



Coatesville Area
School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19373 | casdschools.org | 610-466-2433

July 10, 2022

Dear Coatesville Area School District Community,

I wanted to let you know about an important decision-making process that our School Board will begin to review at its meeting Tuesday evening. Our Board will be discussing the development of a Community Task Force or a Master Facility Plan Steering Committee to examine the use of our facilities. The age, condition and use of school buildings is something that the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires every brick-and-mortar school district examine periodically. This is only the beginning of this process, and we will ensure that parents, staff, and community members are deeply involved.

Three primary issues have caused us to more closely examine how we're using our facilities, and what decisions we'll need to make for the future: *shifting enrollments, aging facilities, and financial challenges.*

In October 2021, CASD contracted with ICS and the Schrader Group, two leading facility architectural and consulting companies widely used by schools regionally and nationally to professionally evaluate their facilities. They consider factors such as the most economical ways to restructure facilities, including renovations required to meet changing enrollments and educational needs, as well as the life and health of each building.

Over the last six months, CASD administrators have been meeting with ICS and the Schrader Group, which often work in tandem, to discuss facilities opportunities and challenges, and a wide range of factors. At Tuesday night's Board meeting, the companies will provide an overview of their assessments and initial potential solutions. Some of these include renovations, closing some of our buildings, and reconfiguring some of our enrollment boundaries. I want to stress that ***no decisions have been made.*** Again, this is just the beginning of what will be a very public process in which we consider options and make decisions for the future of the Coatesville Area School District.

It's important to note that while charter school enrollment has been one of our biggest challenges over the last decade, we have made, and are continuing to make, important academic improvements. Last year, for the first time in six years, we saw an increase in overall enrollment in our district. While forecasts still indicate a downward trend, we are optimistic that as we continue to make gains, we will attract students back from charter schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read this summertime update.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.

Interim Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION

Interim Superintendent of Schools: Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.

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