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To: [KDE KBE](#)
Subject: Nelson County School District DFP
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Dear Kentucky Board of Education,

I am a resident of Nelson County, Kentucky. Like the vast majority of Nelson County residents, I am not in favor of the community campus model that our Superintendent Wes Bradley has pushed for. Since this proposal was first announced last spring, I have attended all but two of the community conversation meetings, all but two of the Board of Education meetings, and ALL of the LPC meetings. I have a better attendance rate than many of our board members! That said, I have been following this issue very closely and feel that through attending the meetings, along with my personal research, the merger is not a good idea at all for our rural community.

The Nelson County High School campus has flags flying that say “Honor Each Voice” and “Trust the Process”. How can we “Trust the Process” when our district only honors one voice, the voice of Wes Bradley. The entire LPC DFP has been based on lies and deceit, and half-truths. The parents and residents of Nelson County School District have not been listened to.

Twenty-three comments were submitted at the December 20th public hearing. Of those, only one was in favor of the community campus model, and it turns out that we have no evidence that that person even exists. She certainly does not live at the address given. We have spoken to the owner of the property and his daughter lives there. Not the person who sang the praises of Wes Bradley’s community campus model. Unfortunately, not all the letters submitted for the public hearing to Carla McKay, District Secretary, were even read or submitted to the KBE because they would take longer than the allotted 3 minutes read. How do I know this? Because it was overheard in a conversation between Ms. McKay and Superintendent Bradley minutes prior to the meeting.

McKay: There are three that are going to go over time. It’s going to get really messy. I’m afraid. What do we do?

Superintendent Bradley: How about we just take the long ones out?

McKay: Ok. I will do that.

As it turns out, the vast majority of the letters went over the three-minute mark as the readers read in a slow monotone voice. Please tell me how does that “Honor Each Voice” and make me want to “Trust the System”?

At the LPC meetings and board meetings, there were only a handful of comments total that were in favor of the plan, and they were by people that had some type of connection to Wes Bradley. Most of these people have a relative who was promoted to a position that they weren’t qualified or weren’t certified for until after the fact.

The LPC was told that the community campus model would save the district \$2 million dollars a year. Just prior to the motion to vote for it, it was stated that it would be “fiscally

irresponsible NOT to vote for it.” Guess what, not two days later at the Nelson County special session school board meeting, the Nelson County Schools Chief Financial Officer retracted that statement and said “The goal is not to save money. The goal is to reallocate these funds”! I have it recorded, that is an exact quote! We have been told that the expansion will cost approximately \$52 million dollars. We have been publicly saying all along that that is an unrealistic number. Construction costs are at record highs and inflation is also heading in that direction. At the January 25 Nelson County School Board meeting, Wes Bradley tried to cover himself by saying “Inflation is the flavor of the day, it is real, it isn’t just going away”. Basically, his way of covering himself for saying a cost of \$52 million dollars is unrealistic.

The LPC was misled that the community campus would save the district money. They and the board were misled on the cost. Neither has listened to the parents and the community. There are other options that they have refused to listen to. Let’s hope the Kentucky Board of Education does a better job of listening.

I could give example after example of the lies, deceit, and LPC infractions that have taken place in the Nelson County School district but I will leave that up to the nonprofit group Nelson County Citizens Advocating for Responsible Education in their complaint against the Nelson County School Board.

It has been said that decisions like this are up to local control, however, isn’t it also up to the KBE to make sure the DFP was approved correctly and ethically? Less than approximately 1% of the Nelson County is in favor of the community campus model. The handful of people in favor of this model and the LPC members who were in favor of the model, all have some type of personal or professional connection to Superintendent Wes Bradley. Is that what you really want for the future of our children? Please think long and hard before you approve the DFP that was submitted. It was submitted under false pretenses and one man’s vision of making a name for himself in the world of academia. It may look like a good idea in the big cities of New York and Chicago where Wes Bradley gained some of his experience, but it certainly isn’t a good idea or fit for rural Nelson County where our options for alternative education are limited.

I’ll end with one last quote from Superintendent Wes Bradley from the January 25 board meeting. “We know that the long-term viability of any school district is going to be the relationship with that community, the local families and businesses.” If that is the case, the future of Nelson County Schools does not look very promising.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Debra Bohachevsky

