

Superintendent's Statement to the School Board Prior to Public Hearing

5 May 2016

This evening before we begin the Public Hearing, I have two pieces of data we have just received that I will present, but first for the record, I want to provide some points of information:

- Enrollment has declined over the last ten years from 120 to 56. For the school division from 4600 to 4000
- At PVES two classes have 6 children with no class over 12
- Average class size is less than 10
- TES will receive approximately 37 students should PV close. With the current 82 the total will be 119; still below building capacity. Class sizes would be favorable.
- Elon would receive approximately 17 students should PV close. The school can easily accommodate that number
- Capital Improvement needs at PV total \$1,700,000
- New HVAC/ roofing expenditure is proposed to be approximately \$1,400,000
- With proposed closing and consolidation the savings would be approximately \$483,000
- Closure would permit reallocation of shared staff (among some of the changes):
 - + TES would have FT principal
 - + TES FT Health Assistant
 - + Elon FT PE teacher
 - + Elon FT counselor
- Bus rides, on average, would be comparable with current. Moving zone boundaries would add to time
- Prismatic suggested the school division consider redistricting. Basic analysis on the scale needed to add students to PV is neither practical nor beneficial to the county schools as a whole

As to the new data, I would like to report the second and final piece of the requested Weldon Cooper Center study has been received and you have been provided a copy. For the benefit of the record, I would mention a few points from the second part of the study.

- Having declined by over 12 % since 2006, ACPS student population will continue to decline for the remainder of the decade
- This is not an Amherst phenomena in that 91 of Virginia's 133 school divisions has declined in enrollment over the same period.
- Those areas most affected by student population declines are rural and suburban.
- Of the school divisions in the Weldon Cooper study, Amherst has shown the greatest decline. From 2010 to 2014, ACPS has dropped 8.5%; the Lynchburg metro area declined by 2.8%, yet Virginia as a state has declined only .8%

- Through 2015, ACPS had 10% fewer kindergartners than births five years earlier; indicating fewer young families are moving to the county
- The county's overall population has grown slightly since 2000, but the under ten population has declined over the same period. The largest decline in the under ten population was in Census Tract 101, making up most of the PVES and TES attendance zones
- Birth rates declined with the Great Recession in 2008 across the country; steeper in rural/suburban areas. Virginia's (statewide) decreased by 5 % but in Amherst nearly 9%
- Kindergarten classes will likely remain small for the rest of the decade with elementary enrollment declining further

Secondly, since our last meeting, I had directed Mr. Cocke and members of staff to develop some level of mapping for the PVES area. I want to make a couple of points before I ask Mr. Cocke to walk you through the mapping.

- This has been a highly time consuming effort as software does not permit an easy shifting of lines.
- These maps are to be taken as general in nature. These cannot be specific to a particular child/ house as the Board has not made a decision on the status.
- These maps were drawn to show in general terms where additional students could be identified that could be moved to support PVES.
- No analysis was made of school zones outside those mentioned in the Prismatic study or general discussions (PVES, TES, and Elon)

Now, Mr Cocke will address the specific mapping information.