

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF MCDOWELL NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING  
CLOSURE OF  
WELCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
TO BE HELD AT WELCH ELEMENARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: March 25, 2021**

In the event the public hearing is not completed by 11:00 p.m. on March 25, 2021, it will be recessed and will be reconvened on the following day at the same location at 9:00 a.m. In the event a scheduled hearing must be canceled due to inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the Board, March 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. is established as an alternative date.

**TIME OF PUBLIC HEARING:** The public hearing shall begin be at 6:00 p.m. and any reconvened sessions of the public hearing shall begin at 9:00 a.m. The public hearing and any reconvened sessions of the public hearing shall end at the conclusion of business or 11:00 p.m., whichever occurs earlier.

**PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** Welch Elementary School Cafeteria. If when the public hearing is called to order, it is determined that the meeting facility is of insufficient size, the location of the public hearing shall be subject to change. A notice reflecting any change in public hearing location shall be posted at the original meeting location. In the event of a location change, the hearing will be held Mount View High School Auditorium.

**PROPOSED ACTION OF THE BOARD:** The closure of Welch Elementary School and its consolidation with Fall River Elementary School and Kimball Elementary when and if funding is secured and construction is completed. After all members of the public have had an opportunity to submit statements, testimony, and to question school officials, the Board will vote on the proposed action on March 25, 2021 or, if reconvened, on March 26, 2021, or, if rescheduled, March 26, 2021.

**SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIALS:** Written material, may be submitted for consideration by the Board. Written materials must be received in the Office of the Superintendent, McDowell County Schools, 30 Central Avenue, Welch, WV 24801 by 4:00 p.m., by March 19, 2021. Any written materials submitted in a timely manner shall be duplicated and delivered, or otherwise made available, to each member of the Board in advance of the public hearing. Information will be accepted via certified mail, hand delivered, or emailed to McDowell County Schools' email address: wrthomas@k12.wv.us. No information will be accepted via fax.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Members of the public may be present, submit statements, testimony, and question county officials. Members of the public who desire to submit statements and testimony or to question county school officials shall be afforded an opportunity to register beginning one hour prior to the start of the public hearing and ending at the start of the session. Persons shall be called upon in the order of registration. All questions shall be initially directed to the Superintendent who may answer the question or designate another school official to answer the question. Based upon the number of persons who register, the presiding officer may limit, in a uniform manner, the time allotted to each individual. However, the time allotted may be limited to a period of three minutes to five minutes, but not less than three minutes. Registered individuals may not assign or relinquish their allotted time to another individual. Responses to questions by the school official shall not be included in the period of allotted time. Written materials may be submitted by the deadline indicated above, but may not be submitted during the public hearing.

**REASONS AND SUPPORTING DATA:** Reasons and supporting data in relation to the proposed closure of Welch Elementary School and its consolidation with Kimball Elementary School and Fall River Elementary School shall be available for public inspection beginning February 19, 2021, in the Office of the Superintendent of McDowell County

Schools, during business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The notice of public hearing and data will be available for public viewing at Welch Elementary School. In the event the school is not open for business, the data will be available on the McDowell County Schools' website (<https://boe.mcdo.k12.wv.us/>), and in the Office of the McDowell County Board of Education Superintendent, from February 19, 2021, through March 25, 2021. The document will be available at Fall River Elementary School, Kimball Elementary School, and Welch Elementary School during normal hours of operation.