

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

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Hearing

Gatewood Elementary School Cafeteria
Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840

Monday, May 8, 2017
6:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the County of Fayette, West Virginia, met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017 at Gatewood Elementary School Cafeteria, Fayetteville, West Virginia, to conduct a public hearing for proposed closure of Fayetteville and Gatewood Elementary Schools at the close of the 2019 school year. The closure/reconfiguration/consolidation of Fayetteville High School, which will be renovated to create a PK-8 school, maintaining its grade 7-8 students and accommodating the influx of all students due to the closure of Fayetteville Elementary School (PK-6) and Gatewood Elementary School (K-4) with the 9-12 students from Fayetteville High School attending Oak Hill High School, all at the close of the 2019 school year.

The hearing was called to order by Mr. Bush at 6:30 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
Paula Fridley, Treasurer
Robert Hollandsworth, Director of Technology
Anna Kincaid-Cline, Director of Secondary Schools
Judy Lively, Director of Attendance
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 6:30 p.m. (See Attachment A)

Rebecca Tinder, Attorney-at-Law, served as moderator and Midge Billanti and David Bolin, Court Reporters of Billanti & Associates were the official recorders 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.

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

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 6:30 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 Gatewood 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 2 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 of Gatewood 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.

1. **Monica Marcum**, said I am a second grade teacher at Gatewood Elementary School. She said this school is amazing. It is a sweet school. I know we are going to a high school. How will it be Kindergarten friendly instead of being for grades 9-12 students? Mr. George responded and told her it will be significantly enhanced.
2. **Amanda Skaggs**, We need safe buildings. We need to do something. School Building Authority as come up with a plan. Stay the course and approve the plan that our kids deserve.

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

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

Date	Purpose	Location
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 6:39 p.m., it was moved by Mr. McGuffin second by Mr. Gray and carried 5 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

President

Secretary/Superintendent