



COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Coatesville Facilities At A Crossroads

Master Facilities Plan Task Force

Update – February 10, 2023

The Coatesville Area School District is at a financial and facilities crossroads. The District's facilities are aging and facing numerous challenges, despite a significant preventative maintenance plan. More than 60 staff, parents, and community members are considering options for the District's schools, as prepared by architectural and facilities use firms that specialize in K-12 facilities and that have studied our buildings.

The Task Force has agreed on 'guiding priorities' for the plan:

- As a first priority, the plan must address the critical infrastructure systems within the buildings (ensuring all buildings are able to keep students and staff safe, warm, and dry.)
- The District's facilities are in a state that requires action. This cannot be delayed or deferred.
- The facilities plan must be focused on helping the District save money on operating costs.
- The facilities plan must not reduce the District's investment in the other three pillars of their strategy to improve: Academic achievement, Finances, Climate.
- The facilities plan must address the curb appeal and aesthetics of the buildings in order to compete with charter schools.
- The plan must geographically defend against charter school locations.
- The plan must reconfigure the grade structure to better meet educational needs.
- The plan must fit the School Board's ability to fund the improvements within its current Act 1 taxing authority, and not force them to go to a voter referendum for additional funding.

As the Task Force has honed in on its work, the School Board has also been asked to provide a financial limit for the plan. This will help to set additional direction. They will consider this at their February 14 meeting.

After several months of work, the Task Force has also honed in on additional priorities for its facilities plan:



The facilities plan must include an elementary school south of Route 30.



The plan should focus on new construction instead of renovations/additions, if possible.

9 – 12

The CAIHS and CASH campus should ideally accommodate grades 9 – 12.



Scott should not be used as an elementary school.



Classroom trailers should be replaced with a more permanent solution if at all possible.



Caln Elementary needs so much work that it may be better to close it.



East Fallowfield needs so much work that it may be better to close it.



There has been much discussion about whether one or two middle schools is the most logical and best choice for the District as part of the new facilities plan.

We will continue to update our community as we move forward.

The Task Force is still on track to present a recommendation for a new facilities plan to the School Board in May, 2023.