



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

Mark R. Herring
Attorney General

900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-786-2071
FAX 804-786-1991
Virginia Relay Services
800-828-1120
7-1-1

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Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., Esquire
TROUTMAN SANDERS, LLP
1001 Haxall Point
Richmond, Virginia 23219
ashley.taylor@troutmansanders.com

Ellen Bowyer, Esquire
Amherst County Attorney
153 Washington Street
P.O. Box 390
Amherst, Virginia 24521
eebowyer@countyofamherst.com

N. Thomas Connally, Esquire
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Park Place II, Ninth Floor
7930 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102-3302
tom.connally@hoganlovells.com

Calvin W. Fowler, Jr., Esquire
Williams Mullen
200 South 10th Street, Suite 1600
PO Box 1320
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1320
wfowler@williamsmullen.com

Dear All:

Over the past several weeks, we have communicated with each of you and met in-person about various issues regarding the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the proposed closure of Sweet Briar College. This is surely not a situation any of us wished to come to pass, as closure will no doubt have profound impacts on the students, faculty, staff, and alumnae of this unique institution, on Amherst County, and on those who have devoted their time and efforts to promoting higher education in Virginia.

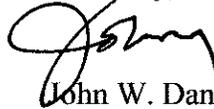
As we have previously discussed, whether the school remains open, as some advocate, or closes in accord with the decision by the Board of Directors, is not a decision for this Office to make. However, Attorney General Herring still expects Sweet Briar and its community to engage in open, honest, and transparent communication about the Board's decision and the feasibility of any paths forward. As we all know, litigation is the most expensive way to communicate, resources on all sides are scarce and valuable, and courts do not have the same flexibility in addressing problems that the parties have through a direct conversation.

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Prior to the initiation of the pending litigation, the Office of Attorney General attempted to facilitate such a conversation amongst the parties. Attorney General Herring still believes that such a meeting is in the best interest of all parties, and ultimately, the Commonwealth. He has directed me to request that those who have been involved in this issue convene a prompt meeting to discuss the pending issues and explore whether any path forward can be found. We trust that given the representations you have each made publicly and during our meetings that you will choose to participate in such a conversation. It would be my intention to secure qualified, third-party assistance in facilitating such a conversation. I understand that some issues relative to confidentiality may need to be addressed, but I do not view those issues as insurmountable.

If you are willing to participate in a discussion, please give me two or three of your available dates between now and May 14th, and I will attempt to schedule a meeting. Your thoughts as to who you think should attend and location are equally welcome. I appreciate your willingness to consider the request of the Attorney General to have a discussion. This is no doubt a difficult situation, but honest, open communication can only make it better.

Sincerely,



John W. Daniel, II
Deputy Attorney General

cc: Cynthia E. Hudson, Chief Deputy Attorney General
Heather Hays Lockerman, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Anna T. Birkenheier, Assistant Attorney General