

ELEMENTARY STAFF SURVEY

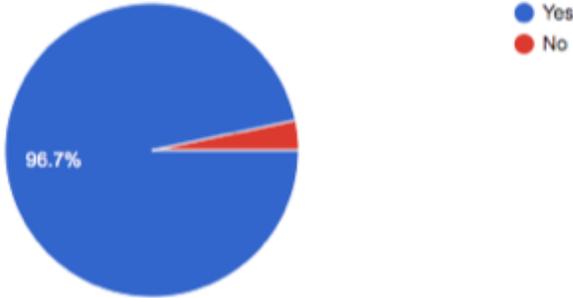
How are you feeling about the elementary consolidation at this point in the school year?



Total: 61

As an elementary staff member, are you satisfied with the outcome(s) of the recent Marlinton elementary school consolidation?

61 responses



It has been rough but I don't want to go back. Just let us get settled!

I see the benefits of teachers coming together to work in teams. I would like to have all the teachers in the same building. It is still difficult to work as a grade level in two different buildings. I am just going to say it.....Marlinton deserves new buildings too. I want one consolidated elementary!! We WERE moving in the right direction. Honestly, all of this is very unsettling now. The plan to open Marlboro again is not in the best interest of this district. It makes me both sad and embarrassed for our district and community.

Extremely crowded, very large class sizes, intervention specialists have to share a room with numerous other teachers - have no space for small group/individualized times, large amount of IEP children in one classroom

In my opinion, the consolidation was the right move for the district. The kids seem very happy and love making new friends. Inside the building there are a lot of positive things happening including collaboration between buildings. Something that was not done in the past. Overall it has been a very positive

experience and the best part is building relationships with the staff and students. Hoping this stays the same in the future and to fix up the two buildings we are in. Thank you for asking us our opinion!

I think the transition, despite a few expected difficulties, has gone very well. Staff transition was a slow process at the beginning, with a lot of "getting used to" this or that. But I would say we are at a pretty solid place now. Student transition went amazingly well; there seemed to be this expectation that kids would freak out about moving, but within the first few weeks of the year, all was going quite well for the majority of students. This trend has continued into the year. Overall, I would say that we've accomplished quite a feat with the consolidation effort. The experience has been more positive than anything else. We haven't ironed out all issues (for example, specials schedules: missing specials once sets student progress back significantly, especially in STEAM), but what we have achieved this year is significant.

If we were forced to go back to three buildings, it would be a huge blow to staff and student morale. With all the forward progress we've made, we would be taking massive steps backward as a district. I hope that the board of education will recognize this and listen to the wisdom of the staff, who truly know what's best for the students we teach and care for each day.

I feel that the students have settled into a routine and we would be moving backwards to go back to three different elementary schools. We need to put our own feelings aside and consider what is best for the children in Marlinton.

I have really enjoyed teaching more students from across the district in my classroom this year. I've seen the kids come together and build new friendships. Likewise, I have really enjoyed working more closely with teachers I haven't had the opportunity to collaborate with as much before the consolidation. The only thing I haven't enjoyed is the negativity from some parents and community members. I feel they either don't have all of the facts about how things are really going or they just don't care about what is actually going on. It's disheartening.

beginning of the year was rough...did not feel like we were a team but it is getting much, much better. I love being able to collaborate with other teachers that teach the same grade and/or subject as me. I truly feel we help each other grow as teachers when we are in the same building and can share ideas and curriculum thoughts easily. Students did great. I miss my old classroom and building and feel that my current building is in a much poorer state than Marlboro but reopening Marlboro would not be a step in the right direction! I would love to see one building for all of us. I am concerned about the future: if we are not getting one new building for all of us there is a lot of work that needs to be done in my current building. We realize there are a lot of unknowns about next year and there is little the admin can do about that, but its hard not to be concerned about where and what we will be teaching next year.

At Lexington, I have had a very positive experience with all Lex-Alum of which I have come into contact. Attitudes are positive and my team has made many efforts to ensure that I have felt like a welcomed part of the team. As to be expected, information that is specific to Lexington has slipped through the cracks from time-to-time making it difficult for Marlboro-Alum and made me feel unorganized. Overall, I feel that the transition, for me, has been as comfortable as to be expected from a major shift. It has been hard to hear "we have always done this," or "we do it *this* way" from around the building - especially when we are a "combined" school. However, I believe had Lexington been closed, the same would have occasionally happened at Marlboro; so you brush it off and move on. Also, David has been great! I feel more appreciated and respected than I have by elementary administration in past years.

I think it has went very smoothly. The only thing I would change for next year is to have teams of 3 teachers per grade instead of teachers doing 2 separate grades.

The only draw back to the consolidation is the number of students in the building. It is hard to find spaces for small group instruction, and will be even more challenging once state testing begins. I LOVE our new staff that has joined our school, but still feel like it would be even more beneficial for all students to be under one roof to maximize our instructional time and effectiveness. ALL of the staff and students have embraced this and we have become one family, and to be honest I do not know which students are Lexington kiddos and which ones were Marlboro kiddos. They are all having a fantastic year :-)

It is absolutely something that needed to be done. Opening Marlboro back up is really Stupid. I know that you know this and the board should listen to what we have to say..

I think the staff get along great, the students have been fine, but I'm not happy with the change in my assignment. That's all, and I understand that some things had to change. I appreciate my administrator being willing to listen to what has worked this year and what has not. I know so much is still up in the air, but that's the reason I can't give a 5. Other than that, things have been fine.

I feel everyone is getting along well, and the students are making new friends and are happy. I don't like how some classrooms have more students than other classrooms in the same grade level but different elementary building. We need to really make things fair. Open enrollment needs balanced, and if one building has fewer students, then open enrolled students need to go there. Mr. Rogers needs extra support for discipline and behavior issues. Building staff and students increased, but extra support staff hasn't.

I am happy but the building is not big enough for everyone

Yes I think the children have adjusted well, now if we can just get the parents to adjust.

The teachers are more cohesive, we are not spread out across three buildings. The children have adjusted extremely well and I feel it would not be beneficial to reopen Marlboro and send them back.

Enjoy the teachers, a bit tough with the number of switches and times in the classroom. Hard to accomplish all that is needed.

I've observed new and positive collaboration between staff members. The students seem happy, too. I do think the class sizes are a bit too high for optimal learning, especially in kindergarten. That's just setting the students and teachers up to fail.

I feel under the circumstances, it was the best situation, but not for long term. One consolidated elementary is so vital at this time that I am hoping the new Board will take the time to review all the positive and much needed reasons one elementary would benefit all our staff and students and bring pride back to our community.

I think consolidation was the right choice to make for our students and district. The kids have adjusted well, teachers and staff work well together.

Some class sizes are larger. It's crowded in the classrooms with lots of bodies and furniture, but all of the students have adjusted very well and they are getting along great! It's been nice working with teachers from Marlboro, too. One thing that has been tough is finding space to work with our small groups. Sometimes we need to pull students out of the co-teaching classroom into a smaller group setting. Most of the time, I'm walking around the school trying to find a space with limited distractions. This aspect is definitely a disservice to our students. Overall, I think it's been a positive experience and I do hope we can continue to make it work.

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All staff seem to be settling in nicely and the kids are doing great.

I feel that we are able to get our lessons and resources more common with one another. It is helpful to have others to share ideas with.

Teachers, support staff, and administration have worked hard to make the transition positive for students. I see this consolidation to two buildings is a positive step in bringing the elementary students of Marlinton together. Stronger Together.

Staff and students have been great. No complaints

I feel that students and teachers overall have adjusted well. I still feel that some parents are not happy with the change. However, you are never going to make everyone happy. As long as we have the majority of people satisfied then I feel we are doing our job. The kids are the main focus and we are providing them with a quality education in the facilities that we have!

For such a large undertaking, I think it went pretty well! Thank you.

As someone who has worked in all three elementary buildings, the consolidation has truly been what is best for kids. The teachers have embraced each other and have formed amazing teams. They are really using each other's strengths and expertise and using that to plan lessons and provide specific interventions for our kids. I also feel it has been an eye-opening experience for staff as they are able to get a new perspective of our diverse population in regard to social-emotional status, students with disabilities, and parental involvement (both the high and low end of the spectrum). David and Mike are doing a great job communicating with each other and the staff to make sure the elementary buildings are consistent (much easier to do in 2 buildings compared to 3). Overall, the outcome of the consolidation has exceeded my expectations!

Even though hectic at first, everyone has really come together!! I love being able to have a close knit school and wish we could have all of Marlinton elementary students and staff under ONE roof!!! We really are stronger together.

I am very impressed with how smoothly the consolidation went. Sure, there were a few bumps at the beginning of the year. However, I am so happy to be where I'm at. The staff is wonderful, teachers are collaborating more and the kids are happy. It would be a huge disservice to the students and the staff to have to move back to 3 buildings (I was a Marlboro staff member).

The kids have adjusted so well and have made many new friends! I love the team of teachers and staff I work with, everyone has done a great job working together and doing what's best for our students!

I feel I have grown in my teaching practice by being able to talk to more who teach the same subjects as me. The collaboration has been much easier and if we were all in one building would be even easier. Our students would benefit so much from the strengths of all.

I am so much healthier at Lexington! My daughter and I were constantly sick with respiratory issues at Marlboro. I have no proof but strongly feel that building has a mold issue. Please don't make us go back!!!!!!

This transition and consolidation has gone very well considering everything that we have all been through as a staff. Students and families have been wonderful in this consolidation and have all adjusted well. With every person being settled, teachers working together better than they ever have, and our elementary moving forward, I can't see any reason on changing anything at this time. Let's not ruin a great thing!

I think the consolidation was a success. It has been great getting to work with some new colleagues, and I believe the students have enjoyed making new friends.

I am happy with the way it is now. No way do I think we should uproot everyone again.

I have always been teaching at Lexington and I think we have a wonderful supportive staff here for both student and staff ' needs. That has NOT changed since we opened our arms to Marlboro staff. My hallway is an unbelievable team . DO NOT change something that works!

we got more teachers, and so more ideas and ways of doing things.

I think the consolidation has been successful and has given staff a better opportunity to serve kids appropriately. The less we 'spread' our resources, the more effectively we can utilize them.

The students and teachers are adjusting well. We are working well together.

Although it was a change and a change of mindset, coming together has helped teachers with planning, aligning education and sharing resources. I think this was the best course of action for the district to take in moving forward. The kids seem happy with the move and have created life long friends that would have not gotten the chance to bloom until middle and high school.

I like having "new" teachers and students in the building. The only complaint I've heard is about the lack of parking for school events.

I'm very happy with consolidation. However I feel it will be catastrophic for the kids to go through another change with opening Marlboro. Just doesn't make sense for the district to pay to open a building that is not needed. Also, It will make our district look like we dont have it together.

It has helped us collaborate better and become more similar across the district. We have been given an opportunity to help each other on a daily basis to fix or enhance our teaching as we can see what we feel is important for students to learn. I also feel students are getting the best out of our staff and becoming more prepared to come together at the Middle School.

First hand I have worked with students with various challenges in school. Each student appears to have adapted well to new peers, new building, and new teachers even as upper elementary students. Parents have also demonstrated a lot of flexibility with the number of changes that occurred in the district.

We are with the Preschool Program. Being at Lexington, in a central location, has been nice. We appreciate all the thoughts and updates Marlinton has done to provide a safe environment for our little learners. Thank you!

Didn't want consolidation at first but it went much smoother than anticipated.

Everything seems to be running smooth plus the kids are doing just fine!

I think that it was necessary. There are always growing pains, but at this point in the year, we are in a good place!

I enjoy my new friends at the school. I enjoy sharing ideas. Everyone has adjusted well in my grade level. MOVE FORWARD. Changing everything again isn't what's best for kids.

I think it allows for better use of our resource officers and speech pathologists because they are not spread between three buildings. I also like that the intervention specialists aren't spread out across so many grade levels. I think collaboration is a lot easier amongst grade level teams-and also vertically with specific subject areas. Finally, I have seen it cut down on discipline issues, because we have more classes per grade level and more ways to split up potential behavior issues.

While having an elementary staff all together in one building would be the most ideal, consolidating to two buildings has become the next best thing towards increasing collaboration and reaching our students to the best of our abilities.

As a teacher, I've been able to meet with my coworkers regularly to keep a consistent curriculum pace, share resources, and embrace a melding of two sets of separate ideas and strengths that formally resided in two separate schools. As a result, the best that each separate school had to offer has now converged to raise the bar of what we were formally able to offer our students. Where we used to shine separately, we can now shine together.

Additionally, as an intervention specialist, this year has been unparalleled in my belief that I am able to best support my students with IEPs and finally give them the time that they desperately need. While in past years my day was split between classrooms doing the best I could with limited time, this year I am in a co-teaching setting, in one classroom, for an entire class period. This means that the students who need the most help, the most support, finally have it for an entire. class. period. I no longer need to leave in the middle of a lesson or activity just to keep on schedule for the next kiddo in the next class that needed help. This year I've never had to tell a student to keep trying or struggling on their own just because it's time for me to leave their classroom. This year I finally feel like a true co-teacher, not just an interloper who "helps out" for a portion of a class period. If for no other reason, helping the students who need it the most to the best of my capability this year has made our consolidation worth it.

While I miss the students and coworkers I was separated from this year, I believe that consolidation was for the best in regards to both staff and students. It's helpful to remember that we are in the field of education for no greater reason than to serve the students of our community. I have no doubts that consolidation is the best way to achieve that.

Yes I am happy with the school I think everyone gets along well the children seem well adjusted and I hope there is no changes

I feel the kids and staff have adjusted well and have really come together

The students are happy and the staff is happy. I love my new grade level team.

I feel that while it was a very difficult change for children, parents, and staff, it has been a fantastic year.

I think the kids and staff have mostly accepted the consolidation and are getting along and working together well.

it has went very smoothly children have adjusted well:)

First, I am grateful to have a job and second I feel like I have become part of a team again.