

POLICY ————— PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

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7130 – SCHOOL CLOSING

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient program of free public education and appropriate facilities to house that program. The Board further recognizes that declining enrollments, diminished resources, district reorganization, and/or other good cause may require that the use of one or more district facilities for educational purposes be abandoned.

Information on any proposed district reorganization will be disseminated to the public before a decision is made, and public comment will be invited at an open public meeting.

The Board shall not propose to close the high school and contract with another school district(s) to provide high school education for pupils of the district, unless and until a public question as to whether or not the Board may enter into such a contract(s) shall be submitted to and approved by a majority of the voters of the District, consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-2.1.

Should the Board decide to close a school facility, it shall receive approval from the Department of Education’s Division of Administration (“Division”) and Finance and the Morris County Executive Superintendent (“Executive Superintendent”). In order to receive approval from the Division and the Executive Superintendent, the Board must provide assurances that the closing is consistent with the long range facilities plan (“LRFP”) because the school district has demonstrated that sufficient school-building capacity exists to house students for the five years following the closing, or the school district has demonstrated through a feasibility study that the benefits of undertaking new construction outweigh those of rehabilitating the school proposed for closure. The Board must also assure that the use of temporary facilities in the remaining schools does not result or increase from an overall facilities shortage caused by the school closing, and the reassignment of students to other schools in the school district does not produce, sustain, or contribute to unlawful segregation, separation or isolation of student populations on the basis of race or national origin. The Board’s request to the Division for approval shall further include the recommendation of the executive county superintendent. The Board may then proceed with the school closing upon receipt of the Division’s letter of approval based on the information the Board provided in its request. N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5

To receive approval for the closing of a school the Board shall provide the Division of Administration and Finance (Division) and the Executive County Superintendent with the following assurances:

1. The proposed closing is consistent with the district’s approved Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) because:

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- a. The school district has demonstrated that sufficient school building capacity exists to house students for the five years following the closing; or
 - b. The school district has demonstrated through a feasibility study that the benefits of undertaking new construction outweigh those of rehabilitating the school proposed for closure.
2. The use of temporary facilities in the remaining schools does not result or increase from an overall facilities shortage caused by the school closing; and
 3. The re-assignment of pupils to other schools in the district does not produce, sustain nor contribute to unlawful segregation, separation, or isolation of student populations on the basis of race or national origin.

A request for approval from the Division for the school closing shall include the recommendation of the Executive County Superintendent. A letter of approval from the Division based on the information in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5(a) and as listed above shall be required before the school's closing.

The Division shall notify the school district in writing of its determination with respect to the requested school closing, with a copy provided to the Executive County Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-36; 18A:33-1
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5

Adopted: 24 January 2000
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