

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

*New District Facility Plan:* Laurel County

### **Commissioner's Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Kentucky Board of Education approve the proposed new District Facility Plan (DFP) for the Laurel County School District in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180.

### **Rationale:**

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff certify that the plan presented is in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180 and is in compliance with the appropriate steps as follows: (1) Local Planning Commission (LPC) selection process documented; (2) review of proposed district facility plan for educational programs and curriculum, demographics, facility evaluations, adequacy of financial plan, and adequacy of square footage; (3) public meetings and forums notification through news media; (4) local public hearing conducted with appointed hearing officer; and (5) plan submitted for Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approval.

### **Action Question:**

Should the KBE approve the proposed DFP for the Laurel County School District?

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 157.420 (4), KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 4:180

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** In accordance with 702 KAR 4:180, each district must develop a local District Facility Plan (DFP) at the completion of a four-year cycle or at the completion of an eight-year cycle (maximum), if the district applies for and is granted a waiver.

***Summary:*** The District Facility Plan contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, demographic information, facility conditions, and finances (cost of delivery of services). Local school districts are required to select a LPC to develop a DFP outlining capital construction priorities.

Information reviewed in developing the DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. Kentucky Department of Education staff provides the process to be undertaken by the district in an orientation package. Information for KDE review is then developed by the LPC and its consultants.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends a DFP to the local board. If the local board does not approve the DFP, it goes back to the LPC for further refinement. However, a DFP submitted for approval by the KBE is the final decision of the local board of education and may or may not reflect the determinations of the LPC.

The submitted DFP for Laurel County was recommended by the LPC and approved by the local board of education. Attached with the district's facility plan and hearing report are enrollment projection and non-resident student data for the district.

The Laurel County School District Facility Plan provides for the construction of a 600-student middle school, a 900-student high school, a new day treatment facility and the McDaniel Learning facility. It includes renovations or additions to Camp Ground Elementary, Hunter Hills Elementary, Colony Elementary, Johnson Elementary, Bush Elementary, South Laurel High School, and Cold Hill Elementary. It provides for a major renovation to the Central Bus Garage, and the construction of a new maintenance facility to replace Rough Creek and Sublimity. Included in the discretionary projects are a new functional mental disability room, artificial turf on existing football/soccer fields at North Laurel High School and at South Laurel High School, and additional site lighting at Keavy Elementary.

***Budget Impact:*** There is no budget impact on state funds.

### **Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses**

Public forums and a local public hearing were held in the school district with no significant issues noted. The plan was approved by the local planning committee and school board of the district by majority (unanimous) vote.

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**Commissioner of Education**

### **Date:**

April 2016