

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF FAYETTE, TO-WIT:

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Public Hearing**

Meadow Bridge Elementary School Multipurpose Room  
Meadow Bridge, West Virginia 25976

Tuesday, May 2, 2017  
4:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the County of Fayette, West Virginia, met in special session at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at Meadow Bridge Elementary School Multipurpose Room, Meadow Bridge, West Virginia, to conduct a public hearing for proposed closure of Meadow Bridge High School at the end of the 2019 school year, beginning with the 2020 school year, students who are currently in grades 9-12 at Meadow Bridge High School will attend Midland Trail High School or Greenbrier West High School in Greenbrier County. Meadow Bridge Elementary School will be maintained and reconfigured to a PK-8 and consolidated by combining all students from Meadow Bridge Elementary grades PK-6 and the influx of students in grades 7-8 from Meadow Bridge High School resulting from the Meadow Bridge High School closure at the end of the 2019 school year. The existing 1977 and 1987 addition to the Meadow Bridge High facility will be utilized by the middle level students, beginning with the 2020 school year, while awaiting the construction of a new PK-8 school. In a second phase, a new PK-8 school will be constructed to house all students from the reconfigured and consolidated Meadow Bridge PK-8 School.

The hearing was called to order by Mr. Bush at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Gray.

The following were in attendance:

Terry George, Superintendent, Fayette County Schools  
Steve Bush, President, Fayette County Board of Education  
Pat Gray, Vice-President, Fayette County Board of Education  
Steve Slockett, Member, Fayette County Board of Education  
Patsy Holliday, Member, Fayette County Board of Education  
Darrin McGuffin, Member, Fayette County Board of Education  
Gary Hough, Associate Superintendent  
David Keffer, Director of Operations  
Dawn Dooley, Director of Elementary School  
Joe Dooley, Director of Child Nutrition  
Paula Fridley, Treasurer  
Robert Hollandsworth, Director of Technology  
Anna Kincaid-Cline, Director of Secondary Schools  
Rebecca Tinder, Attorney  
Beverly Campbell, Executive Secretary

Mr. Bush, President, Fayette County Board of Education called the public hearing to order and read WV Code 18-5-13A giving the instructions to the speakers who had signed up by 4:30 p.m. (See Attachment A)

Rebecca Tinder, Attorney-at-Law, served as moderator and Evalyn Garrett Bibbee, Court Reporter of Garrett Reporting Service was the official recorder for the public hearing. Beverly Campbell, Executive Secretary, recorded those in attendance and brief minutes of the public hearing. The hearing was also recorded and videotaped.

**SCHOOL CLOSURE HEARING SCRIPT**

I call this public hearing to order. My name is Steve Bush. I declare that at least a quorum of the Board and the Superintendent are present. It is now 4:30 p.m. This public hearing has been convened in accordance with the terms of West Virginia Code 18-5-13a, in connection with the proposed closure/consolidation of Meadow Bridge Elementary School. This 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 the order of sign-in, shall be afforded with an opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to ask questions of school officials. A total of 3 members of the public have indicated their desire to submit statements and testimony or question school officials. Therefore, in order to give every member of the public a fair opportunity to submit statements and testimony and to question school officials, 5 (no less than 3) 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. No member of the public may present more than once. No member of the public may "grant" time to another presenter. Gary Hough has been designated as the time keeper and will advise when 1 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 be given full consideration.

All questions shall be 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 the responses, there will be no direct debate or dialogue between members of the public and school officials.

No decision upon the proposed closure will be made tonight. The proposed closure/consolidation and or merger of Meadow Bridge Elementary School will be the subject of a meeting scheduled for May 16, 2017, at the conclusion of the 6:30 p.m. meeting. The Board will conduct all deliberations in open session and a vote will be taken in open session following the Board's deliberations.

Those who signed to speak addressed Mr. George, and the Fayette County Board of Education as follows:  
**(comments are not all inclusive)**

1. **Shirley McGraw**, said I am from Meadow Bridge. I have been fighting this battle for 46 years. Decide what is best for kids of Meadow Bridge. How come the building cannot be fixed? Get rid of mold. Why isn't cursive writing taught in school anymore? Knowledge of West Virginia. Why isn't it taught? Who is first governor of West Virginia? It is a shame West Virginia History is not taught now. I was in a store and child could not give correct change from a \$20.00 bill.  
 Mr. George responded to Ms. McGraw that students can walk by the building with mold but cannot be inside. Mrs. Anna Kincaid-Cline responded to Ms. McGraw, yes, we are teaching cursive and West Virginia History.
  
2. **Carolyn Arritt**, said I am a former teacher and board member. A board member is supposed to listen to all citizens in Fayette County. You should not be forced to follow SBA requirements. Do not make the closure hearings a mockery. Do not just be here because it is required. Consolidation is not best for our children. More than 500 students = problems. Small is better. Small schools are better. Better on standardized tests. Small schools are less expensive. Work with us, not against us.
  
3. **Susan Caruthers**, said I have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader and a Pre K here. Both kids are served better in this small school. My daughter has excelled better. My son attends here too. I was a 1991 salutatorian of Meadow Bridge High School. Several students in my class have done well in jobs. Friends have all stuck together. Ms. Arritt was our teacher. A lot of things said about Meadow Bridge Elementary School are not necessarily true. Everyone thinks it is all about money. Plan is not fair to everyone. All schools planned for Oak Hill. Large county. Want local teachers.

Mr. Bush read the future board meeting dates and times, purpose, and location as follows:

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

Date	Purpose	Location
05/02/17 at 6:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Meadow Bridge High School
05/04/17 at 4:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Oak Hill High School
05/04/17 at 6:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Fayetteville High School
05/08/17 at 4:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Fayetteville Elementary School
05/08/17 at 6:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Gatewood Elementary School
05/10/17 at 4:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Collins Middle School @ Oak Hill High School
05/10/17 at 6:30 pm	Closure Hearing	Mt. Hope Elementary School
05/15/17 at 6:00 pm	Regular Meeting	Board of Education Office

05/16/17 at 4:30 pm

Closure Hearing

Rosedale Elementary School

05/16/17 at 6:30 pm

Closure Hearing

New River Elementary School

ADJOURNMENT:

At approximately 4:52 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Slockett second by Mr. Gray and carried 5 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

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President

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Secretary/Superintendent