

FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Background

The Mt. Lebanon School District is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming school environment that recognizes and celebrates the diverse identities of all members of our school community, including students, their families, faculty, and staff. All students, regardless of background, identity, or ability, will be supported to reach their full potential and pursue their unique talents. The District will provide resources in a just and equitable manner and remove barriers to allow students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

The Mt. Lebanon School Board accepts the responsibility that District facilities should be professionally maintained and effectively operated and managed to provide age-appropriate learning experiences for Mt. Lebanon students. The Mt. Lebanon School District has a total of 10 buildings: one senior high school; two middle schools and seven neighborhood elementary schools. The District also maintains and manages all other facilities on school property.

Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to clarify facilities planning and development goals that will guide the Board and administration in their efforts to provide appropriately sized and utilized, functional, safe, sustainable, accessible, and cost-effective facilities. The Board recognizes that the maintenance and development of facilities should be planned in a fiscally responsible and efficient manner. The term “facilities” includes all buildings, structures, and grounds.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board to provide for facilities that offer the best possible environment, subject to budgetary considerations, for learning and teaching and for the community’s use of these facilities.

School facilities are educational spaces that should be properly maintained and operated. All facilities should be designed with an emphasis on providing long-term sustainability and usefulness to the District and the community in order to justify and protect the investment in such facilities

Key considerations in facility development include:

1. *Flexibility.* The planning of renovations or new buildings must support the District’s educational philosophy, goals, and mission statement. Technological advances and new approaches should be considered when designing facilities that are adaptable for future changes in curriculum and teaching methods. District facilities should be flexible in design to accommodate future needs in technology, sustainability, and wellbeing.
2. *Safety and Health.* The safety and health of all who use the facilities must be paramount in the consideration of building or renovating facilities. A safe, healthy, and sustainable environment supports both physical and mental wellbeing.

3. *Durability*. Durable facilities often can be less costly to operate. When building or renovating facilities, choice of materials should strike a balance between initial cost, predicted durability, maintenance expense, and energy efficiency.
4. *Accessibility*. Facilities must be accessible as required by applicable law. Buildings should be designed to allow safe and appropriate access for all who use them. Vehicular, micro mobility and pedestrian traffic, accessibility to public thoroughfares and parking also must be considered.
5. *Environmental*. Building or renovation designs should encourage sustainability in the areas of economical maintenance, health and safety and conservation of energy, water and other resources, measuring and balancing initial cost, and long term cost/benefit. Use of sustainable and energy efficient systems for heating, cooling, air handling, and lighting results in environmental and operational effectiveness. *Aesthetics*. The physical environments of schools and classrooms play important roles in supporting the educational process. Aesthetic values should be considered so that facilities provide surroundings that are pleasant and comfortable. Overall appearance and historical elements should also be considered in facility planning and development.

Administrative Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Administration to implement and enforce this policy, and to develop Administrative Procedures for implementation or enforcement where necessary.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. District Staff
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted September 15, 2008
Revised September 18, 2023