

WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PLAN OF CONSOLIDATION INFORMATION

Introduction:

At the June 15 meeting, the Wise County School Board directed the division superintendent to initiate a preliminary plan of consolidation. There are four primary elements associated with this proposed plan of consolidation. The following narrative provides the necessary information that is needed for the community to make an informed decision and to provide the Board with educated comments and feedback on this proposed plan of consolidation. All of this information can be accessed on the school division's website at www.wise.k12.va.us. Please take a moment to review the following.

1. Public Hearing

The Wise County School Board will conduct a public hearing and a special called meeting on July 6, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the J. J. Kelly Auditorium. The purpose of this hearing is to solicit public comment on this proposed plan of consolidation. Following public comment, the Board will make the final vote on the plan of consolidation.

2. Sites

At the June 15 meeting, the Board of Education selected the following sites for the construction of the new high schools if the plan moves forward as presented. For the Coeburn and Saint Paul communities, the Board chose the area known as the Bond-Child property which is located on US Highway 58 between the town of Coeburn and the City of Norton. The property is located approximately two miles from the town of Coeburn and is situated on the right-hand side of the highway before the old Lonesome Pine Drive-In. For the Powell Valley and Appalachia communities, the Board chose the area immediately behind Powell Valley High School as the site for the new high school. For the Pound and Wise communities, the Board chose the property known as the Apple House 1. This property is located on US Highway 23, approximately 2 miles past the Glamorgan traffic light. This is the large bowl-shaped area on the right-hand side of the road going to Pound from Wise. All of the relevant information on site selection is located on the school division's website.

3. Educational Specifications and Design

Although the new high schools have not been designed at this time, we have developed a set of educational specifications that will be used to help plan the new schools. The new schools will be constructed for approximately 750 students, utilize the same floor plan, will be approximately 130,000 square feet, contain a 14,000 square foot auditorium, a 14,000 square foot gym, and 8,000 square foot cafeteria facility, full fine arts programming facilities, science labs, general classrooms, and other specialty areas. A copy of the entire educational specification plan can be obtained through our school division's website.

4. Cost Estimates

Although we have not received formal bids on the new high schools, we have developed cost estimates for the construction of the new schools. We project the construction of all three schools to be approximately \$100,000,000. This will include new furniture, new technology, land purchase, site development, all technical and professional services, construction costs, and material costs. Each school will cost approximately \$33,333,000. This will also include some of the practice areas but will not include the full array of athletic facilities and stadiums. We will use existing facilities at the old schools at this time. Construction time is estimated to be 18 months after the Board of Supervisors have made the decision to approve the project.