

Notice of Public Hearings

Garrett County Board of Education

Proposed School Closing Plan

The following Garrett County Public Schools closure plan is proposed for the school year commencing August, 2012.

Proposed Closing of Friendsville Elementary School

A public hearing will be held:

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 (weather make-up on Wednesday, January 25)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Friendsville Elementary School Gymnasium

Testimony at the hearing will be limited to three minutes per person but written testimony and/or data may be submitted to the Board of Education at the address below in conjunction with the testimony or in lieu of an oral presentation. Any written testimony and/or data should be postmarked no later than February 29, 2012 so that it may be considered by the Board of Education.

Regular Board Meeting

The Superintendent will make her final recommendation at the regular monthly Board of Education meeting at Southern Middle School, 605 Harvey Winters Road, Oakland, Maryland 21550, on Tuesday, February 14, 2012*. Members of the public will be permitted three minutes per person to speak following the Superintendent's recommendation which will occur near the end of the public session which begins at 5:30 p.m. Written testimony or data may also be submitted.

Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting at Southern Middle School, 605 Harvey Winters Road, Oakland, Maryland 21550, on Tuesday, March 13, 2012*, with public session beginning at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public will also be permitted three minutes per person to speak, or present written testimony or data, at this meeting prior to the Board's vote beginning at 6:30 p.m. The vote will be taken at the close of public comment.

The Board of Education will, at a minimum, consider the following factors before rendering a final decision: (1) student enrollment trends; (2) age or condition of school buildings; (3) transportation; (4) educational programs; (5) ethnic and racial composition of the student body; (6) financial factors; (7) student relocation; (8) impact on community; and (9) such other factors enumerated by the Superintendent or which the Advisory Group finds to be relevant. The final decision will include contemplation of these factors and public input, and will set forth the rationale for the Board's decision to close or not close the school.

If the Board's final decision is to close the school, the rationale for the Board's decision shall address the impact of the proposed closing on the factors listed above. The final decision will be made in writing and announced no later than April 30, 2012. If the decision is to close Friendsville Elementary School, the affected students will be transferred to Accident Elementary and Grantsville Elementary in August of 2012, for the 2012-13 school year.

For additional information:

Contact the Central Office at 40 S. Second Street, Oakland, Maryland 21550

*If cancelled due to weather or other reasons, make-up dates will be announced.