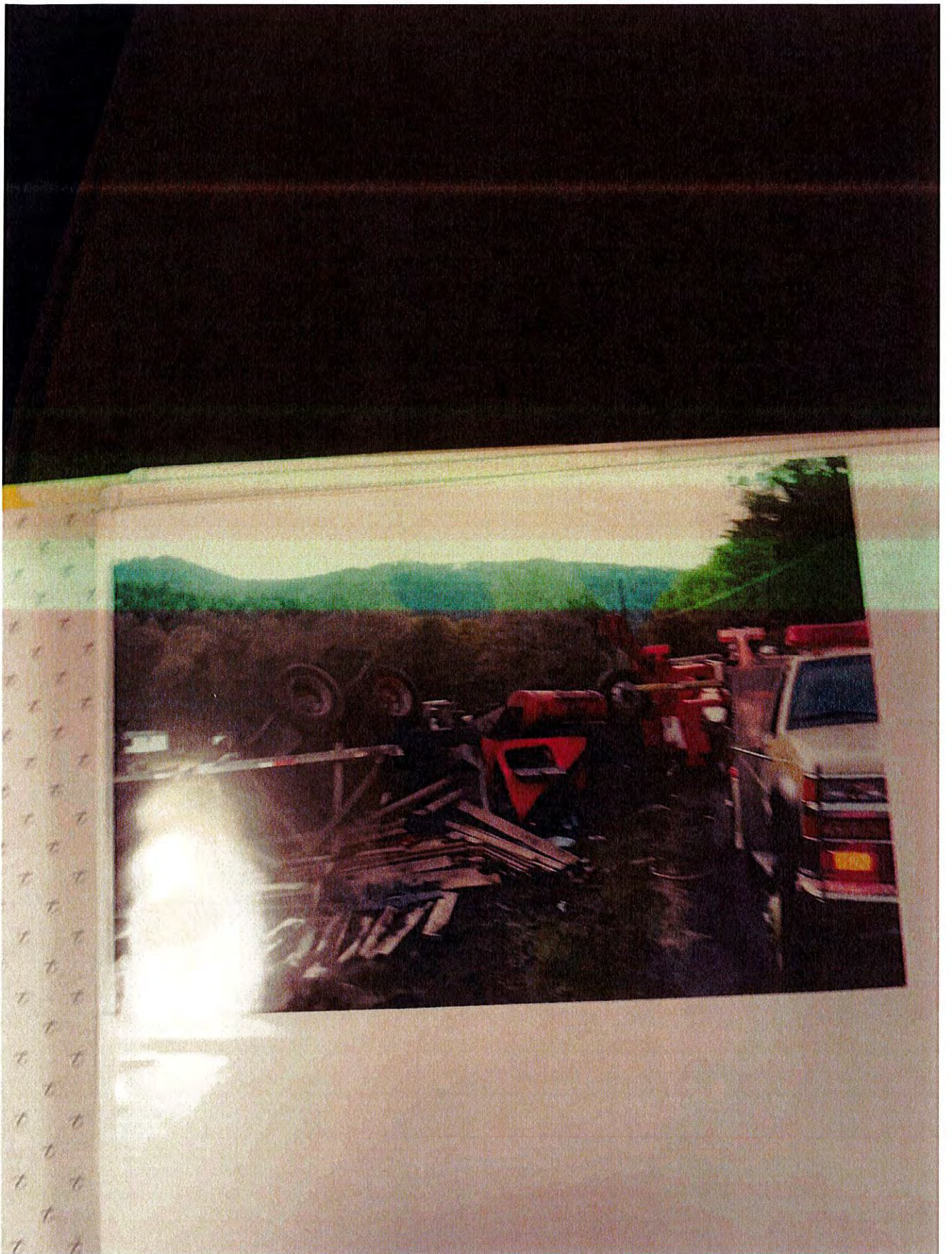
W. Timothy Carrico Weaver, Ph.D.
121 E. Main Street
Rowlesburg, WV 26425

304-454-2095



Rt 50

1-29-03





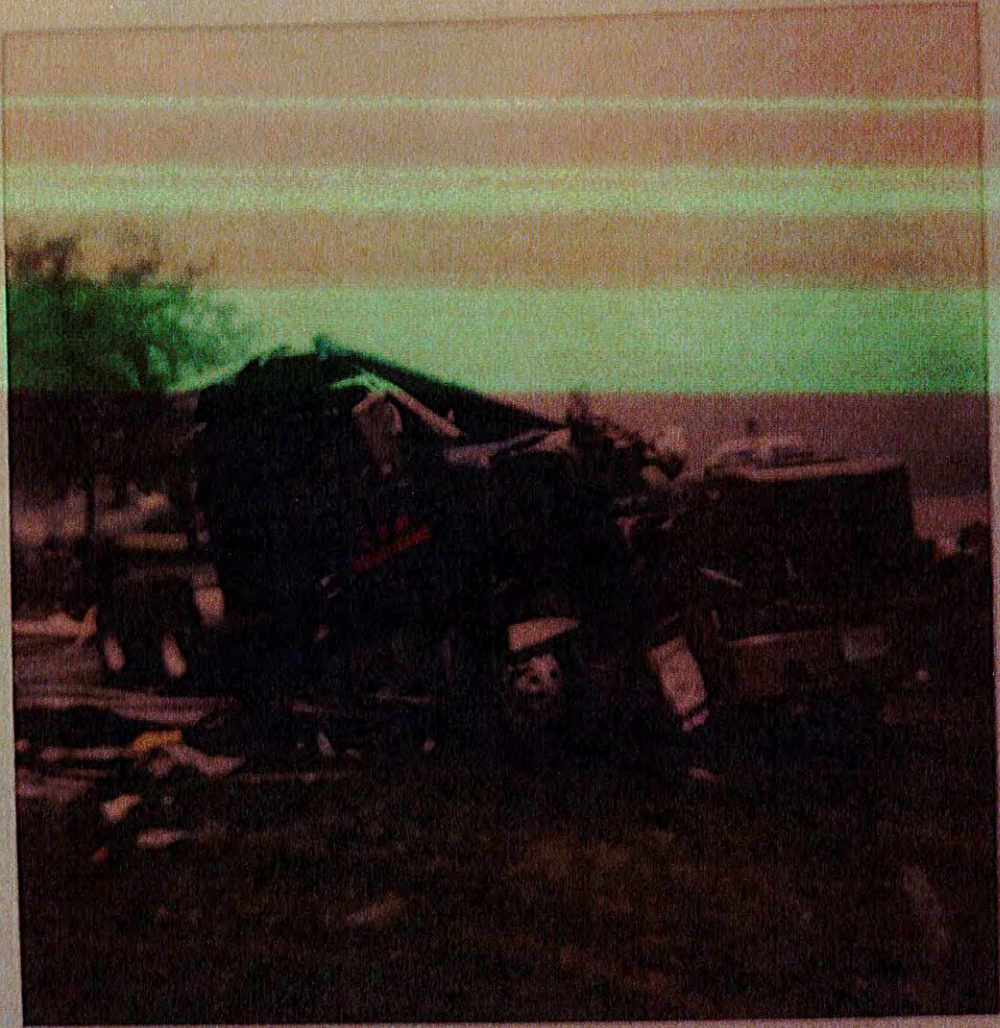
9-7-07

Cheat MT





5-22-08 Rt 50
Chart MT



9-7-07

Cheat MT



6-17-04 Rt 50
Cheat MT



Rt 50

1-29-03



1-26-07

CHEAT MT



9-7-07
CHEAT MT





Rt 50

1-29-03

On Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 03:58:07 PM EST, Bradley Martin <brrmarti@k12.wv.us> wrote:

Dr. Weaver,

Closings and Delays

x

11 Weather Alerts In Effect

x

ADVERTISEMENT

One killed in Preston County accident



(KOSA)

Published: Sep. 19, 2016 at 12:34 PM EDT



One man was killed in an accident along U.S. 50 in Preston County.

Crews responded to a wreck along U.S. 50 at the bottom of Cheat Mountain just before 11:30 Sunday morning.

According to the Preston County Sheriff's Department, Alberto Garcia, 37 of Weslaco, Texas was killed. Deputies said he was driving a tractor trailer flatbed combination and was traveling west on the road when he ran off the south roadway edge and overturned. Garcia was hauling for Marco Transportation LLC.

The investigation into this accident is ongoing.

x

As per our conversation yesterday, I wanted to send you the modified policy that will be on the 12/2/24 agenda for the Board's approval. This policy would ensure Rowlesburg students desiring an intra-county transfer to Kingwood-Area schools to be assured of transportation services to and from Central Preston or Kingwood Elementary. Pending state-level approval, we also plan to hold a parent meeting at Rowlesburg to explain the intra-county process, provide them with the needed paperwork, and have interested parents complete the paperwork who are desiring to attend Kingwood area schools vs. Aurora.

In addition, I received your emails related to your concerns that the Board was not able to hear or read the reports related to a truck accident on Cheat Mountain on November 6, 2024. I am waiting to hear back from counsel on your concerns and will advise asap. I will include your emails with details of the 11/6/24 accident to the WV State Board for their potential review in advance of the matter being brought to them on 12/11/24. Please advise with any additional questions or concerns.

Bradley R. Martin

Superintendent, Preston County Schools

(304) 329-0580 ext. 225

(304) 288-0941

Preston County Board of Education (Monday, November 18, 2024)*Generated by Angellicia Varner on Saturday, November 23, 2024***Members present**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

1. Opening Business

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Action, Minutes, Procedural: B. Minutes- 10/28/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Rowleburg School Held at the Aurora School

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/28/24 School Closure Hearing for Rowleburg School Held at Aurora School.
- Motion by Jeff Zigray, second by Shelley Miller.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (4-0 with Mr. Kisner abstaining)
- Abstain: Cross Kisner

Action, Minutes, Procedural: C. Minutes- 10/29/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary Held at South Preston

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/29/24 School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary School Held at South Preston School.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Michael Hovatter.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

Action, Minutes, Procedural: D. Minutes- 10/29/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary Held at Fellowsville Elementary

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/29/24 School Closure Hearing for Fellowsville Elementary School Held at Fellowsville Elementary School.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

Action, Minutes, Procedural: E. Minutes- 10/30/24 From the School Closure Hearing for Rowlesburg School Held at Rowlesburg School

- Recommend the Board approve the minutes from the 10/30/24 School Closure Hearing for Rowlesburg School Held at Rowlesburg School.
- Motion by Jeff Zigray, second by Michael Hovatter.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

Discussion, Information, Procedural: F. Delegations

Written Submissions Read In By Mr. Tatham:

- Clinton Winters- received by email at 4:40 PM
- Tim Osborne- received by email at 11:19 AM
- John Crippin- received by email at 2:00 PM
- KL Bolyard- received by email at 2:01 PM
- KL Bolyard- received by email at 2:37 PM
- FES PTO- received by email at 2:49 PM
- Katie Jennings (Sand Hill LLC)- received email at 3:02 PM
- Larry Youker- received by email at 4:31 PM
- Charity Sigley- received by email at 3:39 PM

Delegations:

- Craig Schmidl
- Georgia Phillips
- Carol Castle
- Ashley Wilt
- Sophia Wilt
- Caden Wilt
- Buck Jennings
- Roberta Gribble
- Richard Rhodes
- Tabatha Funk Osborne
- Donald "Bub" Funk
- Doug Coombs
- Arthur Boylan
- Becky Bolyard
- Christine Feathers
- Logan Stephens

2. New Business

Action, Discussion, Information: A. Proposed School Closure of Rowlesburg School and Merger with Aurora School.

- The Preston County Board of Education respectively requests approval for the closure of Rowlesburg School and the merger of those students into Aurora School for the 2025-26 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed per Policy 6200. This closure / merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner (3-2)
- No: Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

Action, Discussion, Information: B. Proposed School Closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and Merger with South Preston School.

- The Preston County Board of Education respectively requests approval for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and the merger of those students into South Preston School for the 2025-26 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed per Policy 6200. This closure / merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner (3-2)
- No: Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller

3. Closing Business

Action, Procedural: A. Adjourn @ 8:24 PM

- Recommend the Board adjourn the 11/18/24 meeting.
- Motion by Cross Kisner, second by Jeff Zigray.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carries
- Yes: Jeff Zigray, Lucas Tatham, Cross Kisner, Michael Hovatter, Shelley Miller (5-0)

11-18-24 School Closure meeting transcription for Fellowsville and Rowlesburg Schools

Brad Martin: Miss Varner, you hot. Streaming. Yeah.

Lucas Tatham: Ms. Varner is doing times tonight's right?

Brad Martin: Yeah.

Lucas Tatham: OK, one final call. Anyone else wanting to speak? If so, this is your chance. OK. Are we all ready, Ms. Varner, are we on live stream? OK, Mr. Martin.

Brad Martin: OK.

Lucas Tatham: Hello, everyone, and welcome to the November 18th, 2024, meeting at the Preston County Board of Education. I am the President, and I will call this special meeting to order, and we'll begin by asking for a moment of silence. OK. And now the Vice president will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Cross Kisner: Thank you. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Kisner. OK, this meeting is called the order and at least a quorum of the board and the Superintendent is present is present. We will start. We have to approve our minutes from our hearings at each of the schools. So, the first item of business is to approve the minutes from. October 28, 2024, from the school closure hearing for Rowlesburg School held at Aurora School. This is an action item. OK. And before we go any further for all of the minutes, I would like the record to reflect that I've gotten written notification from all board members that they have read the minutes in advance.

Brad Martin: In addition, Mr. Tatham from there have been a full full transcript of each of the scheduled hearings below the minutes on each section.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. Can I please get a motion to approve the minutes for October 28th for the school closure hearing for Rowlesburg School held at Aurora.

Jeff Zigray: I make the motion

Lucas Tatham: Made by Mr. Zigray, can I get a second?

Shelley Miller: I'll Second the motion

Lucas Tatham: OK. Seconded by Mrs. Miller. Is there any discussion or corrections or changes to the Minutes from members of the board? OK. Not hearing any, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 4 O with one abstention.

Lucas Tatham: Next on the agenda is approving the Minutes for October 29th from the school closure hearing for Fellowsville Elementary held at South Preston. This is an action item.

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner.

Michael Hovatter: Seconded

Lucas Tatham: That's moved by Mr. Kisner second by Mr. Hovatter. OK. Is there any discussion, corrections or changes to the Minutes from members of? The board. Not seeing any, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 5-0.

Lucas Tatham: Take the next item on the agenda is approving the Minutes for October 29th, 2024, from the school closure hearing for Fellowsville Elementary held at Fellowsville Elementary. This is an action item. May I get a motion?

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner

Jeff Zigray: Second

Lucas Tatham: Second by Mr. Zigray. OK. Any discussion questions or changes? Not seeing seeing any I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 5-0.

Lucas Tatham: The next item is approving the minutes for October 30th, 2024, from the school closure hearing for Rowlesburg School held at Rowlesburg. This is an action item. Can I get a motion.

Jeff Zigray: I make the motion.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Zigray, can I get a second

Michael Hovatter: Second

Lucas Tatham: Seconded by Mr. Hovatter Are there any questions, changes or corrections. Not hearing any, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Motion passes 5-0.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Thank you. OK. The next item on our agenda is delegations and citizen participation. I am going to go over our policy regarding delegations and citizen participation. This is a discussion and information item where the community discusses, and the board receives and hears information. The opportunity to question school officials was on October 28th, 29th and 30th as per policy R-1 we saw R. 1-9-11. Upon recognition by the President, a speaker making a presentation should clearly state his or her name and the subject of his or her remarks. If at the conclusion of the speaker's remarks any board member desires further

information, the member may address the speaker. If speakers pose questions, those questions can be answered by the superintendent or board members during the deliberation section or at the presiding officer's choice. If he wants to delegate someone to answer. Members of the public, in order of sign sign in shall be an afforded an opportunity to submit statements and testimony prior to the vote on the proposed school closures and mergers. In order to give every member of the public a fair opportunity to provide statements and testimony, 5 minutes have been allotted for each member of the public. I received several emails today after 8:00 this morning that were not able to get into the official record, so I'm going to read those emails into the official record now. I have not had a chance to read them and I'm assuming other board members that they received them have not.

Lucas Tatham: OK, this is an e-mail from Jasmine Winters received at 4:40 PM today. My husband Clinton Winters is a licensed and insured general contractor that is willing to donate labor on Saturday to help repair the roof. Any questions, please call him at phone number given.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail is from Tim Osborne. It was received at 11:19 today. To members of the Preston County Board of Education, I Tim Osborne, owner of Pro V Tree LLC and Pro V Services LLC, and my sons pledge to donate funding, equipment and manpower toward the roof repairs to help the students of Fellowsville Elementary School. With working with local contractors and businesses, it seems that there will be a more cost-efficient option. We want to help do what we believe is best for the local children and our local community, as we have two businesses in this area and many friends and fellow business owners, in this small town. Thank you, Tim Osborne, owner Pro V Services, LLC.

Lucas Tatham: This is an e-mail from John Crippin received at 2:00 PM today. I John D Crippin of C&S Construction pledge my support and labor to help with the replacement of the metal roof on Fellowsville Elementary School. Others have also pledged their support and labor. This should cut the cost to replace the roof. I have had two kids that have went through Preston County Schools. I may not have any kids but have family in our schools. I have and always will support Fellowsville School. So I ask that you vote to keep Fellowsville School open and give the community a chance to help cut your overall costs for this and future projects. John B Crippin. Address and cell phone number given.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 2:01 PM Today Sirs and Madam, I am against the proposed closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. There are too many unanswered questions concerning this issue. You are removing students from a higher performing school and sending them to a much lower performing school. Allow these students to continue to have academic success by voting no. Information obtained at schooldigger.com. This school is vital to our community. Students love attending this school. It deserves the same grace that has been given to Rowlesburg School and community for the past several years. There are upcoming students waiting for their chance to attend. It is also used for health fairs, by the Fellowsville Athletics incorporated, by after school Christian group and the Sandy Pals 4H Club. Board members and our Board Office employees have repeatedly stated that the levy proposals do not pass in this area. However, citizens in this area of the county pay school levy property taxes that benefit other schools. They continue to pay these levy taxes each time a levy is passed. Even when they believe that promised spending on for Fellowsville Elementary School has not occurred. Have all repairs on record actually been made? If needed repairs are beyond the current ability of maintenance employees has the maintenance supervisor visited the school to assess what is needed and made recommendations to bid that repair out? Is there documentation of these visits? Currently there are recurring issues with the restrooms. Why has this not been put forth as an out of the board bid job? It has been stated that an entirely new roof is needed. Where is the documentation for this? I have heard that the roof contractor used the wrong size screws on this roof and intended to return to correct this. However, the project manager signed off on the project, so the necessary correction never occurred.

To conclude, there are many questions that do not have data supported answers. Why are we sending students to a school with lower test ranking? Where is the Board of Education's documentation that levy funds were properly used on the Fellowsville School building? Please vote no on the closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. Fellowsville Elementary School students perform academically higher than South Preston

School, the community supports and uses the school building, and Fellowsville citizens pay their school levy taxes. Show this community you are willing to support their local school by voting no to this school closure. Thank you. K.L. Bolyard Fellowsville community member. Telephone number provided.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 2:37 today. To whom it may concern, Vote no on the proposed closing of Fellowsville Elementary School. Fellowsville Elementary School students have outscored South Preston School students consistently for the past years. Fellowville School has ranked higher on test scores than other schools within our county. The information can be found at schooldigger.com. Allow these students to continue their education in their home community. Allow them to shine for Preston County Schools. Vote no to closing Fellowsville Elementary School. Thank you, K.L. Bolyard, Fellowsville community member, Preston County Taxpayer telephone number given.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 2:49 today. The Fellowsville Elementary School PTO incorporated would like to extend a pledge of \$5000 to be used by the community organizers of the roofing project at Fellowsville Elementary School if it remains open. We will also work towards collecting additional funds, materials and helping hands to make it happen. This school is a vital part of our community, and we will work hard to make up for the maintenance shortcomings. We are a strong and unified community. We can do this together. Sincerely, Fellowsville Elementary School PTO incorporated.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 3:02 PM. Members of the Preston County BOE, Attached is Sandy Hill's pledge to maintenance and repairs at Fellowsville Elementary. Thank you, Katie Jennings, address and telephone number provided.

Members of the Preston County Board of Education. We, Trampas, Eric and Trapper Jennings, owners of Sand Hill LLC, pledge our support to Fellowsville Elementary School. We believe in this small school and are committed to helping where needed, whether through funding, equipment uses or laborers for the maintenance and repair of projects at this school. We stand with other local businesses and support of Fellowsville Elementary School. Sincerely, Sand Hill LLC letter dated November 18th, 2024.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was at 4:31 today. Just Metal Roofing Contractor Number/License provided address and telephone number provided. To whom it may concern; I Larry Younker, the owner of Just Metal Roofing, is willing to donate my time, men and tools to help replace the Fellowsville School roof, if it would be voted to stay open. Thank you, Larry Younker.

Lucas Tatham: This e-mail was received at 3:39 today. To whom it may concern; I have attached a letter regarding the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School. I hope you have a chance to read it and I appreciate your time. Thank you, Charity Sigley.

To whom it may concern, my name is Charity Sigley. I am an alumna of Fellowsville Elementary School. In the summer of 2019, I applied and was hired as the preschool lead teacher at Fellowsville Elementary. When I began working full time at Fellowsville, I was absolutely blown away by the welcome I received. The phone call confirming I was hired was not only made by the principal, but the rest of the staff who excitedly yelled congratulations and welcomed me. I was overwhelmed by the love and support of just that phone call and I didn't think it could be any better. Upon starting the school year, the entire staff and community rallied to ensure I had an amazing year. The parent volunteers and so many others were willing to help whenever and wherever I needed them. I was most appreciative of the support from families and the school staff when my beloved grandmother passed away only a few weeks after the school year began. I also received support and love from the families and staff, when my precious 4-month-old niece passed away in September 2021. The love in this community is second to none, and my family and I are forever grateful and so blessed to have them in our lives.

As we all know, when COVID hit our state, the schools closed but our teachers did not hesitate to prepare all materials to help our students keep on track. From packets to virtual sessions, our teachers rallied to provide the best education possible for the children entrusted to us by their parents. While it was a very difficult, ever-

changing situation for at least two years, our staff never ceased to amaze me with their dedication to the education of our students. Over the years, I have watched students go from struggle to strength through their efforts with our staff and the heart each staff member has for supporting students in achieving their best results.

Researchers have discovered smaller schools provide a better environment for learning because it allows the staff to teach from a whole child approach. This means the student's academic, social and emotional experiences and aspects are examined and used to design inclusive instructional activities, which help to ensure students are learning to their full potential. At Fellowsville, our small classes allow us to teach this way, and it is so much more than just the academics. We teach the students. We teach the students to have compassion, show their strength in adversity and believe in themselves, even when something seems out of reach. I can tell you so many stories of students who accomplish things they never thought were possible. I myself would never have thought I would make it through college, let alone become a teacher at my alma mater. I remember passing by my elementary teachers and grocery stores where we would stop to talk for a while. Each time I was asked how my schooling was going and encouraged to keep pushing towards my goal. I changed my college major because of the love I had for learning and the support for my former teachers.

As I write this letter, I am reminded of the strength of this beautiful community school. Each student is blessed with bonus aunts, uncles, grandparents, and so many other supporters wanting nothing more than to see them succeed. Our community is the strongest I have ever seen, and it is all due to this exemplary school. I am so proud to say I was a student in this loving school, and I would love to see my future children attend Fellowsville School. My love for learning and desire to become a teacher started in this small school. The school everyone seems to forget about or not consider good enough, is the only school that has ever truly felt like home.

It pains me to see the level of blatant disregard and neglect of such a blessing to the community. Our main issues at the school could have been easily resolved over the past few years but it seems to me no one really wanted to take the time to do so. I have witnessed firsthand how little some people care about the upkeep of the building. How would it feel for you to have someone coming to your home to fix something and all the person wants to discuss is how you should close or abandon your home? I personally would not want the person to complete any tasks for me and I would look for someone who genuinely cared about what I needed, regardless of whether it was an easy task or not. I have spent many nights wondering how long it will be before someone decides to make a change for the betterment of the school.

Closing schools does not help our students, and it most certainly does not help our communities. I am very aware that this decision will not be made lightly by anyone on the Board of Education, and I hope each of you fully considers not only the impact of closure versus non-closure on the county, but also the impact on our students. Our students look to us for so much more than just learning to read and write. They look to us for support, love, guidance, and a safe place to grow and try things they may never imagine possible for them otherwise. I encourage you to please vote to keep our school open. Thank you, Charity Sigley.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Those were all of the emails I received today that were not included in the record beforehand. If one came in, I'm sorry, I mean, I printed it at 4:40, so. OK, so. All right. Next, we have 16 folks that have signed up to speak. We have a microphone up here. I would just say now you're going to have to probably remove the microphone from the holder and hold it up to you so it's close enough for everyone to hear. You have 5 minutes to speak. Mrs. Varner will keep time, and she will give a one-minute warning when you have one minute remaining, and she'll do so loud enough that I can hear. OK. First on the list is Craig Schmidl.

Craig Schmidl: Good evening. My name is Craig Schmidl and I'm the principal of Fellowsville Elementary School and Rowlesburg School. I would like to reiterate what I previously stated at the public hearings I have worked for Preston County Schools for almost 26 years. In those 26 years I've had the honor to work in seven schools in Preston County. I can honestly say the smaller schools such as Fellowsville Elementary and Rowlesburg School have been my favorite. Smaller schools have many positive attributes, including but not

limited to providing more one-on-one student adult interaction, providing a close-knit family environment and atmosphere and serving as a hub for the community. Please allow Fellowsville Elementary School and Rowlesburg School to continue their history of success. Please vote to allow Fellowsville Elementary School and Rowlesburg School to continue to exist into the foreseeable future. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Schmidle. Next on the list is Georgia Phillips. Just pull it hard. You'll be OK.

Georgia Phillips: Yeah. Hi, my name is Georgia Phillips and I'm in the 5th grade at Rowlesburg. And I'm on the honor roll. And I'm here to ask you to vote to keep my school. Don't put money over us kids. If you want to keep my school you find a way people always find money for what they really want. This is how much money you want and this is how well you think about the kids feelings. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Miss Phillips. Next is Carol Castle.

Carol Castle: I emailed everybody a copy of it and if you didn't get it, I have paper.

Brad Martin: Ms. Castle it was put in the public record.

Carol Castle: Ok

Lucas Tatham: Ms. Castle, just pull the mic. You can probably leave them stand. Or you could just angle it, there you go.

Carol Castle: I was going to read it again, but I'm not after everything that's been said, I'm here to speak for Rowlesburg and Fellowsville. I suggested that you all take a look at that Crellin and what they've done with the enrichment and everything. Those small schools that they were a Title 1. They're a Title one school and they have a five-star rating. We. To do that, we have three schools in this county. We can do that with Fellowsville, Rowlesburg and Aurora. And if you look at those schools and look at all the programs with technology, we can add enrichment such as sign language and things like that. And if you let the community, be welcomed and involved, you'll get a lot done. That's what happened in that area. So, I'd suggest everybody take a look at it. You ask why a levy don't pass or at least people argue with me about why it didn't pass. Ask the people. Ask the people that didn't vote for it. They'll tell you why they don't. They're not buying the product you're selling. They're voting with their tax dollars. They're voting with their feet. They're taking their kids to community other schools, Christian schools, home schools and micro schools. Asked why they're doing that. I was a parent that took my child and left the county for two solid years and drove almost an hour and a half. One way twice a day, until I decided I'd just volunteer there, but it was to get the best for my child. Let's give these children the best. Let's give them what we can and should give them. You're selling a product. You're selling education. We can, we can pass a levy. If the people feel like they're getting what they are buying, but they don't feel like they are getting that. We watch repairs not get done, we watch things happen like maintenance where we need a ladder, and it takes three trips to Kingwood for a ladder. That makes no sense whatsoever. We see waste cut the waste. Bring in an independent group to look at the books and I I guarantee you if you get several business people across the county, they can find a lot of waste that can be cut. I also guarantee you that if you talk to the people and make them feel like you care and are willing to fix the schools. They will vote for the children when they reject the levy. They're not rejecting the children; they're rejecting a product that they see as inferior and a price that's too high for what you're asking them to pay. If. If you will look at that and if you talk to people, don't just argue with them. I've had people get in my face and argue with me about why these two small schools should be closed, but if you go ahead and do this, I'll guarantee you in less than five years you'll be closing two more schools Aurora and Terra Alta because that is the track record. In the history that we've had and there's never enough money and I'll guarantee you that kids will keep leaving this county. They'll keep leaving the public school and I'll guarantee you people won't pass levies and. I see public schools going down the tubes if you don't start doing something different. We need change, we need change that's positive. We need change that involves the communities helping and making them feel that they have a vested interest and feel that they can trust what's being done with their tax dollars. We need to invest in our kids and what's good for them, because if not public school be gone. And the saddest part of that, because I feel there's a need for

public school, I feel that there's a need for children and parents to have a choice too, but I also know that if kids keep leaving, public school will be down the tubes and be underserved, and the poorest in our communities. Will be the people that suffer. So, I'm asking you please don't close these two schools. Let's put together a committee and work on getting them funded the way they should, with grants and help. And I have to applaud the Fellowsville community because they've really stepped up with offering to help and that's amazing. And you could have the same thing at all the schools. And when you want the extra products, there's band boosters, there's athletic boosters to pay for, some of the stuff that's come out of the levy, and people see that and they say, why should I pay for, you know, a dozen kids too?

Ange Varner: One minute.

Carol Castle: Play basketball or they want to see their dollars go into classical education. They want to see the kids be able to compete in math, science, english and the enrichment is all extra and it can happen easily. Let's just work together. Please don't close these two schools. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Castle. Next on the list is Ashley Wilt.

Ashley Wilt: Hi, my name is Ashley. I'm here to talk about, I guess, Fellowsville Elementary. Same thing could be said for Rowlesburg. I wasn't born in Fellowsville. I was born in Aurora, and I know I emailed all of you guys. A little bit of that history, but we have a lot of issues in Preston County and in West Virginia. We have over 6000 kids in foster care right now. I have adopted 3 kids in foster care and I'm not going to get into that because two of them are here to speak to you and it's hard to tell what they're gonna say. Ohh but when I initially got the placement of my two older children, we were living in Aurora, but I also had a house in Fellowsville, so I knew that I was going to end up moving to Fellowsville. So, I started my kids in Fellowsville and drove down to Fellowsville because some of you are well aware of the foster care system, but when they're placed, they lose every. Everything you couldn't imagine. A lot of us but the teachers at Fellowsville, they welcomed them with open arms, and they weren't easy as kids, they still aren't. You know, but they would get on the phone they would call me, we would work it out. But you know, and I'm not saying Fellowsville is the only one that has great teachers, because I've seen other great teachers in other schools, I really have because I've had other placements, I've had other placements that are reunified. I've seen the teachers in those schools, when they see those kids. You know, making stride, seeing them cry, you know. They care too, but. Fellowsville is special. OK, my kids probably wouldn't have made it in a bigger school. I probably would have went with my first school or home schooling or something along those lines. To be completely honest with you and if it does close, that's probably where we're going, and I don't say that as a threat. I say that because I need you to understand that some of these kids have more than just educational things that they need to know. I mean, all kids do, but some kids really need. Miss Sanders, you know. And teachers like that, and the Fellowsville School, the community, the PTO, they, you know, they run up to the PTO members and hug them. And all that other stuff. But my mom taught in Maryland for years she retired. She subs there so she just recently started subbing at Crellin. She usually, but anyways, a friend of mine, Shelby Miller, shared a post about Crellin Schools and the principal Dana. Um McMcauley, Thank you. Sorry, but we had the opportunity to go and tour Crellin School me, Roberta the Senator and Ms. Plum, she couldn't make it today, but we learned a lot. I mean, a lot. And it was amazing what they are doing. It's amazing to see the test scores and the enrichment programs they have. They also have the kind of like. Lots a stuff going on. Get into that with the enrichment programs. Their hands on they take the kids outside. They get to see stuff and you know, experience it.

Ange Varner: One Minute

Ashley Wilt: I think going towards something like Crellin has is going to compete with those micro schools is going to compete with some of this other stuff to where you guys can get more kids back into the Preston County School system. When Dana actually talked to us, and she was low on numbers like we were. She actually now has 154 students, which is over what she's supposed to have. But the reason is is because people actually moved to Crellin just so their kids could go to Crellin. She talked to us. We asked her, you

know, you guys voted no. If she would come over to Fellowshipville and help us and she said absolutely. She said she would come and tour, see what we could do over there, which you guys would be more than welcome, and she would welcome you guys with open arms as well to be able to see what we could do. She already told me she'd give me a list of grants, different stuff like that that we would be able to apply for.

Ange Varner: Time

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Wilt. Next on the list is Sophia Wilt.

Someone in crowd: Don't be nervous. You got it. Ahh oh no. Come on you can do it, here you can do it, don't be afraid. I I can do it

Lucas Tatham: Is. Is is that Caiden? Is that Caiden

Ashley Wilt: That's Caiden.

Lucas Tatham: How about we have, how about we have Caiden come up and then if Sophia wants to speak after Caiden, then she can.

Caiden Wilt: Hi, my name is Caiden. And I love my school because you get to learn about stuff that's very nice. You learn multiplication, you learn, you learn time. You learn math, you learn. You learn you learn division. And you learn how to be Saints, how to follow the rules at school and you always listen there. And you always have to be good.

Lucas Tatham: You did a good job Thank you Caiden. Sophia, did you want to go?

Ashley Wilt: Sophia gave a Thumbs down.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Thank you. Next on the list is Buck Jennings.

Buck Jennings: Can you hear me there. Do you want me to hold it?

Lucas Tatham: Why don't you hold it, you are a tall guy

Buck Jennings: OK, what I want to discuss with you tonight is West Virginia has a lot of problems. We're first in a lot of things and most of that's negative, but we have the greatest resources of most any state. And one of our resources is our kids. And you know, we have all these drug problems. We have not wanted to go to work. You know what the the answer to that is it's not rehab, it's education. And we're going to start our education from the very beginning. We have a school now that is showing signs of of really doing good. So why do we want to destroy that and blend it with another instead of going to the other school and making that school really good? You've already got this fixed over here. Now let's go over here and I happen to think that Brad does nothing but loves every kid in this county. I have great faith in Brad. But I can tell you right now, he's looking at the easy solution because of the finances. But if you guys would say, Brad, we're not doing that, figure it out, Brad will figure it out. And he will come up with a solution, but we can keep these schools. And and we can, whenever these schools die, that community dies. The reason Fellowshipville does so good is because you see all these people here, they're backing their kids. That's one of the things that we're missing. This consolidation started in the 50's. I remember when I was in high school and Fellowshipville, we was going to be consolidated and all this, but the community does not move with it. The community dies when it consolidates. I will say that in Charleston, we are working on the school aid formula. We're going to try to revise that to where it's it's more fair to to the counties. I can't promise you anything. And the other thing is we have been going the same thing over and over and over since the 50s. We've been consolidating, but we've been going downhill. We've not started, we've not gained. Do you know we are rated the worst in the nation for our schools and it's not because our teachers are worse. Our teachers are great. It's not because our kids are worse. Our kids are great. It's just that we're not. The leadership is not doing its job the way it should. To lead to figure out a way so kids want to go to school, they don't want to stay home. I know we're running into problems with kids wanting to go to micro schools and that, but alternatives is a good thing. It's called competition. Let's make our public

schools the best. So, these kids want to come back to our public schools where they can really thrive and really grow. And. To do that, you as board members have forgot to start being bold, not just following. OK, that's what we're going to do. That's the only. Option we have. You know, you've gotta say to yourself, you know, we're going to make Preston County the best county for education in all of West Virginia. And we can do it. We have the people here that will do it, but it's up to you guys to make that decision to push it. That's what you were ran for, that's what you were elected to do. That's what you got to do. Sometimes it's not easy. This is the worst job. Nobody ever wants on the Board of Education. There is never a right answer, but I'm telling you you can do it. You can and we want to keep these small schools. Once they're closed, it's done, they're gone. They'll not come back. And. Give it some more time. People are realizing these these smaller schools is the place they want to take their kids to.

Ange Varner: One minute.

Buck Jennings: And that's what we want to do. We want to make it so they want to move around Fellowsville, so they want to move. Rowlesburg is such a beautiful little town. I mean, you know, I just smile every time I go through there because of how they take care of their town. It will grow one day. But if you close that school, young people aren't going to bring their kids there to go to school. You've got to keep those those small schools open so that you keep this parent and grandparent and cousins in the involved in their schooling. That's what makes kids excel and I hope that you'll make the right decision here tonight. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Jennings. OK, Next is Roberta Gribble.

Roberta Gribble: Hello me again. Third times the charm right? So, I just want to talk to you guys about the Crellin trip that we took. I know we've a few people have had on it, but I think that would be a great opportunity for Preston County to get behind so that we can compete with the small schools. I feel like the the enrichment programs that they have brought more families in, which is what we need in our area in our state our whole county and our state. So, I really encourage you guys to to think about that when you vote, our school would be perfect for that. It it it felt like when I went to that area, it was home. It felt like Fellowsville. Dana is wonderful, she's she's a beautiful person. So, and she'll help us do everything that we want to accomplish. You know, I just, I think. If you close our school then like they said, it's not, we're not going to bring it back. We can't and we need to go forward. We do need to go forward, but we need to go smaller. We need to think smaller. We need to dial it back. We need to put our kids first. Pretty much what everybody else. Going to tell you so I'll let that be so please vote no.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Gribble. OK. Next on the list is Rick Rhodes.

Rick Rhodes: As I signed up, I had to sign up as a community member. I've got a long history with Fellowsville. I've got some surrogate grandkids that go there. And I'll have to ask myself, since I'm not allowed to ask a question from you. With all the people wanting to donate to put a roof on the school and with the the test scores and how good the kids are doing, and Rowlesburg too. I've got a friend who substitute teaches the two schools he really likes to sub at are Rowlesburg and Fellowsville were kids give him, give him respect and they want to learn. So, I'm going to ask myself. Why would you want to break up a community like that? And if you close Fellowsville School, you'll be breaking up the community.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Rhodes. Next on the list is Tabitha Funk Osborne.

Tabitha Funk Osbourne: Are you able to hear

Lucas Tatham: Yeah.

Tabitha Funk Osbourne: I am Tabitha Funk Osborne and we find ourselves here once again advocating for a vital cause, voting no to the closure of our beloved Fellowsville Elementary School. This isn't just about education, it's about our community, our children and our shared future. Our community is on a path of growth with an increase in population expected in the coming years. Upwards to like 63 kids. We have a unique opportunity to to nurture this growth and ensure that our school remains the heart of our community. For years,

we have supportive levies demonstrating our commitment to education, yet we've seen minimal funding for necessary repairs to the upkeep of our school which caused us to look other ways I went through this levy paper just say I was disappointed about our concern, we got nothing, nothing, hardly at all. As a lifelong resident, Preston County a parent, and a former educator I am passionate about fighting for our school to have another chance. It deserves better than to be shut down, especially when it's served as a cornerstone for so many children and family. Nationwide, the closure of schools is often portrayed as a cost saving measure that can boost performance and create opportunities for disadvantaged students. However, we must consider the hidden consequences, increased absenteeism, decreased involvement in after-school activities and a decrease in parent parental engagement often accompany these closures. For our communities could mean not just living in school but experiencing business downturns and population decline. Not everyone lives in the main Fellowsville community. Many of our children live in areas that will require them to spend an hour on a bus to reach South Preston. This can lead to experience and stress, lower academic performance and lack of participation and extracurricular activities. Our young children deserve better. They should not be burdened with such strain. Let's stand together, vote no to closing our schools. We have the power to protect the education future for our children. The time is stacked. Now let's ensure our beloved felt elementary school remains a pillar of our community. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Funk. Next is Donald Bub Bub Funk.

Bub Funk: Hello, my name is Donald Bub Funk. We're here again, as usual but that the last meeting I was informed that to replace the Fellowsville roof would cost \$900,000. Which seems an absurd amount. I'm a local contractor and I know how much stuff costs \$900,000 is ridiculous. I talked to a couple of members of the panel that are here tonight about the cost. Why it was so high? They said we had to follow guidelines set by the SBA, so I called a high-ranking official in SBA and he said there's no such guidelines that you had to follow as far as the meeting the asphalt shingles and the flat roof. So, then I called back and asked another question, and they said, Oh well, maybe it was the fire Marshall I had Mr. Jennings call the state fire Marshall. He said there's no such guidelines. So I talked to several of the contractors in the area about getting together to donate time to install the room. The SBA guy said there was no problem with that, but he has seen it several times in the past when the community came together to fix the problem, so take a look at the roof. In my professional opinion, most of the problem is from neglect. There are screws missing, screws not all the way in, pipe missing, out of the pipe, moss growing out of it, crate metal missing, no counter flashing up against the side walls. Somebody sent me a picture of screws that backed out in a certain location and five years later the same screws are still exposed. So, I came up with a materials list. I called, it's actually the guy I used for my roofing and he gave him the dimensions and everything he said I could get all the material for \$75,000 including lumber for pearls and everything like that. So, since there's no need to tear off the asphalt or the main part of the roof with it, just pearling it off, wouldn't mess with the asbestos. Then we can just put on the roof right? We're talking no problem. So, we as a community can cover the cost and installation of a new roof. We as a community can take care of them. We have numerous people pledge time, money and material. If you don't close the school. We're also looking into grants to help ease the cost. Do what's right, not what is easy. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Funk. Next on the list is Doug Coombs.

Doug Coombs: Good evening, everybody. My question still has never been answered, so I want to ask you again. I presented you guys with what the state, the state regulation is on the busing time. Has a schedule been worked out for both schools for the children to be on the bus less than one hour? And if it hasn't been, you have no choice but to vote this down. You can't, you're breaking the law. I don't know if it's done purposely, but like I said, the paperwork is getting ready to be turned in. Asking for waivers cannot be turned in until there is a bus schedule for all students that are going to be affected by these two school closings. I don't know if this has been happening. I know I'm not here now and I'm school bus driver, so as far as I know they're not. They haven't got these new schedules out yet. They haven't had their meetings. So, I've talked to the drivers and they're going to be affected by this. They haven't had their meetings. So, like I said, I want to look you look you all in the face and ask, you all gonna do what's right? You're gonna do what's legal? This effects both schools,

more so, Rowelsburg, than the other. I'm not going to talk about the safety of mountain because we know what that is. And also, you know I'm I have facts, you know that, that's ours. They have dropped the ball. That before this is even done, they should have already had these schedules for busing worked out. They have it done henceforth that puts Mr. Brad and Mr. Plum in a bad position. Because legally they can be, they can be held criminally responsible if they don't have this worked out but by the time school starts. It would be it would be classified as gross negligence, and knowingly and willingly endangering the welfare of the county. We don't need that in this county. And we don't need that against either one of them. I know they're doing their job, but right now it's on their shoulders. It makes it it, it's making them look bad. So, all I can tell you is from a legal standpoint, from a taxpayer standpoint, you have no choice right now, but to leave these schools open, table it, figure out what you want to do, especially with these busing schedules. Because, like I said, the kids cannot be on the bus an hour. They don't. You've heard other people say that's going to be an hour. What about it? They don't need to go on the bus that long. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Now we're going to address, or later

Brad Martin: I'll address it later

Lucas Tatham: OK Thank you, Mr. Coombs. Next on the list is Arthur Boylan.

Arthur Boyle: My name is Arthur Boylan and I have a granddaughter go to school here, Fellowsville and she's getting awesome education because these teachers love them kids. And I've heard y'all say that Fellowsville has some of the high scores of these school. Why ruin that? Maybe Denver School or South Preston, or whatever you call it they don't rate up with Fellowsville. Also, Rowlesburg, they have awesome teachers there. It's the small school thing. Where these kids are getting good education. And I can't believe y'all want to ruin that. You want to send Rowelsburg to Aurora? I don't know if y'all get out of Kingwood very much, but if you've ever been up Cheat Mountain in the wintertime that that's not a very fine place to be. It's always flat, large trucks running off up here. If you decide to do that and one of them kids get hurt, God have mercy on your soul, because it's going to be bad. And also. If you've been around the county every place that has has schools shut down well, if you look at them towns now. They look like a third world country. There's nothing there because nobody cares. The schools hold these communities together and that's, I mean, you want to pile them all up in one school. That's not the answer, man. If you look at like the test score. I don't know what they are here in this high school, but I guarantee it they're not as good as what they were when we had community schools. Throughout the country, county and you know I'm a product of consolidation. I was one of the first years that went to West Preston. Well, Masontown thought they had made well, what they getting? They're coming up here now and it's starting to look like a third world town. So. I just beg y'all to to keep these schools in the communities. I mean that that's I mean, I'm an old *****. But if I have to work till the day I die. I'll donate my time to help work on that school work. I'll donate money to help fix that school. I mean, y'all kind of hinted if it didn't pass the levy. But it's going to be shut down. You can't hold us hostage because we'll find way to make this work.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Boylan. Next is Becky Bolyard

Becky Bolyard: Good Evening board members.

Lucas Taham: Just pull it right out

Becky Bolyard: On voicemail, I'm Becky Boyard, I taught in Preston County, 12 years full time, 14-year substituting. I really enjoy substituting and going throughout the county and experiencing, you know, education done differently and the small schools is where it's at. I was a student at Newberg Elementary and in 3rd grade I found my report card the other day and said I was in danger of failing reading. And 4th Grade I had an awesome teacher, Diane Price, and she turned me on to reading. I read 100 books that year and I had her for 5th grade also. She had a four/ five split. And now, Newburg, like they said, is a ghost town because they close Newburg. I hate to see that happen to Fellowsville and Rowlesburg because they're both excellent schools. I've taught out at Fellwosville for over five years. I had fifth grade. There was scared to death because I

transferred from second at Tunnelton Denver to 5th at Fellowsville, and I was like, Oh my Lord, I've. I've only been second grade for five years. What's going to happen in 5th? And they were the most amazing children, I told them to go after I worked on my workbook page with them, I told them to go read their story and, you know, they went to their seats and opened their books and started reading the stories. I almost fell out of my chair. I was, wow, I like these children. They have farm morals they're raised on. Farm my son is a farmer himself. He's a Preston High senior this year. And he went to the little schools Fellowsville and South of when, when it was middle school. But this little schools are where it's at. I just as an educator. I had the first class I taught that had 23 kids and there was at Tunnelton Denver 3rd grade I was filling in I had five Cody's and every time I say Cody, they were all in trouble. But that was I had an amazing mentor. Teacher Janice Pierce helped me through that six months or so long six months, this half school year or whatever, and she's passed on now, but that was a little school come up in Denver and Fellowsville, Rowelsburg, Rowlesburg is awesome. Nice, beautiful school out there for a year in 2nd grade. And just coming from someone who's out there was out there in the trenches. I'm off on leave right now, but I really wanted to come back to the school year, but my doctor has not approved it yet. So, I'm only 50, so about 15 years to retirement, so I hope to return to the education system, and I hope it would be in the public school. I live right now on the side of a Laural Academy like they're more like home school. The teachers work with the children individually. They only have like 25 kids. And they're doing amazing things there. And January, they're taking over the upstairs and they have high school kids then. And she said they may be interested in me if I get the release from the hospital to get a job there. But I would love to come back to Preston County Schools because I've had 26 years in with you guys. And, but the small schools is what we need to keep open Fellowsville, Rowelsburg and I'm amazed at the the communities wanting to help with the roof at Rowlesburg opps Fellowsville, I haven't been there for a few years but I don't remember it being that bad, but that is just amazing the community step forward like that to donate their time and labor and money to help correct neglect. But anyway.

Ange Varner: One Minute

Becky Bolyard: Umm, Teachers talk too much anyway, so. Have a good evening and vote No on the closure.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Bolyard. Next on the list is Christine Feathers.

Christine Feathers: Good evening. Alright, so I am a parent of a Fellowsville student currently and a graduate of Fellowsville who's a 7th grader at South and I am currently the secretary of the PTO at Fellowsville and involved with the LSI C and when so tonight we have heard all kinds of testimonies from students, from parents from community members, they have been emotional and factual and objective, but I have one more thing to say. Umm ,so as a PTO member, we were an LSI C we were presented with the paperwork and as the proceedings for the closure began, it came to our attention that no info had no information had really been gathered regarding the reason that so many families left our county public schools and so with our limited resources at Fellowsville and our information, we developed our own survey and we made it available. As many families as we could find. Though ultimately, we had a pretty small sample size, we found some interesting information, and though most families like their teachers and a small class size, they were most unhappy with the quality of their education. So therefore, that says that more attention needs to be paid in creating a competitive educational environment, then attention needs to be paid to how to shut down schools. Especially schools that are performing better than any other school. So, I believe that it would be possible for the board to close the schools without obtaining more a more complete picture of the problem at hand. I also believe that a more thorough examination of the county's budget is in order to determine if this is the only option. If the county fails to fully understand the problem the same issue will be seen over and over, but this requires doing the hard work on the community level on the county level and with our lawmakers in Charleston. So now you are faced with making a difficult decision for our county and I ask that you make the right one.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Ms. Feather. Next is Logan Stephens.

Logan Stephens: Please don't close down the school.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Logan. OK, did anyone sign up that I did not call? Did you sign up?

Tim Weaver: I was held up by heavy traffic between Rowlesburg and Kingwood, and I like the privilege of speaking.

Lucas Tatham: Ms. Croyle

Kim Croyle: Has to be here to sign in

Lucas Tatham: Sorry, the rules are we have to sign up beforehand. Did anyone sign up that I did not call? OK. So that completes the citizen input delegations' portion, OK. Next, we will move to new business.

Lucas Tatham: Is it OK if I go on? OK. OK, so this agenda item is the proposed school closure of Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School. This is an action discussion and information item. It is recommended that the Preston County Board of Education respectfully request approval for the closure of Rowlesburg School and the merger of those students into Aurora School for the 2025-2026 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed. Per policy 6200, this closure merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment. OK before we can have discussion amongst the board, I need a motion.

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: OK, moved by Mr. Kisner

Jeff Zigray: Second

Lucas Tatham: And 2nd by Mr. Zigray. OK. I'm going to read the content that was provided on the website that's public content and also all board members have confirmed with me in writing that they've read all materials that are provided. The following information has been compiled for the board's review related to the recommended school closure of Rowlesburg School and merger with Aurora School for the 2025-26 academic year. The files included closure, closure, application rules for book, Rowelsburg SBA reports, Rowelsburg photo and layout, Aurora SBA reports, Aurora School photo and layout, physical appendix items to school (Brad Martin fiscal) fiscal, I always say it wrong, impact statement and supporting documentation verification, public hearing notification- published, published October 4th, public hearing notification-published on October 11th, public hearing notification- published on October 18th, public hearing sign in and delegation list from October 28, 2024, public hearing sign in and delegation list from October 30, 2024, submitted written statements from the October 30, 2024, public hearings at Rowlesburg School, mailed article from Elizabeth Merriam, communications between Tim Weaver and Brad Martin, communications between Tim Weaver and Cross Kisner, comparative enrollment 2023 to 2024 and 2025 to excuse me, 2024 to 2025 and letter from Carol Castle. OK, so at this time I will ask Mr. Martin for any opening statements that you have.

Brad Martin: Just to begin, Mr. Tatham, just in response to some of the delegation groups we heard earlier, one specific question was posed by Mr. Coombs is in regards to the bus. The bus allocated times we have applied through the through the process in which we have to submit the requested materials to the state board-based education pending board approval tonight. We have requested a waiver for the said bus routes, primarily related to younger students. In terms of the requirement of 30 minutes or less on the bus. The state board is aware that we are not necessarily fully in compliance. This time and when they make it, if it is ultimately presented to the state board, the State board can make a determination as to whether or not they are willing to approve the request based based upon. That the one thing that I would say is, is the anticipated saving of I believe, Mrs. Varner, we're about 9 or 10 service based positions. You know that's one thing that you could look at in terms of the additional drivers being added to try to get closer to compliance on some of the specified routes. So, I just wanted to try to provide you, and the answer based on you posed a specific question. The other thing, and I don't want to necessarily go too deep in this, but in terms of the most recent West Virginia General Summative Assessment results, it is true that that Fellowsville has outperformed South Preston in three out of the four areas. However, South Preston in 3rd grade mathematics did did exceed Fellowsville of proficiency by 12% last year. Rowlesburg had the lowest ELA scores in four of the six tested grades. Two of they were in the they were the bottom overall score in mathematics and two overall areas. So,

while they did have some areas where they, they performed very well very well. I just wanted to point out that in in these instance, our smaller schools do not always necessarily outperform the larger schools in which they're potentially slated to attend. So that's that was just in response to any of the the questions were brought forth earlier. So, at this point, I guess I would be speaking specifically to the situation at Rowelsburg, not Fellowsville. I do have a prepared statement over the past few weeks, the board and I have received public input at two hearings held on October 28th and October 30th regarding the proposed closure of Rowelsburg School and merger with Aurora School at this is proposed for the conclusion of the 24 -25 academic year. This process would result in the movement of all kindergarten through 8th grade students from Rowelsburg to Aurora for the 2025 - 26 academic year. If approved by the board tonight and by the State board ultimately.

School closure and merger processes detailed on West Virginia Board of Education Policy 6204 and tonight's meeting has been convened for the board to publicly deliberate and decide on whether to proceed or reject the proposed action. I would certainly say this decision is not an easy one, as we have heard public comments not only tonight but at earlier and previous meetings. We've also received a number of written responses that strongly advocate for keeping Rowelsburg School open and speak to the many positive aspects that are seen at the Rowelsburg school. Despite these compelling arguments, I am here to briefly summarize the reasoning for the recommendation to close Rowelsburg. First, Rowelsburg has seen a substantial decrease in enrollment. In reviewing the long-term statistics, the school has seen a 69.9% decrease in student enrollment over a 10 year span. This has been assessed between between the 2015-16 academic years to 2024-25 academic years. Over this span, there's been a total loss of 79 students during the same spam, Preston County schools has overall seen a 16% decrease in enrollment, totaling a total loss of 736 students. This substantial loss of enrollment, both at both the school and district level, has had a hugely negative impact on district finances as state level funding is primarily driven by student enrollment. In assessing this year's compared this academic year compared to last year, Rowelsburg has lost 12 students, dropping to 33 students from 45 last year. As a whole, the district has lost 177 students from 3935 students last year to 3758 students this. Now to try to talk a little more detail, how that what, what, the ultimate impact that this has when the when assessing this substantial drop in students, this also results in the reduction of funding for both professional and service personnel positions. And while I applaud you know when we were talking about Fellowsville, but earlier the willingness to make improvements to the facility. The primary and the largest general savings is generated through personnel costs. Personnel is our number one expenditure building related costs certainly contribute, but personnel is really where a lot of a lot of our funding is designated. Based on this year's enrollment loss, district will be required to eliminate at least 15 professional positions and 19 service positions. However, at this time, it should be noted that the district is currently in excess for service personnel by 8 positions. This is often required for positions that have to be added, for example, for items such as special needs where we have to have made. I mean there's a variety of factors why we have to add personnel, but I think many of you have visited our schools. I don't feel like we could say that we have an abundance or we're overly staffed as it relates to custodial or cook or bus operators or, you know, I don't feel like we're over. But, you know, we're over. We're over the current state eight form and by 8 positions right now. With that being said, that pushes that to the needed cuts would be at 27 positions. Quite frankly, I I don't know where we find 27 positions in the absence of the action that we've proposed tonight. This would this pushes that need to 27 positions, Preston County, as we have said is no longer has an excess levy in place and that does help to absorb some of those personnel costs. We are no longer, we no longer have federal ESSERF funds, they're no longer available to use to hire personnel above and beyond the state aid formula, therefore the district either make cuts to get within the state aid formula or pay for any positions above and beyond the county formula with county based funds. Without the closure of these two proposed schools, I I find it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to maintain positions within the State aid budget. This action of not closing the schools will also reside in and if you want to know in terms of the the impact on students around the county, the lack of this action will result in a higher percentage of staff at other schools throughout the county being placed on reduction in force status or placed on transfer. What I have consistently seen is through those actions we lose personnel through that process, they seek out employment and other options because, at least in the interim, they don't have a guaranteed job. It is a problem, and it is a concern for sure. This situation would also create substantially higher student teacher ratios and schools throughout the district. With that being said, you

know what that was what that means is, you know, schools around the county going to have larger classes as a result of the lack of. You know, making the the decision to close these schools, you know, again, these schools have much smaller and we've done a lot of things. You know, when you look at Rowlesburg specifically, we have 1 teacher that's teaching 3-4 grades right now, so we've tried to make an efficient use of the staff at Rowlesburg, but that's an untenable situation for for those students at Rowlesburg, you know, with these ratios, it makes it much harder and sometimes impossible for to maintain staffing or level to maintain block scheduling for reading and math instruction at many of our district schools. Board members, I think you can remember. For the meeting at Terra Alta where it was, was indicated that the lack of staffing has made them adjust their schedules accordingly. So, you know that is something to take into consideration. It also should be noted that Preston County's inability to consistently maintain staffing levels within the West Virginia State aid formula and associated financial deficits this created resulting the state takeover of Preston County schools in March of 2009. The state maintained control through 2014 and the direct reasoning for that. As we were persistently operating over the budget that has been allocated for personnel, so I mean board Members I must say we have to look at that and in some of the speeches where men are that have been stated earlier in terms of reasoning and and there was discussion of the levy and I don't discount anything that was brought forth by the presenters but the one thing that's been told to me by many people in the public is Mr. Martin, you have to learn to live within your means. That has been stated many, many, many times people throughout the county and unfortunately, as I look at the situation, it is difficult based on our current fiscal situation to be able to operate schools and and operate buildings in this instance with you know 56 students and 33 students. It is it is very difficult to efficiently run buildings with that number of students. Next, when you assess the Rowlesburg school is considered to be in good and fair condition as assessed by Thrasher. Some of the documents were referenced earlier. That was part of the CEFP process in which we were required to submit a 10-year facilities plan back in 2020. The one thing I would also say board members is that CEFCEFP. And many people referenced tonight while we're back. Again, I would say that being back again should not necessarily come to a surprise to anyone in the fact that the CEFP called for the potential closure of Fellowsville and Rowlesburg after the 5th year, which is where we're sitting right now. So again, I I board members, you have a terribly difficult decision, but this was a decision that was discussed and talked about by and members of these communities served on those committees. So, I do I I did want to make sure. That that's that has been brought forth in terms of facility needed and potential facility improvements at Rowlesburg. The the the assessment by Thrasher Engineering estimate cost to be nearly 922,000. You know, as Mr. Funk alluded to, there can be inflation of those numbers for sure. And I think they are cheaper and more efficiently to make those repairs. But we're dependent upon you know the engineers to provide us with good faith estimates as to you know, the types of costs we might be looking to maintain those buildings long term. In assessing the Aurora School, Aurora School was considered to be in good condition as assessed by Thrasher. Aurora School has the assessed program capacity of 333 students and 327 students as of 2024. Aurora certainly has sufficient capacity to absorb the students from Rowlesburg, which now stands at 34. Aurora's current enrollment is at 144. There's been much discussion in terms of the desire to keep students in small school environments. The Aurora School is a small school environment. It offers many of the same advantages that have been discussed at schools and the benefits that are seen at schools like Fellowsville and like Rowlesburg. To move on in terms of the nuts and bolts in terms of cost, the closure of Rowlesburg school would estimate to save a total of \$648,215.90, which was provided in the assessment document. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that are estimated to total \$597,777.50. This would result in the elimination of five and a half professional positions, 4 1/2 service positions. It should also be noted between fiscal year 18 and fiscal year 24 that the per pupil expenditure, the average per pupil expenditure is at \$11,540.72, while the average for Rowlesburg school over the same span of time was \$17,918.02. That was over a span of a number of years. That is a difference of \$6,377.30 per student. This gap is widening when you look at the fiscal year numbers showing that the county per pupil expenditure or average for this year is third or for last academic year was \$13,451.82 while you look at the average Rowlesburg at \$22,918.28. This is an average difference of \$9,466.46 per student that has a substantial margin in terms of the cost and and guys, I know it's more than than dollars and cents, but that is a substantial difference in regards to the cost that it that it cost the district to educate students in Rowlesburg versus schools throughout the county. Due to the

smaller enrollment, currently Rowelsburg students in grades K through four are provided educational services in the single classroom. I think the educators at the Rowelsburg school do a tremendous job and I have a great deal of respect for the individuals who work in the Rowelsburg school, but it's different. It's very difficult in terms of the resources that they have, the numbers they have in terms of staffing. Students in grades five through 8 are educating the core subjects by two teachers. This is not a desirable configuration and a movement of students to Aurora would place students in traditional non split classrooms when assessing Rowelsburg's proficiency results compared to Aurora, Aurora on average is performed favorably. In English language arts, Rowlesberg had a 31.54% proficiency compared to Aurora's 36%, a difference of 4.46%. In math Rowlesburg had a 32.14 proficiency compared to Aurora's at 33.7, the difference of 1.56%. During the previous proposed school closure process, roles of Rowelsburg School in 2018, a major expressed concern was the proposal called for Rowelsburg students to be spread between multiple district schools, including Kingwood Elementary, Central Preston Middle School, Terra Alta East Preston School and South Preston School, and I do understand that, that that the at that point in time, the school felt like they were being ripped apart and spread throughout the county. And I understand. I certainly understand that mentality. The current proposal does call for Rowelsburg students to be sent to a single location. Aurora, I understand that there have been. There have been expressed concerns with the the the routing that students would have to take to get to Aurora school that's been discussed in previous meetings.

Someone in Crowd: saying something muffled

Lucas Tatham: Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me.

Brad Martin: Now one thing that is it should be mentioned is in terms of proximity. Aurora is not the closest option for Rowelsburg School. There are schools that are closer Terra Alta is 0.7 miles closer to the Rowelsburg school. The Kingwood Area Schools, Kingwood Elementary and Central Preston are two miles closer. However, in review of transcripts from the previous closure process, there were parents that asked why Aurora was not a consideration for placement of Rowlesburg students. Concerns have been expressed by people in the Rowlesburg community about the travel up and down Cheat Mountain. This route has been assessed by members of the Department of Education in terms of the Department of Transportation, no significant concerns have been expressed. However, I am cognizant of the concerns that have been brought forth in previous meetings. Travel would be primarily on Route 50, which is a major highway and priority snow route by the West Virginia Department of Highways. Due to the truck traffic on the road. It's felt that Aurora school is a school that closely compares to Rowlesburg in many aspects. The schools both have relatively small enrollments, yet there are major community hubs. The schools come. I currently share multiple teachers and that was a consideration as well as there are Aurora staff that actively work in the Rowlesburg school so there are relationships there. In addition, there have been cooperative athletic endeavors in which Rowlesburg area athletes have been able to compete with Aurora School. For parents concerned with travel to Aurora and this is something that's been brought up, current board policy does allow Rowlesburg students to apply for an inter county transfer to Kingwood area schools and this is inclusive of transportation services. Now it is understood that this request could be denied if there is not sufficient space at the Kingwood area schools. That I do feel that that is a point worth being made is that parents have that with concerns of the the transportation that we would have a bus going to Kingwood and if there is sufficient space in Kingwood area schools for Rowlesburg students, that is a possibility for those students to apply for enrollment in those buildings. Overall, this proposed closure is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment at Rowlesburg and the district at large and due to the substantial cost savings associated with the closure. I'm aware of the virtues and positives associated with small schools that have been discussed. The district's current circumstances with the large loss of county enrollment, the loss of the levy make continued operation of Rowlesburg not necessarily economically feasible or responsible. Unfortunately, Preston County is not alone. When you look at this, there are currently 20 plus schools that are seeking potential closures with the school of the State School Board some of those are are taking place on the December meeting. There will also be

hearings both in January and February due to a waiver that's been a statewide waiver. For some schools to seek that process later. Board members, I know this is a terribly difficult decision, but I implore you that you should approve and consider the recommended closure for the reasons I've detailed.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Martin. OK, so now board members. If you want to pass your mic down as well. Questions. Comments. Discussion.

Shelley Miller: I guess my only concern is the transportation of the mountain. I have a very big fear of car accidents for particular. Reasons and to think about sending kids up that mountain is. What I'm having a hang up with. I'm I'm just really having a hard time with that.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mrs. Miller.

Brad Martin: Mr. Plum, in regards to some of the considerations, I know there's been concerns brought forth with some of the the safety options with the bus. I mean could be any discussion in terms of some of the safeguards that are available on some of our county buses that we feel would be helpful in this circumstance. Pass it down.

Steve Plum: There's been mention of a four-wheel drive bus so I've checked into that it's there's a upgrade kit cost \$30,000. We would not pass the inspection. Automatic chains are not used in West Virginia. They're used in bordering states, but they're not allowed in West Virginia. I believe the allocation of one of the new eight, one of the 8 new school buses, will be in that area. And it the route has been assessed very recently by the State Department of Transportation. They came up at our request and drove the mountain with me.

Lucas Tatham: OK. Thank you, Mr. Plum.

Cross Kisner: Mr. Plum, if the route would be considered unsafe. Due to weather or any other circumstance, would we have the ability to route the bus around it since there are multiple other routes that you could get from Rowlesburg to Aurora?

Steve Plum: That would be something that we can discuss. We haven't as yet discussed that. I know that it would change my routing that I'd check the weather routes in and would have to start there because I could not do it the other way and come down because when she come part way down the mountain I would not have a signal to call Mr. Martin at 4:15. So I would have to go reverse from my house and go up there 1st and come across the pike to Terra Alta.

Cross Kisner: But will we be permitted to do that if it was necessary or something? If there was a? If there was an 18-wheeler that was wrecked on that hill as an example.

Tim Weaver from the crowd: Like November 18th

Lucas Tatham: Please me, Mr. Feather or Weaver.

Tim Weaver: Doctor Weaver

Lucas Tatham: Doctor Weaver, sorry. Same thing, same point, same point, same point, same point, same point.

Tim Weaver: Doctor Sir.

Steve Plum: Yes, if there's a, you know, if the roadblock we want to take a you know, we definitely can take a detour as far as a permanent solution there that has not been discussed. So.

Cross Kisner: Right, right. Sorry, just for clarification. Yeah, I'm not asking for a permanent solution, just that we would have the ability even if we got the kids there 30-40 minutes later and we have a loss of education time, we can legally take a different route if necessary if something were to occur.

Steve Plum: Yes, we do that quite often.

Cross Kisner: OK. Thank you. Miss. Am I permitted to direct Ms. Croyle ?

Brad Martin: Yes

Cross Kisner: Ms. Croyle, are you familiar with the the concerns that have presented about being out of compliance with the time and the exemption that Mr. Martin has requested? Have you or have you been consulted on that? Are you comfortable that we have done everything in the legal, proper manner to address those concerns?

Kim Croyle: Yes, I have the I have the code right here and what what it says is it sets out times for transportation. For elementary students, and then for those that are seeking a a way where they're closing a school or consolidating a school says that the county board may not create, nor may the state board permit the creation of new bus routes that would exceed by more than 30 minutes the already timeslot 30 minutes for elementary students. It's my understanding that the transportation routes have not been set yet. For those exactly and as Mr. Martin indicated they would be looking at putting in new routes that would not exceed that 60 minute standard. And if there is an ability for a waiver if it's up to that point.

Lucas Taham: At this point, we're compliant with the state statue.

Kim Croyle : Yes, because they've created routes that exceed 60 minutes.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you.

Cross Kisner: For the benefit of the audience, this is Miss Croyle, our Bowles Rice Legal attorney.

Michael Hovatter: So for preparation, excuse me, I made a little bit of an a because there's so many things going through my mind, there's so many different things to consider, I made a statement. First of all, excuse me, first of all, Mr. Martin, I just want to thank you for all the time and all the put into this.

Brad Martin: Thank you.

Michael Hovatter: And I know it's a lot. We had a lot of time in this mess that you've had Yes, so it's a shame that we are put in this position. Unfortunately, with all the circumstances that led to this situation, it began way before this board. However, it is still our decision to make. I disagree with consolidation. Our little rural communities lose so much when they lose their schools, it's been said. I myself was part of that living in Masontown. Just look at independence, Newburg and even Masontown. This is one of the very last things Rowlesburg has left. Lastly, the teachers, they're doing great considering their circumstances. After the hearing we had in Rowlesburg. After the hearing we had in Rowlesburg. The two teachers I'm not going to say their name took their time, gave me a tour of the school, showed me their classroom and explained to me how their daily routine went. These teachers could do amazing things with the proper classroom setting. I applaud you both. I give them all the all the respect I can with what they do every day. Also, I contacted a member of Greer management and asked if there was ever going to be a chance that they may reopen Cheat River Limestone in hopes that this would bring people back to the community. Their answer was extremely unlikely. So, with all that being said, putting these children and all the children's all the future children safety at risk is something I cannot really agree to do. I have personally trucked up and down the mountain and we know exactly how dangerous it is to travel in big vehicles. In consideration of what our Department of Highways has said and our Transportation director has said, I disagree because I've experienced it. As you just said there a little bit ago at 4:00 at the top of the mountain to the bottom of the mountain I've experienced that you've had rain at the bottom and you've been spun out at the top, it's dangerous.

Tim Weaver: Saying something from the crowd

Lucas Tatham: Excuse me, Doctor Weaver. Excuse me.

Michael Hovatter: And that can change in 10 minutes time and it's it's that's on us to make this decision. Safety aside, although that should be the absolute number one reason we'll discuss some finances. And I understand everything that you propose, Mr. Martin. I really do. We are being asked to close the school but one time time you talked about possibly keeping it for future use of this correct? We'd like to, right? So, with that being said.

Brad Martin: Mr. Hovatter, at this time it is the the intention for the Rowlesburg school to be retained for at least one year to assess potential usage. We are pursuing grants for the potential option and alternative program that would be at a considered location.

Michael Hovatter: So, with that being said, on the 2018 assessment of the school, it was stated that and and I quote. The entire roof is at the end of life and its an. \$860,000 repair. So, we're going to fix that roof. With grants or with county funding if in a year we have that other school option.

Brad Martin: If we were to use the the facility long term and it's deemed that the roof would need replacement, I mean Mr Murray would work with with vendors, we we we could potentially seek SBA funding. Although I think that would be difficult to obtain. I would think it would be more off the off that this would be something we'd have to pay through or through county funds.

Michael Hovatter: So in the year, if it could potentially potentially be sitting, are we going to keep it heated and have that expenses?

Brad Martin: Yes, yes.

Michael Hovatter: So, if these children are bussed to Aurora, the added cost of maintenance should be assessed with that and I for one can tell you. The fleets of trucks I have, they're traveling up and down that mountain would result in two to three times more maintenance costs, Mr. Coombs stated that he contacted the bus manufacturer and that they, being expert on buses, stated the exact same thing two to three times more maintenance on the buses. In my opinion, we do not have the accurate account of the savings projection. We don't have all the information with with what I just said, so in closing.

Lucas Tatham: You can't say how you're going to. You cannot say how you're voting.

Michael Hovatter: Alright Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: You can't say how? What's that?

Michael Hovatter: Thanks. Alright so. The closing state. As I have to disagree with your proposal, and I cannot consciously vote to put these children and all the future children safety at stake and send them up the mountain to Aurora. I've said this a couple of times and in 30 years that there's a bus accident and one child is hurt or killed. It's because of this board's decision tonight and I can't live with myself making that decision.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. Mr. Hovatter

Cross Kisner: Mr. Martin, are you able to, when you had to do your analysis of the cost savings, are you do you, do you recall whether or not in that and increased cost to maintenance for the buses that as Mr. Hovatter's brought up, if that was one of the variables that's into account you know?

Brad Martin: I would say I'm making the cost would be very similar to tearing out the buses that go daily to Terra Alta these buses. We run them now with a nine percent grade up and down every day. So, I think our our cost would be similar, but in this instance we would only have one bus versus multiple buses that go up daily to Terra Alta East Preston. So, we would be looking at one, we would be looking at a singular bus going to Aurora.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. OK, just so the public knows this is the first time that the board has had the opportunity to talk together and that's how the open meeting laws work. We've had the opportunity to hear public content, but this is the first time we can hear each other. So with that being said, I would like to ask. Ms. Croyle a question. Is this the only way that this can work is that we say yes or no, or can there be a motion to

amend to where a different receiving school location? It can be changed to that for example Mr. Hovatter had. It sounds to me like he has a major concern with going up and down the mountain which is required to go to Aurora. Can the board amend the superintendent's recommendation and change the school? Where does that set us all the way back to the beginning?

Kim Croyle: It sets you back. Because you have to do the study for that school. Would set you back at the beginning because you have to do the impact for. Both the receiving school, which would be different than what you've done so far and hearings.

Lucas Tatham: So our option is just yes or no on the current proposal, the current motion as it stands. Thank you. OK. More questions,

Brad Martin : Mr. Tatham I would respectfully ask Mrs. Varner. I know I've done some work in preparing some documentation and anything that would not inclusive in my statement, I would just that respectfully ask if she could be allowed any time to speak.

Lucas Tatham: Please introduce yourself also

Ange Varner: I'm Ange Varner the Assistant Superintendent. The few things that I would like to point out and Mr. Martin was talking about are our personnel cuts because I do all of the personnel for the county with the state aid formula. With our amount of students that we lost this year, we are going to take a drastic hit again this year. Last year's personnel season for me was a nightmare. Not only did we lose a lot of kids. Through the state aid formula, but I also had to make cuts due to when we lost all of our ESSERF money, we lost all of our levy money. Last year I did cuts that affected over 94 staff members in our county. That was a lot of people for me to have to go out and talk to and say, hey, I'm cutting your job or I'm putting you on transfer. That took a lot to go out and have to do. This year we're going to impact 27 service personnel like Mr. Martin said and 15 professional personnel and this is solely due to the amount of students that we lost just for kids either going to charter schools, micro schools or just moving out of the county and the majority of them were just kids that either went to home school, Micro schools, charter schools. With that in mind we're going to need to find ways to make this work within the county. So, for every professional position that we're going to have to pick up out of county funds, it's going to equal out to anywhere between 95 to 100 grand per professional person that we're going to have to pick up out of county funds that includes salary and all the benefit packages. For every service personnel that we're going to have to pick up is going to be between 50 and 60,000 for every service personnel person we have to pick up. This year alone, we picked up 8 and we pick up 8 service personnel positions this year out of county funds. Next year, with the amount of cuts that we're looking at, I'm assuming that the county is going to have to pick up about 15 of them. Because I made a cut 27, so that's going to equal about \$900,000 that we're going to have to pick up out of county funds alone to keep people and jobs that we're going to need. And we're going to be looking at around \$500,000 to cover professional positions that I'm going to need to keep. And that's going to have to come out of county funds that usually I would have been able to cover from ESSERF money, which we no longer have or out of levy money, which I no longer have. So that's going to be an additional expense that we're going to have to find out how to help cover. If we would have close these two schools with the cuts that we were making out of these closures that would help me by reducing these positions and I would only be looking at having to actually find 3 1/2 professional cuts and 18 service cuts. One of the things that I would like to bring to your guys's attention when you were asking how would this affect everywhere else in the county when we were at like, Mr. Martin said, the meetings with Terra Alta and Bruceton, the LSIC meetings, all of them were saying, hey, this really messes our master schedules up or hey, this really messed our class sizes up. I can't do my reading blocks; I can't do this. I can't offer these enrichments courses. I can't do all of our special classes. We had to cut these class out of our master schedules because I can't have the teachers. If I have to cut all of these positions, these schools aren't going to be able to offer these classes. It's going to be even harder for all of our other schools to be able to provide to the rest of the 3649 students in our county what they need. Based off this. So. I want you to remember that part of that. The other thing is when it comes time for the personnel section on the county on the state scorecard. I'm going to have a very hard time meeting the demands on that. Let the obligations of how to fill all

of our positions and how to maintain the state aid part on that, and we're going to be going over because that's going to ding us on that. So just keep that in mind. A couple of other things on here. When it comes to the charter schools and things, and we have to pay the charter schools when our kids go there. I know on the last board agenda we had the amounts on there for where we paid out the title funds when we add in the state formula funds, that right now is at \$12,656.82. As our kids move fluently throughout the rest of the year and they transfer from county, the counties in, in and out, we could probably see about close to \$180,000 is what we'll end up paying as a total throughout the year. And as we get our kids moving in and out, Katrina will be able to help speak on that a little bit more as we get billed as the kids come in and out of our county. They have come in and out of the other counties, so that'll be an additional cost that is just starting this year that is new for this year. So that will be something additional that we're going to have to work with. And the other last really big thing I wanted to reach out and let you guys be aware of is summer school. We always take summer school out of ESSERF funds. And ESSERF funds now be gone. We're going to have to pick up the summer school cost out of county funds and last year just the personnel cost of summer school was \$455,187.75. That was just to run summer school. That was our teachers, our site coordinators, our cooks, bus drivers, custodians, nurses and our instructors. That was just the personnel costs that did not include any of our supplies or Preston High School's credit recovery or Preston High School staff for credit recovery. So, all of that cost is also going to have to come out of county money for this year. So, I wanted to give you guys that information also. So, every everything else is in your packet that I gave you, but those were a couple of the really big things that I wanted to point out to you. And I just also wanted to say is you guys, I also hear a lot of people saying remember you were to look at the county as a whole, we do have larger schools with larger class sizes do have higher test scores than smaller schools. And how is it fair always to keep all the smaller sizes when you're there to take care of the entire county with all of our students. So we just have to watch over everybody. Thank You

Lucas Tatham: You, Mr. Varner, just hold on to the MIC for a second. So can you fully explain the ramifications for me that if we vote no for Rowlesburg and we keep Rowlesburg, I'm assuming we cannot make any additional personnel cuts for professional or service that we're down to the bare minimum have been, unfortunately for a while. But we have declining enrollment throughout the rest of the county, so that means there's gonna be personnel cuts at other schools. Where would those cuts be absorbed most likely like what types of classes, what types of grades, etcetera. Just keep it general so that we're not pinpointing it.

Ange Varner: So. So, all in our elementaries our set of class sizes. So, if you're in pre-K

Lucas Tatham: Set by who:

Ange Varner: By the state code, so elementary pre-K can have 20 and that is all. If you're in kindergarten, then you can have 20 and we can pay up to three additional to go to 23. If you are in first, second and third, your max is 25 in 4,5 and 6 it is 25 with we can of pay an overage of three more to go to 28. So, I am very set within grade K-6, pre-K 6. Of how many kids can be in every class, so I cannot add any additional kids except for where I mean the state code is. So, where we're going to get hit is going to be in our middle schools and our high schools. So, we are going to have large classes filling from 7th grade through 12th grade and that's where we're going to that's where we're going to take the cuts. It's going to affect larger class sizes and class electives are going to be cut because I'm going to have to say you're all going to be teaching just core classes. I'm going to cut teachers, and the electives will go away because I'm going to only need them to teach the core classes only and they're going to have larger class sizes.

Lucas Tatham: So, when you say electives, what would that be? And then my second part. Of that question is is can the community fundraise to fund elective teachers?

Ange Varner: If they could come. Up with 100 grand per teacher.

Lucas Tatham: But is that allowed?

Kim Croyle: How do you get your money? It is from your state funds first. How does your county get its funds?

Lucas Tatham: OK, so it is possible I'm getting the idea from our treasurer. OK, OK. I'm sorry.

Ange Varner: So, some of the electives would be like up here at the high school, they have yearbook they have AP courses, they have some of the CTE courses, they have foreign languages, they have weightlifting. Those classes like that that are not required will go. They we have to have basic basic math, science, social studies, and english. We also have to have gym, we have to have health and we have to have one fine arts credit. Those are the courses that we are required to have. After that there's a lot of extras that we offer up here at high school that we do not have to have.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. Is there any more questions for Mrs. Varner?

Ange Varner: Thank you.

Cross Kisner: I guess as the board deliberates. I would remind you that the majority decisions in government are not yes or no. They are this or that. When government thinks that the decisions that they're making are yes or no, you end up with questions like should we lower taxes? Well, obviously everybody wants the answer to that to be yes, but the question was should we lower taxes or should we provide better schools for our entire state or more opportunities for our entire state? And you understand the bigger picture of the question we're in a similar situation here. The answer isn't yes or no to whether or not we're going to close Rowlesburg. The answer is where are we going to spend our money for the next school year and we're going to be responsible for those dollars whether they're going to go into Rowlesburg or whether they're going to go across the county to the to the larger set here a little bit is going to be whether or not those dollars go to Fellowshipville, or if they go across the budget for the entire larger set. The decisions we're making here are not easy for anybody who thinks that the easy answer was this proposal. I don't know how we can get there. Nobody wants to close a school but the five of us that are up here. As I speak to each of you as much as the people out here. We ran for this position and we're accountable for our decision. We're accountable for how that dollar is going to be spent next year. We're accountable to make sure that we spend that dollar the best that we can for the entire county as a whole for our students, entirely as a whole. I'm not going to give you the answer to that, but I'm saying that's what we're responsible to do. It's not yes or no to Rowlesburg yes or no to Fellowshipville, though it's how is that dollar going to be spent and how are we going to do the job that we're doing the best that we can.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Kisner. Mr. Zigray, anything you want to say?

Jeff Zigray: We got to make a lot of cuts next year and as Ms. Varner said, our high school is going to get hit and we constantly have larger and larger classes. I can remember one year I had 35 to 40 kids in the class because there was no one else to teach that class and we're going to lose electives. And our smaller elementaries are great, I mean I I agree 100% less problems discipline problems, easier to deal with, talk to kids. But our other elementaries have 25 kids in a class and that's not fair to them either. And you know, I don't know what the answer is, but one the first line here says we have to make 15 professional cuts and 27 service cuts and a couple years ago they wanted to know why the high school is so filthy. Well, it's because we cut five janitors up here and over the years. You know we cut a janitor over at the board office and cut a janitor down at the elementary, in the middle school and you don't get as much cleaning done. That's all

Lucas Tatham: OK. Is there any more discussion amongst the board? OK, just to explain housekeeping here before I call the vote, I'm going to let you know how we do that once I call the vote, Mr. Martin will click a few buttons and it will all pop up on our screen and we can vote Yes/ No/ or abstain. For board members we have to have at least three votes, ok, so that we have a quorum voting. With that, that'd be the first thing second. That votes tallies will roll up here. In addition to that, we're going to do a roll call vote. Where the board? Right. OK. Tell me if I'm wrong. We're going to do a roll call. Vote verbally. That a board member matches their electronic vote. That roll call will start with myself. It'll go to Mr. Kisner as vice president. It'll go to Mr. Zigray. It'll go to Mr. Hovatter. Ms. Miller. OK. For the verbal and the verbal roll call. Will match your electronic vote OK. So, one last call is any more discussion. Everything good Ms. Croyle, OK, I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open.

Lucas Tatham: Results in

Brad Martin: results are in.

Lucas Tatham: OK, I said yes. Please use your microphone.

Cross Kisner: I Voted yes.

Jeff Zigray: I voted yes.

Michael Hovatter: I voted no.

Shelley Miller: No.

Brad Martin: Motion passes 3/2.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, board members. OK. Next on the agenda, we have proposed school closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and merger with South Preston School. OK, this is an action discussion and information item. The Preston County Board of Education respectfully request approval for the closure of Fellowsville Elementary School and the merger of those students into the South Preston School for the 2025-2026 academic year. All hearings have been conducted and procedures have been followed, per policy 6200. This closure merger will provide students with an enhanced learning environment once again before we go to a motion and 2nd so we can have discussion. I want to confirm for the record that I've gotten written confirmation from all board members that they have read all of the documents that are available and those are: the closure application, a Fellowsville book, Fellowsville SBA report, Fellowsville photo and layout, South Preston SBA reports, South Preston photo and layout, fiscal appendix items, impact statements and supporting documentation verification, public hearing notification published on October 4th, public hearing notification published on October 11th, public hearing notification published on October 18th, public hearing sign in and delegation list of South Preston, public hearing sign in and delegation list at Fellowsville, submitted written statements from the October 29th 2024 hearing at Fellowsville School, petition submitted by Roberta Gribble on November 12, 2024, Fellowsville LSIC proposal submitted by Roberta Gribble on November 12 2024, mail article from Elizabeth Merriam, communication between Marianne Plum, Brad Martin and Lucas Tatham, comparative enrollment 2023-24 to 2024-25, on 11/15/24 communication from Whitney Wendy Ridenour, letter from Carol Castle on November 17 2024, and an e-mail from Gribble. OK, so we can have discussion amongst the board. Can I get a motion?

Cross Kisner: So moved.

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner, is there a second?

Jeff Zigray: Seconded.

Lucas Tatham: Second, by Mr. Zigray. OK, Mr. Martin, I will turn it over to you for opening statements.

Brad Martin: Again, Mr. Tatham, I would just indicate we've received a lot of information that the two public hearings that were scheduled on October 29th with at South Preston Fellowsville. We've certainly heard at those meetings and tonight, many people speak to the positive experiences they've had at Fellowsville. And the, you know, the wonder the, you know, the wonderful education that children receive at Fellowsville Elementary School. I would say that tonight's proposal would call for the movement of all pre-K through 4th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston for the 24 or 25-26 academic. This year, the school closure merger process is detailed within West Virginia Board policy 6204, and tonight's meeting has been convened for the board to publicly deliberate and decide on whether to proceed or reject the proposed action. This this decision is not an easy one, as we've heard all types of comments again of the positive aspects of the education received at Fellowsville Elementary. Just to provide statistics quickly. In looking at this and reviewing the long-term statistics Fellowsville has seen a 50.8% decrease in student enrollment over a 10 year span assessed from the 15-16 year to the current 24-25 academic year. This is a total loss of 63 students over that span. It should be noted that during the 21-22 school year, the board did approve the shift to 5th grade students from Fellowsville to South Preston. I wanted to make sure to note that. In addition, there are currently,

and this was a question that came up at the last public hearing in assessing with our attendance director, there are 18 students who filed for Inter County Transfer from Fellowsville to South Preston in grades pre-K Through 4, which is the grades that aren't at this time Fellowsville students that aren't already attending South Preston School, so again I wanted to provide that information to the board. The school has lost that they did pick up the the year that the 5th graders removed. Fellowsville actually picked up students, but then we saw decline over the last two years, bringing the loss of 30 students again. Preston County School has seen significant decreases over that same span of 16% decrease 736 students over that 10 year span, this is substantial loss of student enrollment of both the school and district level again, Preston County schools lost 177 students from last year to this year's. Fellowsville lost 16 students from that same span, moving from from 75 students to 59. I believe that since this report was written, they're they're they're a few lower than that, but they're in that general range. When assessing the substantial drop in students that also sees the results in the reduction of funding for both the professional and service personnel positions, as Mrs. Varner alluded to our current loss of students would require 15 professional cuts, 19 service cuts but within in actuality, 27 service cuts based on the fact we are currently 8 over our allocation, we don't have an excess levy we cannot use us ESSERF funds. And again I find it would be very difficult for the school district to get within state aid formula without consideration of the proposed act. Again, I would say that the the lack of action on this matter will result in higher percentages of staff at local schools that will be impacted through the reduction in force and transfer process, which does lead to loss of of of employees through that process and will result in larger classrooms and larger student teacher ratios and other district schools. It will make it difficult for them to maintain instructional blocks and you know, potential additional classes beyond the the the required coursework could be potentially cut as a result. It is ultimately said, again, is is the fact that Preston County schools was taken over in 2009 primarily due to the fact of persistently operating over the state aid formula. So again board members, I I would urge you for consideration to the proposed measure and in fact I don't want to see a repeat of what occurred 2009. The estimated costs and improvements were referenced at Fellowsville total, nearly \$2,000,000 South Preston was a school that was constructed in 20, I believe 2014. So South Preston is a much newer building it does it has the capacity of 629 students. South Preston currently has 308 students. So again, from a capacity standpoint, the South Preston Building is able to accommodate the potential students heading to Fellowsville that would be potentially heading from Fellowsville. The estimated total savings are \$683,747.29. These savings are primarily derived from personnel reductions that would equal \$623,932.02. This would result in six professional cuts, 4 1/2 service cuts. That would occur with the closure of Fellowsville and again looking at the per pupil expenditure, the average over the fiscal 18 to fiscal 24 for the entire district was \$11,540 over the same span. The cost to educate students in Fellowsville would be \$15,940.90. That is the difference of \$4400.18 per student. This gap is also widening much like we saw with Rowlesburg. The county average this this coming or this past year was \$13,451.82. While it Fellowsville, it is \$18,741.44 an average of difference of \$5289.62. Fellowsville Elementary is approximately 6 miles away from South Preston, so from the transportation consideration it is a much closer trip comparative to the the school closure process that we considered with Rowlesburg and Aurora. I would also say that you know, again middle school students are already going to Fellowsville and grades. 5 through 8 because South Preston is the receiver school of Fellowsville as those students, once they hit that grade level span. As noted earlier, Fellowsville has had a proven academic record over a number of years, not disputing that Fellowsville has been a high performing school for a number of years, as Rowlesburg has been a high performing school at times. As I indicated, however, Fellowsville and at the grades three third and 4th grade has outperformed South Preston and three out of the four areas when you're talking about math and reading South Preston did exceed Fellowsville as it relates to instruction and math instruction at the 3rd grade level. Fellowsville we said the current feeder school, 5 1/2 miles away, receive students in grades five through 8. 18 students did leave as as a result of Inter county transfer from Fellowsville to Southwest, and our policy does allow for those students to receive transportation services. Overall, the proposed closure again is being recommended primarily due to the significant decline of enrollment. At Fellowsville in the district at large, obviously this is again board a very difficult decision, but you know, again, I would implore you to consider and approve the proposed measure to close Fellowsville and send students to South Preston for next academic year.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Discussion questions, comments from board members.

Michael Hovatter: I wrote a speech again.

Lucas Tatham: Use the microphone

Michael Hovatter: Like I I said I wrote a speech again. So. First of all, again, Mr. Martin, I want to thank you for all the time and effort we put into this we do appreciate you. Secondly, I just want to say, wow, what a community support that Fellowsville the school has. It's awesome to see so many people come together with such passion for what they believe in. Just today, just to see all the letters of intent from the community members and the businesses that pay for the needed repairs. I don't feel any of these issues related to this potential closure or the result of this of the admin staff or its community. This is a direct result of previous board decisions. Well, this board needs to fix those mistakes and possibly allow this school to be a model school for the county, they can do it, they just need our support from us. If we continue to follow consolidation recommendations, where do we go once the schools are at capacity. Because that's what we're leaning towards, we're trying to fill the schools, what's our next step? The Fellowsville Little Learners Program has the second highest enrollment in the county. I believe without the constant concern of closure, if more people would enroll their children there and up to 2023 when the 5th grade was removed, the enrollment was increasing and possibly if the 5th graders brought back some of those students have siblings that would increase the enrollment. We as a board are tasked with many responsibilities, one being education, another being finances. The education these children are receiving is great. They are in the top three county wide and proficiency in both ELA and mathematics. They do not have any behavior issues and they don't have problems with absenteeism. The the statistics you just told us Mr. Martin show, using real numbers, that it's a \$5000 per student extra expenditure on current enrollment. That math comes out to less than 1/2 of 1% of our schools budget, based on what Ms. Kerstetter told us in a meeting last week. These children's education is worth that extra half of 1%. Now for the financial aspect. Well, we just say it's five professional personnel and four and a half service personnel with the vote we just had. So, it's in my opinion and that and many others that this school has been intentionally neglected in terms of maintenance after the approval of the 2018 levy, many believe and statistics show very little was spent on this school. Why would it though? Because even in the 2018 assessment of this school it states in writing, and I quote expected to close within the next 10 years due to the declining population. If it is voted to close, I truly believe this county will never get another levy passed. Some areas in this county have never experienced the stress and the anxiety of the school closure. Once you take the school from a community, they never forget it. Mr. Jennings spoke at the hearing Fellowsville Elementary School, and he and I quote him saying never after consolidation has a budget went down. There is money to do the maintenance of this facility and keep it a viable part of Preston County's educational system. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, Mr. Hovatter

Cross Kisner: Mr. Martin or Ms. Kerstetter Barring a massive change by our legislation and the state aid formula, is there any situation, either one of you will ever see that Fellowsville is not on the brink of this situation.

Lucas Tatham: Perhaps Ms. Kerstetter we haven't heard from her yet this evening.

Brad Martin: Sure

Katrina Kerstetter: Because of the

Lucas Tatham: Please introduce yourself and state your title.

Katrina Kerstetter: I'm Katrina Kerstetter, I'm the treasurer for the county. Because the way the state formula works, it looks at all the students, as one big group, it doesn't look at individual schools and as long as that's the case it makes it very hard when we have small schools. That, I mean, that's just a simple fact. So short of changes that may or may not happen. That's just the way we are right now.

Brad Martin: Mr. Kisner, just just to add on, I mean I look at, for example, Randolph County is a very similar county to Preston in terms of enrollment geographically, a lot, lot of similarities they are looking at closure of two very small schools for similar reason or reasoning. That was Mrs. Kerstetter alluded to are currently Pickens and Harman are both being considered foreclosure? They are, you know, both being closed because of very small numbers. And again, as Mrs. Kerstetter alluded to, with this collective pot of money that's that's being that has to be devoted to the education of all the students in the county rather than a line-item allocation per school. I do anticipate that this will be a continued issue if the board chooses not not to approve the the measure to to close Fellowsville, I think the board does need to take up consideration to make an amendment to the CEF. However, because you know again this is a planned measure within this time span over the next five years that this building is potentially a a foreclosure. So to answer your question in a long way. Is yes, I don't anticipate that this is going to change over the next few years unless there's substantial changes at the legislative level.

Cross Kisner: I'm like Mr. Hovatter, I had paragraphs and pages too and I feel them all way because I don't know how to do any justice in this decision. I would say most likely this is going to be the single hardest decision I've ever participated in my life. And the only way I can look each of you in the eye is to tell you that I have spent so much time and deliberation and consideration. And trying to figure out because there's an answer that your heart that my heart wants to go with and there's an answer that the the facts in front of me. I understand you all feel like you have been drugged for decades through this. I've only been in this for two years and that's my excuse, I yes, signed up for this. So, I'm responsible for the decision I have to make tonight. And I also have to be able to look into the eyes of Bruceton and West and Kingwood with 28 and 30 and whatever it is in their, in their classrooms and I have to be accountable for that as I'm making this decision and. I'm I I. I've never been a part of something is going to affect as much as this is. I'm I'm outside of deliberations here a little bit, but thank you for caring. If every parent in this county cared and tried to participate and put in an effort as much as you all have in the past month. We'd be an entirely different county. In a different state.

Jeff Zigray: About eight years, about eight years ago, when I first got on the board I was shocked that we had to vote on sending a kid from Bruceton to Morgantown. We had to vote on that and every year we sent four or five of our kids in that direction. Couldn't believe that the state would allow to take a student from one county and send it to another county. But just like now we have all these charter schools and we're losing all these kids to these charter schools, and we have to pay that money, and we really don't have a choice once again. So, we're losing numbers, and we've got to make some rough decisions. I wish all our schools were small, but we don't have the money for that, and I know it's down to the money thing again with something you said, but, I see more people when I sub down in Morgantown from Preston County that used to work here at every school down in Morgantown because once we cut it from here, they have to go get a job somewhere else and use the closest place in Morgantown. And once again we're going to be cutting a number of professionals and service personnel. And I don't know where our administrators are going to do it. You're going to end up with larger and larger classes to the point that this high school is going to burst because of the amount of kids in one class.

Lucas Tatham: Mrs. Miller, you can have any questions.

Lucas Tatham: I think as everyone else has said to me, it's a difficult decision. I mean, I think we would like all schools to be small and successful like Fellowsville. So, I guess I'll just ask Mrs. Varner and Mr. Martin. Mr. Jennings said that you know, we could just tell you all to figure it. Out, so if we vote No for this, tell me again I mean, because it seems like to me I'm speaking to you, Mrs. Varner as you handle this area. Fellowsville is a well performing school. So if we make a decision to keep that small school, how does this impact the rest of the students? Like, Just, I mean it's basically it's, I'm assuming it's the same thing, but if we decide to keep this school in vote No, how does that tell me again how that impacts other students, so I can weigh it in my head.

Ange Varner: Well, again, if you keep this school open, it's going to have the same impact as I said for Fellowsville we're keeping it open. We're going to have class sizes within all of our middle schools and high schools. We're going to lose classes. I'm going to lose electives across the county. Your other schools have

Terra Alta, Aurora, West, South, Bruceton, all of your other eight schools Central, they're all going to have an impact by keeping this one open. The one other thing that I did not bring up the last time I was up here in the packet I gave you on the very last page that had the graph on there about the overall funds. That one right there, Mrs. Miller. It looks like right now we're great, but when you look at it and you compare where we had the ESSERF and the levy.

Lucas Tatham: Can you say what ESSERF is exactly?

Ange Varner: Answer is the COVID relief funds that we were given by the federal government. When we had both of those combined, we were in great shape. And right now, we're still OK because we still have that extra money from the ESSERF, it just ran out like November. We had to have everything pushed out. So we still have a little bit of it for the beginning of this year to get everything closed out. So, for this year, we couldn't use it for personnel because we can't be paying personnel out of it for this year. But there were a few expenses like our programming, Seesaw, Schoology. I Ready our big programs that we have to have in place are purchased through that this year, but for next year, that's another item that we're going to have to pick up and that's a major expense. Another one of those major costs and we have to be able to have that for all of our students within the county and our federal programs title funds, things like that that be here. You guys mentioned and being able to want to use, not all of our schools are title schools. You have to be able to meet the guidelines in order to meet title schools and not all of our schools are title schools, so they don't all receive title funds, so we can't use those title funds to help offset the cost. For all of those programs, so Bruceton, which is one of our bigger schools, is not a title school. Aurora doesn't receive title funds, the high school doesn't. When we can't use that title money to help support all of our other schools, those schools fall back on to us as the county also. So, there's a lot of funding and things that we have to pick up on our end out of county to support those kids that our not titles, that our other title schools have the extra funds to help support. So, I just wanted to set that up there. Thank you.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you, OK. Any other discussion or question from board members? OK. Not seeing any. So, before I call the vote saying housekeeping, we will. When the vote is called, it will be electronic voting where every member votes yes, no or absent or abstain, I'm sorry. At least three board members are required to vote for a quorum. Once the votes are entered and Mr. Martin tells me the votes are entered, we will do a roll call vote in the same way with myself first then Mr. Kisner, Mr. Zigray, Mr. Hovatter, Ms. Miller. OK, one last call. Any other questions?

Lucas Tatham: I I call the vote.

Brad Martin: Voting is open. Mr. Tatham all votes are inputted

Lucas Tatham: Ok I voted yes.

Cross Kisner: I voted yes

Jeff Zigray: I voted yes.

Michael Hovatter: I voted no.

Shelley Miller:

We can't hear you, Mrs. Miller

Shelley Miller: I voted no.

Lucas Tatham: Thank you. The motion passes. Next on the agenda is adjournment. I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Cross Kisner: So moved

Lucas Tatham: Moved by Mr. Kisner

Jeff Zigray: Second

Lucas Tatham: Second by Mr. Zigray Is there any discussion.

Brad Martin: Voting is open.

Someone from crowd: Never get no more. Nope your done \$10,000.

Brad Martin: Motion passes 5 -0. Time is 8:24.

Lucas Tatham: Board meeting is adjourned