



THE SENATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0800

WILLIAM P. COLE III  
SENATE PRESIDENT  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 18, 2015

STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 229-M  
(304) 357-7801

Dr. Michael Martirano  
State Superintendent of Schools  
WV Department of Education  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Building 6, Room B358  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Dr. Martirano:

I wanted to take a brief moment to thank you for the School Building Authority's (SBA) recent decision to reconsider Fayette County's school consolidation plan, and offer any assistance I can in bringing resolution to what I think everyone agrees is a significant problem facing the students of Fayette County.

I know that the SBA has many questions about the plan that was recently presented by Superintendent George. I appreciate your willingness to review the plan, and hope that the SBA will give the Fayette County plan fair consideration.

It is unfortunate that there is no perfect solution to the situation in Fayette County. However, I believe that doing nothing is simply not an option the state and its citizens can afford at this point. The conditions in the Fayette County school system are truly tragic, and we must all work together to do what we can to help alleviate the situation.

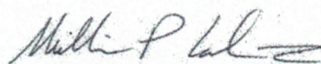
I realize the SBA has a limited amount of funds to distribute (\$50 million) and that just one year alone of the three-year funding that Fayette County seeks would constitute a significant portion of the available funds – approximately 25%. While the failure of the bond issue earlier this year may be cause of concern for many SBA board members, I am at least encouraged that the County will have "skin in the game" through its proposal of approximately \$17 million of local funds over the three-year period. In these tough budget times, we are learning all too well how to do the best that we can with the limited resources available.

Anytime that school consolidation is discussed, we must also consider the impact that such consolidation has on our students, who must inevitably travel further distances to attend their new school. I know this is a particular concern of the SBA, given that Fayette County presents unique challenges with respect to student transportation. To the extent that the legislature can help provide greater flexibility in this area to alleviate concerns that the SBA may have, I am ready and willing to help.

In sum, the Office of the Senate President offers its support in assisting the SBA and the Executive Branch in any way that it can to assist with this serious problem. Please let me know if

there is anything I can do to help. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,



William P. Cole III  
Senate President

WPCIII:kh

cc: The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor  
Mr. Peter Markham, Chair  
Mr. Steve Burton, Vice-President  
Mr. Thomas Campbell, Member  
Mrs. Tina H. Combs, Member  
Mr. Victor Gabriel, Member  
Mr. Robert Holroyd, Member  
Mr. Tom Lange, Member  
Mr. Eric J. Lewis, Member  
Mr. Chris Morris, Member  
Dr. William M. White, Member