

Final Report of the Recommendations of the East Pennsboro School District Feasibility Study Steering Committee

Presented September 21, 2017

The East Pennsboro School District Feasibility Study Steering Committee (Committee) met 13 times between May 11, 2017 and September 19, 2017. Meeting minutes were prepared for each meeting and the Board is encouraged to review those minutes. As a part of its work, the Committee toured each of the district's schools and the District Administrative Offices. The Committee reviewed the Feasibility Study materials prepared by Crabtree Associates and had a session with representatives from Crabtree, who prepared additional options on July 18, 2017.

The Committee was intentional in following an iterative, step-wise process in the recommendations made, with each recommendation building on the prior recommendation. If the Board were to reject one of the foundational recommendations, the Committee's later recommendations may have changed or been modified. Accordingly, care should be taken to look at these recommendations as a whole.

The Committee voted on the following recommendations:

- On August 2, 2017, the Committee voted 15-5 to recommend keeping the West Creek Hills building open.
- On August 15, 2017, the Committee voted unanimously to move 5th grade from the Middle School into the Elementary Schools.
- On August 29, 2017, the Committee voted 11-10 to recommend keeping the both elementary schools at a K-5 configuration, rather than one school containing all K-2nd grade students and the other school containing all 3-5th grade students.

The Committee specifically reviewed the list of issues that needed to be addressed for each school building in the Crabtree proposal and revised that list of issues to remove errors on the list, clarify or further explain other items and add items found on our tour or during the discussion with the District's head of facilities and maintenance. This list formed the basis for the Committee to be polled on the level of priority for each building issue. Based upon the averages of the scores received for each issue, they were ranked and categorized as follows: High Priority/Must Do items (shaded in green); Moderate Priority items (shaded in yellow) and Lower Priority/Want To Do items (shaded in blue).

The Committee also polled its members on other issues. On the question of where the District Administrative Offices should be located, 10 people were supportive of the Middle School, 6 people were supportive of keeping it at its current location and 2 people were supportive of East Pennsboro Elementary. By a margin of 9-6, the Committee also recommended that the Board explore the idea of a Kindergarten readiness class.

General Observations from the Committee Discussions:

1. The “MEP” systems for each building were the Committee’s collectively highest ranked priority.
2. The Board should keep in mind that Crabtree based their recommendations on “total MEP” system work. MEP stands for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing. None of the buildings require total MEP system work, which would greatly lower the costs cited in the Feasibility Study.