

**Haywood County Schools**  
Study to Consider  
Closing of Central Elementary School

The Board of Education met on Monday, January 11, 2016 and passed a motion to authorize a study to close Central Elementary School as per G.S. 115C-72. The Board of Education directed Board Attorney Pat Smathers, Superintendent Anne Garrett, and Central Office personnel to conduct a study and report the findings. The following is the result of the study based in part upon preliminary information presented to the Finance Committee on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The study followed the guidelines for School Closing Procedures obtained from Public Schools of North Carolina, State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, Financial and Business Services, Division of School Support, and School Planning Section.

**Evaluation of Facility**

- The facility at Central Elementary School was evaluated on January 8, 2016 by the Director of Maintenance. The report used is a facilities study mandated by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and conducted every five years. The facilities study was completed in January 2016. The survey indicates Central Elementary School buildings were constructed in 1954 and 1976. Within a five year period, the facility will need a new roof (\$33,750.00), flooring (\$56,250.00), and hazard abatement (\$20,000.00) for a total of \$110,000.00.
- In addition, dining room furniture will need to be replaced (\$15,600.00) and installation of a washer and dryer (\$5,000.00). Also, a loading dock will have to be built (\$50,000.00). Within the next six to ten years, additional flooring (\$56,250.00), painting (\$8,500.00), air conditioning (\$146,250.00), life safety (\$15,000.00), hazard abatement (\$20,000.00) will need to be included in the budget. Therefore, during the next ten years, \$426,600.00 will be needed for capital outlay.
- Central Elementary School has the oldest original building among our elementary schools.
- The life of a school is dependent upon the type of use and the District's financial ability to maintain the facility; therefore, it is difficult to determine the expected life of this building. With the information currently available, the facilities at Central Elementary School are in reasonable condition compared to other schools in the District. Although there are some areas in need of modernization, our current financial resources will not

allow for significant changes. These facts do not diminish the life expectancy of this facility.

- At present, all specific maintenance and or code issues have been resolved.
- Central Elementary School has adapted to meet the needs of students. A federally funded Pre-Kindergarten exists on this campus. The class is located in the 1976 building. Also, a Day Treatment Program was established which occupies the lower level of the 1954 building.

### Capacity of Facility

- As per the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction formula, Central Elementary’s maximum capacity is 312. At the beginning of the year, 235 (excluding Pre-Kindergarten) attend this school. Pre-Kindergarten students are excluded on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) count as per NCDPI requirements. The school hosts approximately 40 students who are out of district. Sixteen of these students participate in the pre-kindergarten and eight in the Day Treatment Program. As of January 2016, 248 (including Pre-Kindergarten) students are enrolled at Central Elementary. Pre-Kindergarten students are included to demonstrate numbers only.

#### \*Capacity without Central Elementary School

School	School Number	Current	With CES	Total	MAX Capacity	Capacity %
Bethel Elementary	314	498	7	505	672	75.15%
Clyde	328	463	12	475	720	65.97%
Hazelwood	348	462	115	577	720	80.14%
Jonathan Valley	349	346	8	354	552	64.13%
Junaluska	350	336	94	430	552	77.90%
Meadowbrook	364	309	1	310	542	57.20%
North Canton	368	356	7	363	456	79.61%
Riverbend	332	212	4	216	384	56.25%
			248	3230	4598	70.25%

#### \*Capacity with Central Elementary School

School	School Number	Current	MAX Capacity	Capacity %
Bethel Elementary	314	498	672	74.11%
Central Elementary	324	248	312	79.49%
Clyde	328	463	720	64.31%
Hazelwood	348	462	720	64.17%
Jonathan Valley	349	346	552	62.68%
Junaluska	350	336	552	60.87%
Meadowbrook	364	309	542	57.01%
North Canton	368	356	456	78.07%
Riverbend	332	212	384	55.21%
		3230	4910	65.78%

\*Numbers reflect out of school district students returning to their home school. Board Policy 4150, School Assignment, provides guidelines for out of district students.

- The consideration to close the school is not based upon Central Elementary School’s capacity. It is based upon the overall decrease in enrollment in the school and district, the need to reduce the local budget by \$2.4 million dollars, and the proximity of neighboring schools that could accommodate the students and staff.
- All elementary students in Haywood County Schools receive the same curriculum and programs. Class size is similar at each school.
- The capacity of Central Elementary School is 312 as per NCDPI’s five year Facility Needs Survey.

## Membership

The 10 year enrollment history based on 10 day Average Daily Membership is:

### 10 Year Enrollment History – Based on 10 Day ADM

School Year	CES Enrollment
<b>2006-07</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>2007-08</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>2008-09</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>2009-10</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>2010-11</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>2012-13</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>235</b>

**\*Does not include pre-kindergarten students (as per NCDPI guidelines)**

- The enrollment history represents a 10 year enrollment decrease of 16% of the student population from 281 students to 235 students. This represents an average loss of five students per year over the last 10 years.
- The enrollment history represents a decrease of 21% from the highest enrollment of 301 students in 2007-2008 to 235 students in 2015-2016. This represents an average loss of 7 students per year over the last 9 years.
- The greatest enrollment decrease occurred in the last two school years from 275 to 235 students. This represents an average loss of 20 students per year over the last two years.
- Using this historic data, it is reasonable to estimate the school population to decrease 25-100 students during the next five years.

## Haywood County Schools 10-Year Enrollment History

<b>10 Day Average Daily Membership</b>	
2015-2016	7188
2014-2015	7400
2013-2014	7584
2012-2013	7567
2011-2012	7677
2010-2011	7694
2009-2010	7742
2008-2009	7892
2007-2008	8013
2006-2007	7933

### Organization of School System

- The fiscal year 2015-2016 local current expense budget is \$16,620,576.83. The appropriated fund balance makes up \$1,933,961.00 of the local budget. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 expenditures included 63% in salary and benefits, 34% in other costs (insurance, electrical, internet, heating/cooling), and 3% for specialized programs.
- The Fiscal year 2016-2017 budget will be approximately \$14,154,000.00. Therefore, a reduction of \$2,466,576.83 will be required.
- Haywood County Schools fund balance includes:

<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		
FY 2012-13	\$ 5,019,203.00	
		<b>FUND BALANCE USED</b>
FY 2013-14	\$ 4,623,674.00	<b>\$ 395,529.00</b>
FY 2014-15	\$ 3,515,292.00	<b>\$ 1,108,382.00</b>
FY 2015-16	\$ 1,933,961.00	Fund Balance Appropriated
	\$ 1,316,446.00	Unassigned

## Cost of Operation for Central Elementary School

Category	Positions	Savings	
Local Staff/Positions	9	\$345,000.00	9 Positions
Haywood County Schools Operations		\$105,000.00	
Cafeteria Operations		\$30,000.00	
Est. Other Cost (supplies, technology)		\$40,000.00	\$520,000.00

### Transportation

As per Haywood County Schools Director of Transportation, if Central Elementary School is closed and students are assigned to Hazelwood Elementary or Junaluska Elementary, the additional cost would be approximately \$7,000.00 per year. It is approximately 14 miles of additional travel per day. Central Elementary School is 1.9 miles from Hazelwood Elementary and 2.7 miles from Junaluska Elementary School. There should be no great inconvenience or hardship of the students due to the proximity of Hazelwood Elementary School and Junaluska Elementary School.

### Diversity

The minority population in Haywood County Schools is approximately 10%. The possibility of closing Central Elementary school would not significantly impact the diversity across the school district.

### Alternative Uses

- Because of declining enrollment in Haywood County Schools, the facility is not needed as a traditional school. The Board of Education has not made any decisions about the use of the facility.
- A third party has inquired about acquiring Central Elementary School.

### Tentative Decision

The Haywood County Board of Education met in a regular session Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:54 p.m. The Board approved a motion to recommend the Board of Education to authorize a study to close Central Elementary School as per G.S. 115C-72. Prior to this meeting, the Finance Committee for Haywood County Schools approved the authorization to conduct a feasibility study to be conducted at Central Elementary School.

## Informational Meetings

- January 11, 2016 the Board of Education approved a motion to authorize a study to close Central Elementary School. As per G.S. 115C-72, a report will be developed by Board Attorney Pat Smathers, Superintendent Anne Garrett, and Central Office Staff and will be made available January 21, 2016. The report will be available on Haywood County School's website and other media outlets. A public hearing will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Central Elementary School. In the event of inclement weather, the make-up date will be Wednesday, January 27, 2016.
- The superintendent, associate superintendent, human resource director, and a board member met with the staff at Central Elementary School Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. at Central Elementary to inform the staff of Board action.
- The superintendent, associate superintendent, human resource director, finance director, and transportation director met with principals, assistant principals, and central office staff on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Education Center to inform the staff of Board actions regarding overall budget reduction.
- A press conference was conducted by superintendent, associate superintendent, and finance officer on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the Education Center to share Board actions.
- Two board members, superintendent, associate superintendent, school food service director, finance officer, maintenance director, and transportation director met with Haywood County Finance Officer, Chair of County Commissioners and a County Commissioner on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at the Board of Education. The 2.4 million shortfall/reduction was discussed
- The superintendent visited Central Elementary School on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> to support the staff and address staff questions or concerns.

## Closing Decisions

### G.S. 115C-72

- § 115C-72. *Consolidation of Districts and Discontinuance of Schools.*

(a) *Local boards of education shall have the power and authority to close or consolidate schools located in the same district, and with the approval of the State Board of Education, to consolidate school districts or other school areas over which the board has full control, whenever and wherever in its judgment the closing or consolidation will better serve the educational interest of the local school administrative unit or any part of it.*

*In determining whether two or more public schools shall be consolidated, or in determining whether or not a school shall be closed and the pupils transferred therefrom, local boards of education of the several counties shall observe and be bound by the following rules:*

(1) *In any question involving the closing or consolidation of any public school, the local board of education of the school administrative unit in which such school is located shall cause a thorough study of such school to be made, having in mind primarily the welfare of the students to be affected by a proposed closing or*

*consolidation and including in such study, among other factors, geographic conditions, anticipated increase or decrease in school enrollment, the inconvenience or hardship that might result to the pupils to be affected by such closing or consolidation, the cost of providing additional school facilities in the event of such closing or consolidation, and such other factors as the board shall consider germane. Before the entry of any order of closing or consolidation, the local board of education shall provide for a public hearing in regard to such proposed closing or consolidation, at which hearing the public shall be afforded an opportunity to express their views. Upon the basis of the study so made and after such hearing, said board may, in the exercise of its discretion, approve the closing or consolidation proposed.*

(2) *The provisions of this section shall not deprive any local board of education of the authority to assign or enroll any and all pupils in schools in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 115C-366(b) and 115C-367 to 115C-370.*

(b) *This section does not govern merger of a city school administrative unit with another school administrative unit. Such merger is governed by G.S. 115C-67. (1955, c. 1372, art. 8, s. 3; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; 1983, c. 308; c. 752; 2009-570, s. 27.)*

## **Disposition of Surplus Property**

- Other school system needs include operating within the allotments and local budget. Fiscal Year 2016-2017, a cut of 2.4 million has to take place.
- A lease to local government or private enterprise has not been discussed or pursued.
- An exchange with governmental agencies has not been pursued.
- Selling the Central Elementary School property has not been pursued.
- In the event Central Elementary School is closed and the Board of Education determines there is no other use for the property, it may be disposed of as per General Statute 115C-518 and Board Policy 9400 Sale, Disposal, and Lease of Board-Owned Real Estate.

## **Inform NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI)**

The NCDPI will be notified immediately if the decision to close Central Elementary School takes place and procedures as per NCDPI will be followed.