

January 10, 2013

New Marsh Fork school building earns high marks

By Sarah Plummer Register-Herald Reporter

Marsh Fork Elementary School students' first day back was a hot topic Tuesday at the Raleigh County Board of Education meeting.

John Canterbury, a teacher at Marsh Fork, spoke to the board about how much the new school means to the Coal River Valley community.

Admittedly tearing up as he spoke, he said three of his students sat in their new classroom and cried Monday.

“We have never seen anything like this, you know. The last school that was built in the Marsh Fork District was Marsh Fork High School in 1945,” he shared.

“When our high school closed, it ripped the heart out of our community. Now, with the help of some older people, we are trying to get that spirit back — a spirit to learn,” he continued.

“Because you have reinvested in our community people are starting to get that spirit again.”

Board President Richard Snuffer said he met the buses at the school on Monday and asked one of the young girls if she liked her new school.

Snuffer said she replied, ‘I love it. Can I come back tomorrow?’

“A lot of the young kids thought they were just visiting. They could not believe they got to stay,” he said.

“The school is not just a star for Raleigh County, it is a star for West Virginia. We wish we had more schools like this in the county and hopefully we will. Everyone deserves a school like this,” Snuffer added.

— *E-mail: splummer@register-herald.com*