

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

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Hearing

Collins Middle School @ Oak Hill High School Auditorium
Oak Hill, West Virginia 25901

Wednesday, May 10, 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 Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at Collins Middle School @ Oak Hill High School Auditorium, Oak Hill, West Virginia, to conduct a public hearing for proposed closure of Rosedale and Mount Hope Elementary Schools at the close of the 2019 school year. The reconfiguration of Collins Middle School from grades 5-8 to grades 6-8 at the close of the 2019 school year. The reconfiguration/consolidation of New River Elementary School students to create a 3-5 elementary school which will maintain its grade 3-4 students and will accommodate the influx of students in grades 3-5 as a result of the closure of Mount Hope Elementary School, the influx of students in grades 3-4 as a result of the closure of Rosedale Elementary School, and the influx of grade 5 students from the reconfiguration of Collins Middle School at the close of the 2019 school year. The creation of a new Oak Hill PK-2 to accommodate the influx of all students in grades PK-2 from Rosedale, Mount Hope, and New River Elementary Schools at the close of the 2019 school year, or later if the completion of the new school is delayed, which will be located on the Oak Hill Campus. Some Mount Hope Elementary School students grades PK-5 will attend Bradley Elementary School in Raleigh County.

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

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
Paula Fridley, Treasurer
Robert Hollandsworth, Director of Technology
Anna Kincaid-Cline, Director of Secondary Schools
Dawn Dooley, Director of Elementary Schools
Joe Dooley, Director of Child Nutrition
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 Midge Billanti and David Bolin, Court Reporters of Billanti & Associates were the official recorders for the public hearing. Beverly Campbell, Executive

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 4:30p.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 Collins Middle 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 4 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 Collins Middle 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.

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)

1. **Ann Lathen**, said I am a neighbor of Collins Middle School. Collins Middle School is an unhealthy eyesore in the community (abandoned building). It is time to look at cost of tearing down the building. Please consider the total cost of abandoning that building. Mr. George responded that they are considering alternate uses of the property.
2. **Deborah Bush**, said I am a Collins Middle School teacher. I am grateful to Oak Hill High School to have store rooms, etc. Kids deserve more than modulars. Kids need a strong, permanent structure. I am sick of hearing the plateau gets everything. We have been patient and diligent but enough is enough. The kids are worth having their own building. Think about kids. Not mascot. Think about education. Now it is time to move forward. By golly, think of a plan and stick to it. Thank you.
3. **Shawna Sparks**, said the trailers are not supposed to be permanent. Thank all of you who have tried to move the county forward. Please continue to move forward and support the plan.
4. **Brad Limer**, said it has been a long journey. I had to make a difficult decision to send my kids out of county for their education. Pods are temporary. We are in a time of duress. I understand the process. Thank you for your part so far.

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 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 4:45 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Slockett second by Mr. Gray and carried 5 to 0 to adjourn the meeting.

President

Secretary/Superintendent