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Superintendent’s Message:

The Marlinton Local School District is already more than half way through the school year. It’s hard to believe the year will be over in just a few short months.

A main focus this year for district administration, the Board of Education and the Building and Grounds Committee is the consolidation of the district’s elementary buildings from three to two.

After much research, discussion, and deliberation, the decision to no longer use Marlboro as an elementary school was made in the best interest of Marlinton and the students we serve.

Next school year, all elementary-age students will be attending either Lexington or Washington. Both of these buildings will remain K-5 schools, with Lexington planned to house our preschool program.

The purpose of this special edition of the News & Views is to explain the timeline of the district’s decision making, why consolidation is the best option and the game plan for next school year. Furthermore, I have included information on our upcoming Kindergarten Roundup and annual school safety drill to be conducted on Thursday, April 18.

I would like to thank everyone – parents, teachers, staff, administrators and the Board – who have been instrumental in helping us formulate the best plan for consolidation.

For more information on consolidation, please click on the Elementary Consolidation Update link on our district webpage. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 330-823-7458.

Superintendent Joseph Knoll



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To the Marlinton Community,

As Board of Education members, we recognize that we are charged with holding education in the first place of consideration in decision-making. In other words, education is to hold the highest place of importance when we make decisions. With this as our starting and central focus, we are working toward ensuring a lasting and successful existence for Marlinton Local School District.

According to those in our District who work in education day-in and day-out, having all students of each grade level under one roof is highly important for a number of reasons. This supports more cohesive classroom/grade-level instruction, balanced opportunity for all students, and sharing of resources with resulting cost savings. This is why we have been working toward consolidating our three elementary buildings into one. While we are not yet able to provide that one consolidated building, the next step toward this goal is now in process as we move from three buildings to two K-5 buildings beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

One of the vital statistics important for consolidation consideration is our declining enrollment numbers over the last 20 years, and more. Specifically, this year's senior class has 189 students versus this year's kindergarten class of 104, and first grade of 98. (These numbers reflect Marlinton students only -- no open enrollment students.) In other words, we have lost one-third of our enrollment in 20 years, and enrollment projections are flatlined through at least 2026.

As we move forward, it has been the goal of the Board to develop the best plan that is least intrusive to the educational process of our students while making the necessary changes. Superintendent Knoll and the staff have worked very hard to do the best planning within the framework of those goals, and they have outlined an excellent plan.

Questions posed by parents of elementary-aged children at an information-gathering meeting in January revolved largely around class sizes, bus ride times, and the latchkey program.

According to Mr. Knoll's plan, in comparing our current numbers with projected numbers for next year, class sizes will be very similar. Some grades will see a small drop in the student-to-teacher ratio (less students to one teacher), while a few grades will see a small rise. Again, overall, the numbers are very similar to current numbers.

Regarding bus rides, the projected average timeframe of 40 minutes from pick-up to drop-off is just a slight increase from our current timeframe.

Further, it is very encouraging that we have the opportunity to partner with an historical community establishment to not only meet, but exceed, our current latchkey offerings. The YMCA is able to offer care at our two elementary buildings before and after school, as well as all-day programming at the Alliance Family YMCA and Lake YMCA on days when school is scheduled off or cancelled. This partnership would be a win for not only Marlinton, but our surrounding communities as well.

In addition, pre-school classes will be held at Lexington Elementary, the most central elementary building in the District. Further, the Migrant Program will be housed at the Middle School. State of Ohio Migrant Education Director Dr. Jose Salinas states there is not a problem for the program to be moved to the Middle School.

The District expects to see a cost savings of approximately \$515,000 and can use that savings for additional safety measures, building maintenance, and technology costs, to name a few.

The multitude of factors and the continuing changing educational landscape present a difficult scenario for Marlinton; and yet, we are able to not only survive but thrive if we agree to move forward together. Information regarding our declining enrollment figures and building erosion challenges may be new to many in our community, but they have been evolving for years. We did not get here overnight.

Marlinton Local School District is comprised of students from three townships which came together over 55 years ago to become one school district. We believe that our unity as one district will bring us longevity. Our vision is for our district to remain strong, putting education first and working together with the best interest of the entire school community in mind. We hope that with more information and involvement, we can all move together toward that goal.

For the most complete information regarding the changes being implemented, go to www.marlingtonlocal.org. Also, please contact Board members or Superintendent Knoll with questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Marlinton Local Schools Board of Education

The Need for Consolidation

The Marlinton Local School District did not make the decision to consolidate its elementary buildings lightly. Much research was done by district administration, the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Board of Education.

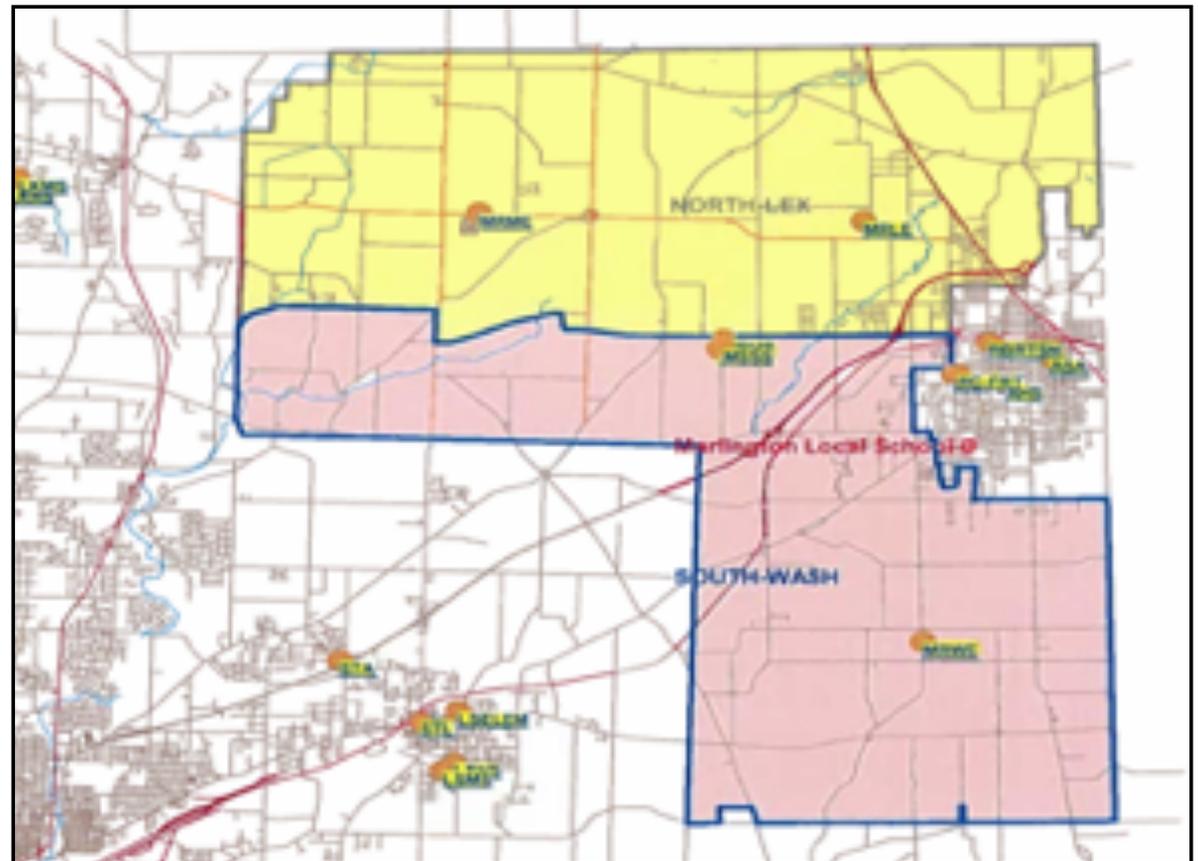
Decrease in Student Enrollment

A major factor in the decision to consolidate was the decline in student enrollment. In 1999, Marlinton had an enrollment of 2,856 students WITHOUT open enrollment students. In 2018, district enrollment without open enrollment was only 1,833. We have lost more than 1,000 DISTRICT students in the past 20 years.

Based on this information, plus the financial benefits, the Board of Education decided that consolidating the district's elementary buildings from three to two would be in the best interest for the future of Marlinton.

New Boundary Map

The map below depicts the new elementary school boundaries. Students that reside north of Beeson, to 44, to Nimishillen will attend the current Lexington building (YELLOW). Students that reside on or south of Beeson, to 44, to Nimishillen will attend the current Washington building (PINK).



Current Elementary Numbers (2/1/19)

	Total	Open Enrollment In (OEI)	District
K	132	17	115
1st	122	23	99
2nd	150	37	113
3rd	138	19	119
4th	168	37	131
5th	163	34	129
=	873	167	706

Consolidation Plan for the

The Marlinton Board of Education has decided Lexington and Washington will remain K-5 elementary buildings.

Mr. David Rogers will remain the principal of Lexington Elementary with a projected enrollment of 474 students. Mr. Michael Groholy will remain the principal of Washington Elementary with a projected enrollment of 413 students.

Projected Class Sizes

	District Current	2019-2020
K	1:23	
1	1:20	1:19
2	1:21	1:20
3	1:20	1:25
4	1:21	1:23
5	1:23	1:24

Migrant Program

According to Dr. Jose Salinas, Ohio Migrant Education Director, there is no problem relocating our migrant program to another building. Therefore, our migrant program will be conducted at Marlinton Middle School next year.

Breakfast

Both elementary buildings will serve a FREE breakfast for all students next school year!

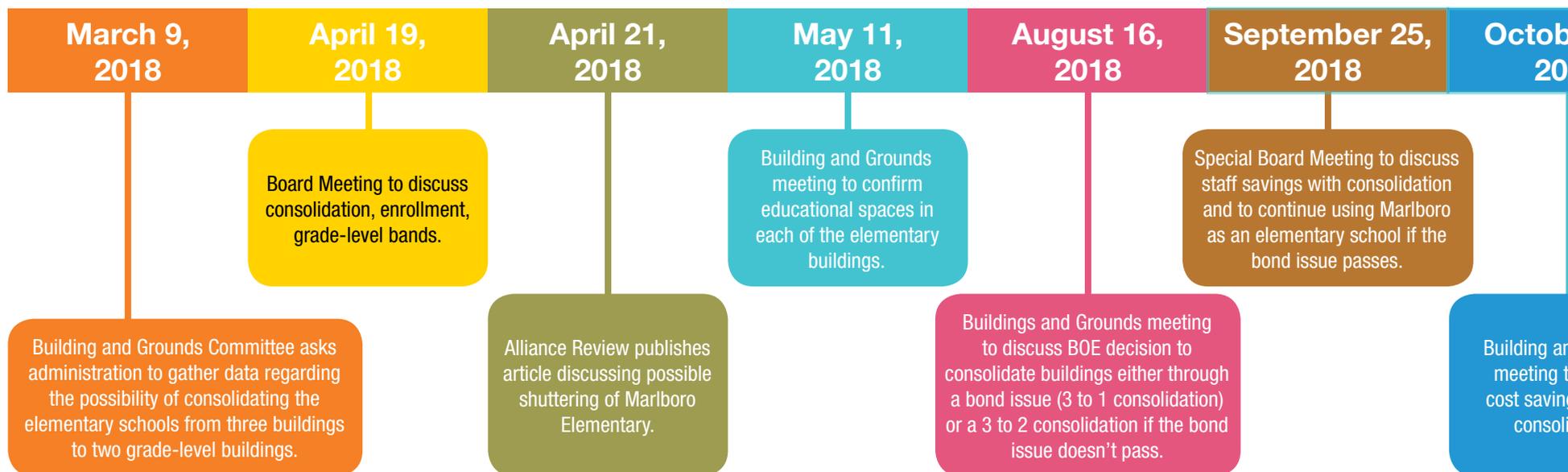
Cost Savings

Through the consolidation to two elementary buildings, the district will see significant cost savings in these areas: administration, certified staff, and classified staff at a total of approximately \$515,000.

The district can use these savings for safety and secu-

Elementary Building Conso

The Marlinton Local School District has been discussing the



the 2019-2020 School Year

rity, building maintenance, technology, and offset the decrease in state foundation money due to a decline in enrollment.

Plan for Marlboro

The Board of Education has not decided what it will do with the Marlboro Elementary building, but is considering several options:

- Keep the facility for educational purposes
- Offer the facility to a charter school
- Offer to a political entity

- Public auction
- Sell the building

The Board will communicate its decision once it has been made.

If you have any additional questions on the plan for consolidation, please contact the Board Office at 330-823-7458.

Transportation

We project an increase to an average ridership time of 40 minutes (36 minutes currently) across the district. Our goal is to keep the current start and end times of the school day.

Important Dates

March 15

Letter sent home to notify elementary parents (k-4) of building assignments for next school year

March 26-28

Kindergarten Round-Up

April 15

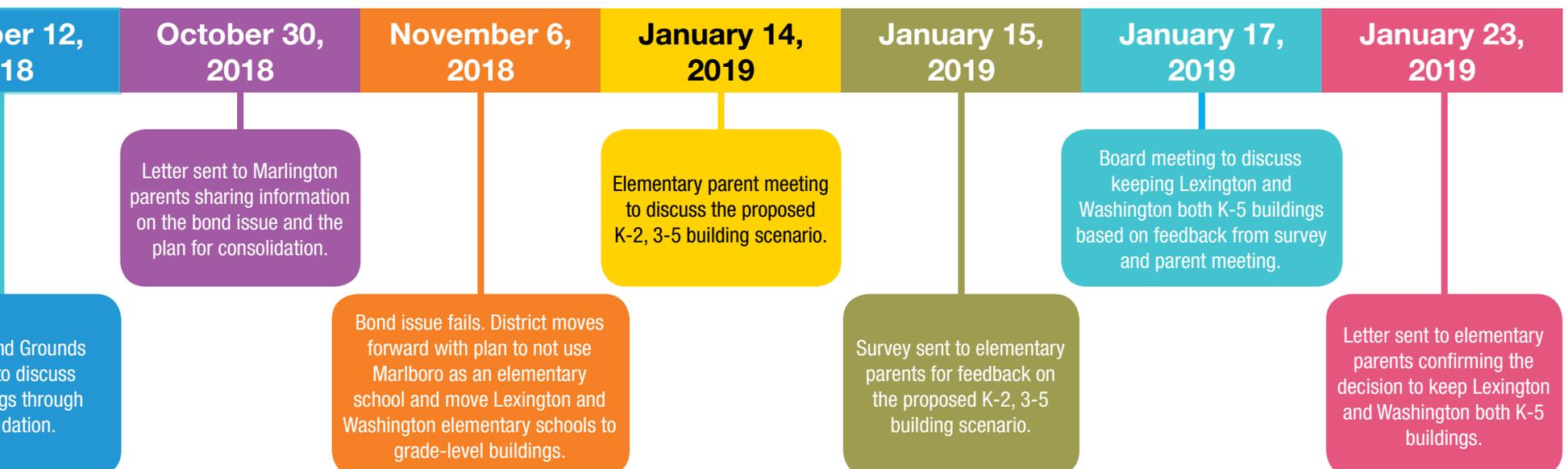
Intra-district Enrollment Forms Due

April 15-May 15

Open Enrollment

Consolidation: Timeline of Events

consolidation of the elementary schools since March of 2018.



MARLINGTON LOCAL SCHOOLS

**2019
KINDERGARTEN
ROUNDUP**



Marlboro Elementary

8131 Edison Street NE, Louisville, OH 44641
330-823-7677 or 330-935-2469

Tuesday, March 26

Parent Registration/Paperwork/Kindergarten
Roundup – Screening (By appointment only)

Lexington Elementary

12333 Atwater Avenue NE, Alliance, OH 44601
330-823-7570

Wednesday, March 27

Parent Registration/Paperwork/Kindergarten
Roundup – Screening (By appointment only)

Washington Elementary

5786 Beechwood Avenue NE, Alliance, OH 44601
330-823-7586

Thursday, March 28

Parent Registration/Paperwork/Kindergarten
Roundup – Screening (By appointment only)

A child must be five (5) years old
on or before August 1. Participation
in Kindergarten Roundup does
not guarantee acceptance into
Open Enrollment.

For more information, please visit our website at www.marlingtonlocal.org. Kindergarten building placement will be determined at a later date.

Employment Opportunities – We Need You!

We are looking for individuals who would like to substitute in the following areas:

Bus Driver • Secretary • Cafeteria Worker • Student Aide/Monitor • Custodian

If you are interested in substituting in any of these positions, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 330-823-7458 for more information. For more information on driving bus, please contact the Transportation Director at 330-829-1990.

Qualifications for All Positions:

1. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age
2. Pass a state and federal criminal background records check
3. Complete an online application
4. Be of good moral character
5. Obtain an Educational Aide Permit (student aide/monitor position only)

Additional Qualifications for Bus Driving Positions:

1. Present a negative drug and alcohol test
2. Present physical capability to safety and appropriately lift pre-school and special needs students
3. Pass a physical
4. Have a minimum of two (2) years driving experience
5. Present a satisfactory driving record

Annual School Safety Drill

The Marlinton Local School District will be participating in a school safety drill on Thursday, April 18. The drill will be conducted at Marlinton High School, with no students in attendance, from 9-11 a.m. Safety personnel from the Stark County Sheriff's Office,

Marlboro, Lexington and Washington Fire Departments, Marlboro Police Department, and Alliance City Police and Fire Departments will be participating in the exercise.

As a staff, we will be reviewing our ALICE training prior to conducting a lockdown drill. Marlinton School Resource Officers Bogunovich and Collins will be facilitating the training.

Our local volunteer fire departments have been preparing for the safety drill by participating in warm zone extraction training. A warm zone area is where a potential threat exists, but the threat is not direct or immediate. This safety drill will permit our local fire personnel to train alongside law enforcement.

I would like to personally thank Marlboro Fire Chief Matt Anstine for coordinating this initiative and organizing this innovative training for over 50 of our local fire fighters. Marlinton is proud and thankful for the collaboration of our local emergency responders as we work together to provide a safe and secure environment for our staff and students.



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**DUKE 5k
MELEE**
& OBSTACLE CHALLENGE
FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY
MAY 4, 2019

HOSTED BY THE MARLINGTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AS PART OF THE OHIO CHALLENGE SERIES BY SUBWAY

All racers receive a bib, t-shirt, and coupon for a free 6" Subway sandwich. Kids Mud Run t-shirts will be for sale at the kids race.

All proceeds will benefit the Marlington Education Innovation Fund, which provides staff members with resources to improve the educational experiences of our students.

KIDS FUN MUD RUN - 8:30 AM

Free (Donations accepted) - 10 & Under

FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL ABILITIES WALK - 8:30 AM

Free (Donations accepted) - All Ages

5K RUN/WALK - 9:00 AM

\$25 Prior to Race Day \$30 Day of Race - 10 & Older

5K MUD OBSTACLE CHALLENGE - 9:00 AM

\$35 Prior to Race Day \$40 Day of Race - 10 & Older

www.marlingtonlocal.org