

Mayor
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Town of Bath

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TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL Berkeley Springs, West Virginia Resolution 2021-04-02

The Town of Bath Mayor and Council express support for the efforts of our neighboring community of Hancock, Maryland as it strives to maintain the continuation of the Hancock Elementary and Middle/High School within the Town of Hancock. We adopt the following Resolution this 20th day of April, 2021:

Whereas, the Board of Education of Washington County, Maryland is contemplating the closure of Hancock Elementary and Middle/High School and bussing affected students to Clear Spring, Maryland; and

Whereas, the Town of Bath Mayor and Council recognize the detrimental effect that this action will have on not only our friends, family and coworkers of Hancock, but the entire region of Western Washington County, Maryland, Morgan County, West Virginia and Fulton County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, we believe that the closure of Hancock Elementary and Middle/High School will have a detrimental impact not only academically, but socially, emotionally and economically on the aforementioned region; and

Whereas, the disruptions that will be caused by this action will negatively stress the families of Hancock, Maryland through travel and distance issues, disruption in athletic and extra-curricular activity, social isolation, higher drop-out rate and long term economic disruption, all of which have lifetime impacts; and

Whereas, we believe that all Federal, State and Local government entities are obligated to the well-being and due consideration of the best interest and inclusion of opinion of the citizens they represent and hold these fundamental needs above all others; and

Whereas, we understand and believe that funding necessary to keep the Hancock Elementary and Middle/High School open and functioning can be derived from sources available through Federal, State and Local budgets through the discernment of the importance of essential services over non-essential extras; and

Whereas, we implore the Washington County Board of Education, the Washington County Commissioners and the Maryland State Board of Education to explore all options to continue Hancock Elementary and Middle/High School in Hancock, Maryland, including, but not limited to, combining the Middle/High School with the Hancock Elementary School. This option has been successful in Paw Paw, Morgan County, West Virginia for many years.

Therefore be it resolved that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bath, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia request leaders in Washington County, Maryland to consider all of the serious, negative effects of closing the Hancock Elementary and Middle/High School and explore the many opportunities before them to keep these local schools open in order to be a benefit to the citizens of Western Maryland; Hancock, Maryland; Morgan County, West Virginia and Fulton County, Pennsylvania.

Be it further resolved, the Town of Bath Mayor and Council requests a copy of this Resolution to be sent to the Honorable Washington County Commission, the Honorable Washington County Board of Education, the Maryland State Board of Education and the Honorable Hancock Mayor and Council.

Attest this 20th day of April, 2021

Mayor Scott E. Merki

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