



West Point Independent School District

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An Open Letter to the West Point School and Community:

January 14, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This purpose of this letter is to announce the intention to add an agenda item to the January 28th (6:00PM) West Point Independent School Board meeting concerning entering into negotiations with the Hardin County School Board for the purposes of merger.

The West Point Board of Education and school leadership have been consistently analyzing trend data including financial, enrollment and attendance figures throughout the past several years but even more intently since the Kentucky Department of Education's Management Audit of July 2019. Many school improvements have been made since that time, however, there are several facts that remain unchanged which have led us to this point:

- Increasingly each year revenue has failed to meet the ever-growing expenses of staffing and running our school. It has become apparent that we have reached a point that is not financially sustainable.
- Average daily attendance (ADA) on which schools are funded has continued to decline since 2016 and even though enrollment has remained steady this school year, with only 149 students enrolled the SEEK allocation from the state is not enough to sustain WPS as a school and district.
- Continued unfunded mandates, especially those required by 2019's Senate Bill 1 dealing with school safety, are not financially feasible for a school district as small as West Point.
- Taxes for real property in West Point are one of the highest in the state, yet even increasing taxes would not create enough revenue for the school district to fully staff our school with a full-time guidance counselor, Gifted/Talented teacher, additional special education teachers, a school nurse and maintenance staff without depleting reserves.

While there are many questions that will need to be explored with Hardin County Schools, we know there will be questions and thoughts the West Point School Community would like to share with the school board and school leadership. For this purpose an email account (futureofwps@westpoint.kyschools.us) has been set up to gather those thoughts and comments. **In addition, all are invited to attend the January 28th meeting of the West Point Independent School Board at 6:00PM in the school library.**

Respectfully,

Dr. Sally Sugg

Interim Superintendent

Mr. Eddie Moore

Board Chair