



Facilities Plan for 2024-25 School Year - and into the Future

After working with financial consultants who specialize in schools, we believe that these plans should not cause any significant impact to taxpayers.

The District is working with township and borough officials for zoning approval and other details, and we are expecting to move quickly with renovations.



705 Friendsburg Road

District is finalizing a purchase of this building

Kindergarten - Grade 2

- Currently functioning as pre-K
- Includes playground space
- Gym/cafeteria are large enough



Mount Penn Elementary Center

2310 Cumberland Road

Grades 3 - 8, divided into sections: 3 - 5; 6 - 8

- Includes access to playground space
- Gym/cafeteria are large enough



Mountain Penn Primary Center

25th and Filbert Streets

Grades 9 - 12

- Appropriate size for high school
- Full size gym, cafeteria, auditorium

Schools will need to be renamed - We will involve students and staff in that process!

BENEFITS

- All students will attend school in appropriately sized and equipped schools
- Reunites students in district-owned buildings
- Moves K-2 students out of the Borough to decrease drop-off/pick-up congestions (this is the age group with the greatest amount of car transportation)
- Most cost-effective and sustainable plan

CHALLENGES

- Traffic and parking concerns from Borough residents surrounding new high school (we believe we can address this in a positive manner)
- Zoning regulations (currently none of the usable district-owned spaces are zoned for students above grades 6)
- Moving classrooms, furniture, supplies
- Renovation and construction timeline/supply chain challenges

FUNDING

- We have secured \$582,000 in funding through Senator Schwank/Representative Rozzi's offices
- We will continue to work with legislators and state officials to secure additional funding, including grant funding
- Even if the District is not able to secure any additional grant funding, this plan should not require any significant increase for taxpayers.

Renovations needed to turn Mount Penn Primary Center into a High School:

- Currently in the design phase
- Project will go out to bid in February; Bids to be approved by School Board in March 2024
- Renovation work to begin March/April 2024
- Phase I Classrooms complete in August 2024; Phase II complete in August 2025
- Cafeteria complete September 2024
- Timeline is tight, but workable

WHAT ABOUT A MERGER?

While we will still consider this possibility, at this time no merger is planned. School mergers do not happen easily and require legislative approval. The Antietam School Board sent a letter to five bordering school districts, asking if they would be willing to discuss a possible merger. This was part of the Board's due diligence in considering options after the flood of July 9, 2023. Only Reading and Oley said they were willing to entertain a meeting. These have not yet been scheduled. A community survey showed most parents in the district are not in support of a merger, while a majority of residents responding to the survey do support one.

We will continue to communicate and share updates as we move forward.