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To: [KDE KBE](#)
Subject: Nelson County DFP Public Hearing letter
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Dear KBE, below is my letter that was partially read at the December 20 public hearing.

Dear Nelson County and Kentucky Board of Education,

Like the majority of the Nelson County community, I am quite concerned about the quick passage of the district facilities plan by the Local Planning Committee. With the exception of two board meetings and two community meetings held this past spring, I have attended every meeting that has been held regarding the community campus. This includes 100% of the LPC meetings. By attending these meetings, I have gained an enormous amount of knowledge on the subject. It is unfortunate that the vast majority of the LPC members and even some board members did not attend all of these meetings. I feel the majority of the LPC members were not adequately knowledgeable of the LPC process or the campus models that were presented before them. They were quickly force fed information that were blatantly biased towards the community campus model with numbers skewed, choice of font colors used to portray points, even down to the location placement of how information was posted on the slides.

There are many other options other than the publicly unwanted community campus model that have not been adequately considered. Even board of education member Diane Breeding's suggestion was only given a mere minute or two of discussion. This process has moved along way too quickly, without adequate research and unbiased information on the benefits, pitfalls, cost savings, transportation issues, community impact, teacher turnover rate, impact over enrollment-especially now that school choice is an option, adequately looking at the 2020 census data, impact over the thousands of new jobs that will soon be coming close to the southern end of the county, lack of gymnasium space, utilization of NCHS auditorium as classroom space (which was NEVER mentioned at the LPC meetings), and on and on. There are so many unanswered questions. Probably the two most important things that were not even touched on at the LPC meetings, is first and foremost, the safety and mental health of our children! It is to be assumed the middle school students will be in their own wing for core classes, but how are the "natural borders" going to be enforced when students are moving back and forth as well as while attending enrichment classes with older students? Teachers cannot be everywhere at all times. The high school and middle school years are stressful enough for our children, now we want to mix the two together? That is an unnecessary burden for our children to carry. Isn't our children's mental health and wellbeing worth taking more time to factually consider all options, not just the one being forced upon you?

The financials are very important, but we have yet to see exactly in full detail how this model is going to save our district money when all things have been considered. It was pitched at the LPC meetings that the community campus model would save the district approximately two million dollars annually. The person who made the motion to accept the community campus model stated that it was the "fiscally responsible" model to accept. However, at the December 3 board meeting, the CFO who had previously stated that the district would be saving approximately two million dollars annually, backtracked and said

that "The goal is not to save money. The goal is to reallocate these funds". You are welcome to review the entire conversation as the video is posted on my personal Facebook page (December 3, NC School Board Meeting Special Session, 45:54 minute mark) as well as on the Save Our Nelson County Schools Facebook page, a page that has over 2,100 members! The LPC made their decision on the pretense that the community campus model would save the district approximately two million dollars annually, clearly it will not!

Adding daycare will not bring our outlying elementary schools enrollment numbers up to standards. Mr. Bradley has even openly stated at meetings that parents do not want to bus their young children to Bardstown, yet that is exactly what is going to happen when our middle schools are no longer in their community and the elementary schools are unable to sustain themselves. If people wanted to send their children to school in Bardstown, they would have bought a house in Bardstown. There is a reason every MLS listing says what school a child living in that household would attend. It is one of the top reasons why a person buys a house where they do. Having a community campus takes that choice away from every single tax payer in Nelson County. Do you realize how important of a decision you are potentially taking away from each and every one of us?

Exactly what are those increases to access and opportunities we constantly hear about? It has been asked repeated but no one will say. This is one time that Mr. Bradley does not have an adequate answer. He certainly seems to have answer for any question of opposition, truthful or not. He is very tactful at deflecting questions and answering with a partial answer. Is a partial answer a truthful answer? We will not know without time to research those answers. Just like the enrollment numbers of each school and budgetary numbers. They seem to change depending on which source you use and which Google slide presentation you view. Is this how you want to proceed with a multimillion-dollar project that will affect generations to come? Personally, I would want to make such a monumental decision with facts, not fluff! Take the time to research the numbers. Research other schools that have a similar population base that are using the community campus model. Wes Bradley will argue that there have been conversations about the community campus model for over seven months, but has there really? The LPC was not formed until early October. Start to finish it was 62 days!

The community has made it quite clear that they are not in favor of the community campus model. There have been hundreds of "Save Our Schools" signs posted throughout the county. I have yet to see a single "Merge Our Schools" sign. At the community meetings this spring, the BOE meetings, as well as the LPC meetings, there was only a handful of people total who spoke in favor of the community campus, yet speaker after speaker in opposition of it. It would be negligent to move forward with this plan with so many unanswered questions and so much public opposition.

I am one of the founding members of the group Nelson County Citizens Advocating for Responsible Education. I am speaking for myself here, but I would like nothing better than have a discussion with you about the many red flags we have discovered about the community campus model and the way the LPC process was conducted.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Debra Bohachevsky

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