

# Town of Lookout Mountain

PO BOX 111  
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE 37350

WALKER JONES  
MAYOR



Town Hall: 423-821-1226  
Fax: 423-821-3193

CHARLES WELLS  
CHIEF OF FIRE & POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONERS  
JIM BENTLEY  
BROOKE PIPPENGER  
FRANK SCHRINER

SAMANTHA VAN ALSTYNE  
RECORDER & OFFICE MANAGER

BRIAN SMITH  
ATTORNEY

MUNICIPAL JUDGE  
FLOSSIE WEILL

April 5, 2020

Re: Update on Lookout Mountain School ("LMS")

Dear Residents:

As you may know, since our August 2019, community letter, MGT Consulting Group reversed its preliminary recommendation to close LMS, and instead suggest capital renovations of approximately \$7 million.

While we have no indication from the school district central office whether such funds might be available, we are pleased that ultimately, LMS was recognized for the value it provides not only to the county, but more importantly, our community.

Because our student headcount is below LMS's physical capacity, the Hamilton County School central office considered a redistricting plan which would have aligned LMS with St. Elmo. However, after reviewing the impracticalities of this plan, the central office has settled upon an "open enrollment" program for non-resident children which for this Fall could bring to LMS up to twenty-two additional students from other areas of Hamilton County. The students would be dispersed throughout the various grade levels, excluding the fifth grade. We are hopeful that this infusion of new students not only will enrich the LMS experience, but as a school bus for the new students will not be provided, also bring committed parents who will be responsible for their children's transportation.

The planned increase to our student body should make LMS more sustainable, and help to ensure that LMS remains a vibrant asset to the Lookout Mountain community. We will continue to make you aware of significant developments.

Please stay safe in these extraordinary times.

Sincerely,

Walker Jones  
Mayor

Jim Haley  
Chair, School Board