

Facilities & Building Use

What are the plans for buildings that are closing?

- Closed buildings will initially be used for storage during the transition of grade levels.
 - The Preschool/Admin building will likely serve as primary storage.
 - Robotics and Rabbit Run currently use space in that building, and the goal is to continue allowing access if possible.
 - Operating costs will be limited (minimal electricity, lawn care, etc.).
 - Estimated annual maintenance costs:
 - North: under \$20,000
 - PreK/Admin: approximately \$40,000
 - Long-term, the district does not have funds to demolish the buildings. The land is more valuable than the structures, and the district may seek a future partner interested in redevelopment.
 - The district plans to downsize and auction surplus items within a year, following required legal procedures.
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Transportation

Why is transportation being reduced?

- The district spends approximately \$1.8 million annually on transportation through Community Busing Service (CBS).
- The district provides buses and fuel; CBS provides drivers.
- The proposal would eliminate 4 buses (currently 40+), reducing routes, fuel usage, and driver costs.

Are buses at capacity?

- Under the proposed changes, routes would operate near capacity.

Will there be crossing guards for students within 2 miles?

- There are currently no crossing guards.
- Conversations have begun with the Township.
- Further discussions will take place following board action.

Can families opt in or out of transportation?

- Families may opt out.
- However, bus stops remain fixed unless an entire route is eliminated.
- Cluster stops are an option being considered.

Can the district charge transportation fees?

- No. State law prohibits charging fees for transportation.

Is the 2-mile eligibility measured “as the crow flies”?

- Yes. By law, eligibility is measured in a straight line (“as the crow flies”).

Will grade levels ride together?

- Students in grades 7 and above will ride separately.
- Some natural separation between other grade levels will occur.

What about YMCA after-school transportation?

- A solution is in place to maintain transportation for YMCA after-school programming if transportation is reduced.
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Grade Level Reconfiguration

How will lunch work in a 7–12 building?

- 7th and 8th grade students will have separate lunches.
- Scheduling teams are working through options.
- Multiple staff teams are collaborating on building logistics and daily operations.

Will the 7–12 model work?

- Community members with experience in similar configurations have shared positive feedback.
- Administration believes this model can be successful with proper planning.

When will school times be finalized?

- Start and end times are expected to be similar to current schedules.
- Final times will be shared in the coming weeks.

When will detailed plans be finalized?

- After board approval, planning teams will continue finalizing logistics.
- Target timeline for completion of major tasks is early May.

When will administrator assignments be announced?

- A 3–6 principal candidate is expected to be recommended at the February 17 meeting.
 - An assistant principal position is still to be determined.
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Preschool

How is Preschool funded?

Preschool is funded through:

- Federal Early Childhood Education (ECE) grants (for eligible students)
- The district's general fund
- Tuition from families (covers approximately 30% of costs)

Currently:

- 90 total seats
- 40 seats funded by ECE
- 50 seats supported by general fund and tuition

The district is legally required to provide services to eligible students. Adjustments have been made to reduce the impact on the general fund while continuing to serve students who need early support.

Can 3-year-old preschool be eliminated?

- No. Certain 3-year-old students qualify for federally funded services and must be served.
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Athletics & Extracurricular

Why eliminate 7th and 9th grade sports?

- Eliminating these programs would result in approximately \$100,000 in savings (supplemental and transportation).

Can booster organizations subsidize athletic costs?

- Conversations have taken place.
- Current booster organizations prefer to remain separate.
- Some families donate directly toward athletic fees.
- Families may volunteer at Bingo to earn fee credits.

Will increased athletic fees reduce participation?

- There is concern that higher fees may limit participation.
 - Research supports the academic and attendance benefits of extracurricular involvement.
 - Administration explored multiple options before making recommendations.
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Special Education

Will in-house autism programs be eliminated?

- No.
 - Programs will shift alongside grade-level reconfiguration.
 - Services, supports, and self-contained classrooms will continue.
 - No significant reductions were made to Special Education programming.
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Financial Process & Board Approval

How will reductions be approved?

- The board will review and provide feedback.
 - A 9-page reduction document outlines all proposed changes.
 - The board may vote on the proposal as a package or item-by-item.
 - Adjustments are expected based on board and community feedback.
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Student Fees

How will past-due fees be addressed?

- The high school is implementing a more proactive collection process.
 - Earlier, grade-by-grade monitoring is planned.
 - Possible consequences may include exclusion from field trips or events.
 - By law, transcripts cannot be withheld.
 - The goal is earlier intervention to prevent large balances by senior year.
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Open Enrollment

Will open enrollment continue?

- Yes, with a defined annual deadline.
- Currently enrolled students may remain.
- Siblings receive priority consideration.
- Enrollment decisions will be made grade-by-grade.
- The district will not accept open-enrolled students if it requires hiring additional staff.

Why continue open enrollment?

- The district receives funding per open-enrolled student.
- Filling classrooms to near capacity is financially and academically beneficial.
- A buffer will be maintained in each grade.
- A decrease in open enrollment is anticipated due to the new deadline.