

May 28, 2013

BREATHITT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRCT FACILITIES PLAN HEARING REPORT*

A public hearing was held at the Breathitt Co. High School Library on May 27th, at 5:30 PM (local time). The purpose of the public hearing was to propose a new District Facility Plan developed by the Breathitt County Local Planning Committee. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted 16-3 favor of the proposed new plan and the Board voted 4-1 not to approve the new plan.

There was/were (7) individual(s) in attendance. Tim Eaton from KSBA, served as the locally-appointed hearing officer. Present were Superintendent Larry Hammond, committee member/board member Rebecca Holbrook, committee member Stefaine Bowling, committee member Angie Stewart, teacher Stephanie Thomas, parents Willa Barnett and Tim Barnett were present.

COMMENTS

Tim Eaton called the public hearing to order. The hearing officer outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. All considerations will be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. Due to the fact that those in attendance were very familiar with proposed plan, the hearing officer did not read the proposed plan. The Breathitt County new District Facility Plan includes; Construction of a new Area Technology Center, Major renovations at Breathitt Co. High, Sebastian Middle School, Highland Turner Elementary, LBJ Elementary and Marie Roberts Elementary. In manage support areas the plan lists major renovations at central office, construct a central storage facility and a new (3) bay bus garage.

The floor was opened to those who wished to make a statement. There were four individuals that made comments and two submitted written statements. To summarize the comments, all of the individuals in attendance were present to defend the Rousseau Elementary School from becoming a transitional facility that could face being closed. The comments cited options to redistrict to add enrollment at Rousseau, keeping Rousseau open would avoid longer bus rides, to keep open what was described as a successful school academically, that education should be the priority here not money, that more time was needed to develop the plan that was pushed through without enough review, that the board voted it down but it was sent to the commissioner and he approved. It was said that the process should have been done as normal with the plan coming back to the committee for revisions rather than going to Frankfort for approval. It was stated more than once that the children were not being considered. It was also suggested that combining grade levels could be an option. There was a comment stating that the site for a new Area Technology Center included in the plan, had not yet been determined or discussed. Finally, the reconfiguring of grade levels from P-5 to P-6 was mentioned and that there is not space at the middle school at this time to house this many students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the new District Facility Plan developed by the Breathitt County Local Planning Committee and not adopted by the Breathitt Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the Breathitt County School District. A copy of the new plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Eaton- KSBA Field Consultant

cc: Tim Lucas, Manager
Public Hearing Agenda
Planning File

Attachments: Breathitt School District Facility Plan

*This document is presented to KDE as submitted by the district-appointed hearing officer.