

## Union group protests Midland roof project

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Members of The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation protested roofing work at Midland Elementary School on Wednesday. The group says the school system hired a firm that uses immigrant workers instead of local construction workers, but Randolph County School Superintendent Dr. James Phares said the bid was awarded properly.

Phares said the West Virginia School Building Authority issued the bids and the local school system followed all the proper processes and procedures when it hired Frye Roofing.

"This group has followed Frye Roofing to several different school systems," Phares said. "They have been getting the low bid on several projects. The group did speak against my recommendation at the board meeting when it was approved."

The protestors waived signs that read "Local jobs for local workers," at Midland Elementary and at the county school office on 11th Street.

According to a ACT Foundation statement, Frye Roofing has a track record of importing workers from North Carolina to use on their West Virginia job sites. The purpose of the rally was to promote employing local workers on jobs funded by West Virginia tax dollars.

"It is not just the county school boards, it is a problem with the SBA (West Virginia School Building Authority)," ACT Foundation member Larry Young said. "We will protest wherever the contractor goes."

According to Phares, the SBA was in charge of the whole bid process.

"If they (Frye Roofing) were not doing things properly, the SBA would have removed them from the process," Phares said.

The group plans to continue to protest any job in West Virginia that Frye Roofing is awarded.

