

Community Q&A

July 20, 2023
6:30 pm

Agenda

- Presentation of Questions and Answers
- Comments from the Board
- The evening will conclude at 7:30 pm

Relief Effort



**TEAM
RUBICON®**

July 21 - July 26

Community Questions

- Questions and Answers will be posted on the website for reference
- The questions tonight have been grouped together, and duplicate questions have been combined
- The recovery and planning process is ongoing and ever-changing “in the moment”
- Questions about relocating the building, construction, and long-term plans cannot be answered at this time, but will be addressed throughout the long-term planning process. Tonight’s purpose is to address questions about the upcoming school year.
 - Right now we are solving for immediate, short-term issues
- If your question is not answered tonight, please continue to submit your questions on the Q&A Google Survey

Why aren't we using the Primary Center for Grades 7-12?

- Current zoning use does not allow for grades 7-12
- There is more usable classroom space at the Elementary Center
- The majority of the building is unfinished space, that cannot be used.



What other off-site locations were investigated?

- Many off-site locations were investigated including, but not limited to:
 - Old Central Catholic Building
 - Antietam Plaza Shopping Center
 - Luden Factory
 - Downtown office spaces
 - Vacant/Unused/Retired school buildings
 - Local colleges
 - We are chasing down every lead!

Did the district consult with other professionals to plan?

- Yes, the district has met with Federal, State, and local officials and agencies to plan and brainstorm ideas, and will continue to do so throughout this process.

Can I send my children to another district?

- If a family is interested in sending their students to another district, they would have to reach out to that district and see if they accept “tuition” students.
- If the district accepts tuition students, the family can pay to send their students there.
- Or, a family can choose to relocate to that district, so that they are a resident in that district.

Is school going to start late?

- As of right now, school is still scheduled to start on August 21

If my child left something in the school, will I get it back?

- All band instruments were not affected, and students will get those items back when school starts
- If other items were left, depending on where they were left, students may get them back.

Why don't we just go virtual? Will there be a virtual option?

- While this would have been the “easiest” and “cheapest” option, we did not believe it was in the best interest of our students.
- The virtual option is our Antietam Virtual Academy (AVA)

What security measures will be in place for all locations?

- All current safety and security measures will continue to be in place, or will be put into place at any off-site locations.

Will extra-curricular activities, sports, clubs, and special programs like work-study still run?

- We are planning to run as many extra-curricular activities and clubs as possible.
- Athletics are scheduled to continue with some minor location changes.
- Transportation for sports will continue to be provided.
- Programs like work-study and internships may need to be modified slightly, but will still run.
- Students who access local colleges for classes will still be able to do so.
- We are working to plan for as many AP and other college-level courses as possible - within our district, and at local colleges, etc.

What if the weather is bad and students need to walk outside?

- Please make sure your student is prepared with appropriate outerwear and an umbrella.
- Maintenance crews will make sure that all walkways are safe in the event we have snow.

I am worried about my younger child being in the same building with older children, will they be kept separate?

- All children will be supervised at all times
- There will be minimal crossover of the 4th-6th graders and the 7th-12th graders
- Grades 7-12 will be using a different entrance than all other students

What mental health supports will be available for students?

- Students will have access to counselors, our Communities in Schools program, and can be referred to outside providers if needed.
- Talk to your pediatrician or doctor about mental health services that can be accessed for your child outside of the school year.
- If your child is in crisis, please take them to an emergency room for immediate mental health services.

What about parking and traffic congestion?

- Arrivals and dismissals will be staggered to alleviate congestion
- We will consult Central Berks to help us put together a plan for traffic
- We are working on requesting parking lot space from surrounding businesses, etc.
- We encourage families and staff members to carpool and/or walk

What State and Federal Aid is available, and when? Why can't they give us funds right now to help with the upcoming school year?

- Qualifying, and then applying for any kind of government assistance is not an easy (or fast) process
- Once the PDA (preliminary damage assessment) is completed, we can move forward (BEMA, PEMA, FEMA)
- The Berks County Emergency Management agency is working alongside of us to coordinate these efforts - a big thank you to them!