

November 4, 2021

**Rockcastle County SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT FACILITIES PLAN HEARING REPORT***

A public hearing was held at the **Rockcastle County Teaching and Learning Center** on November 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm.. The purpose of the public hearing was to propose a new District Facility Plan developed by the **Rockcastle Local Planning Committee**. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted **12-0** in favor of the proposed new plan and the Board 4-1 to approve the new plan.

There were **(20)** individual(s) in attendance. Carrie Ballinger, Superintendent of Rockcastle County Schools, served as the locally-appointed hearing officer. **Trent Clark, Marcus Reppert, Larry Hammond, Misty Lakes, Anna Goff, Tom Atkin, Mike French, Dora Hacker, Josh Bray, Robert Phillips, Ken Hopkins, Rachelle Riddle, Connie Riddle, Jameson Rogers, Jenny Sweet, Jamie Saylor, Jeff Vanhook, Brandon Reynolds,** were present.

COMMENTS

Carrie Ballinger, Rockcastle County Schools Hearing Officer, 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. The hearing officer read the proposed new District Facility Plan which includes; amending the plan to show a 625 student middle school to replace the current Rockcastle County Middle School on a to be determined site. This District Facility Plan amendment changes the Rockcastle County Middle School from a renovation project to a new construction project.

The floor was opened to those who wished to make a statement. **Briefly note the essence of each recorded or read statement.**

Robert Phillips, RCMS Principal - Shared behind the scenes photos of RCMS deterioration including comments regarding foundation cracks and foundational shifting.

Rachelle Riddle, Parent - Shared comments regarding her son who will soon attend RCMS and that there are more problems to fix on the old building in comparison to the benefits of a new building.

Jameson Rogers, Parent - In favor of a new, smaller, energy efficient middle school. Cleaner and safer for children. A keystone building for our community. "If you build it, they will come. The building is 50 years old and it's time for a new building."

Josh Bray, State Representative and Parent - Recalls trash cans collecting rain water from leaking rough. A new building would be energy efficient. A new building would qualify for money from the General Assembly. Fully supportive.

Connie Riddle - Retired Teacher, Former Student - Children and grandchildren have attended school in that building. In favor of a new school because our kids deserve the new environment.

Jeff Vanhook - Economic Development Director - Personal opinion is that the new facility would get us up to date with new standards and meeting building codes. More energy efficient. Unforeseen conditions could even cost more in renovations.

Jeff Vanhook read statement on behalf of Howell Holbrook, County Judge Executive - He would recommend following the recommendations of the LPC and building a new facility.

Larry Hammond, Board Member - Against the new middle school facility. Even though it needs a lot of work, 15 million dollars would go a long way. KDE approved space will be insufficient. Better to have more space that has been renovated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the new District Facility Plan developed by the **Rockcastle County** Local Planning Committee and adopted by the **Rockcastle County** Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the **Rockcastle** School District. A copy of the new plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Ballinger, Hearing Officer Rockcastle County Schools

cc: Name of Consultant, Architect
Public Hearing Agenda
Planning File

Attachments: **Rockcastle County** School District Facility Plan

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