

How Does a Quality High School Building Benefit a Community?

- Quality school buildings facilitate quality education. Parents want quality education for their children and want homes in good school districts. Houses in desirable districts therefore enjoy increased property values, benefiting all property owners.
- Neighboring communities such as Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair, South Fayette, Baldwin and Mt. Lebanon have completed, or are in the process of renovating or building, new school facilities, increasing their attractiveness to potential home-buyers.
- An up-to-date facility can attract new revenue to the school district by having the ability to rent the auditorium, gym, etc.
- School violence affects an entire community. Being proactive and remedying *known* security problems helps reduce the risk and potential severity of school violence.
- Careful, long term planning remains the best way to address the needs of our school district. A short term, “band aid” approach is not effective and, in the long run, costs taxpayers more.

How You Can Make a Difference

1. **Get informed!**

Go to the PTA Area Council webpage (www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/pta.aspx) for more information.

2 . **Attend a community meeting**

sponsored by PTA Area Council (to be announced) or e-mail us at: areacouncilpta.pthsimprovement@gmail.com

3. **Sign our petition!!!**

Please sign our on-line petition asking the PTSD School Board to address the need for new high school construction or building renovation. Please visit i-Petitions: www.ipetitions.com/petition/improvepths

You may also access the online petition from the PTA Area Council webpage at www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/pta.aspx

A FINAL THOUGHT

Our Township is in the process of planning for the future. By the time Peters meets capacity growth, there could be up to 2,000 additional students in our township. We need to ask our School Board Directors to plan for this future as well.

Peters Township High School



A Message From The Peters Township PTA

As a parent group in this community, one of our missions is to inform parents about important issues affecting our students. For our students to continue to receive the excellent education that we, as a community, expect from our school district, we need improvements to our facility. **We are asking you to sign our on-line petition to request that the School Board address the need for a new high school or a building renovation.** www.ipetitions.com/petition/improvepths

Why This Concerns You Now

Last year the school district circulated a survey concerning the possible renovation of PTHS and the potential tax increase that might be necessary. No surprise, the majority said NO.

The PTA's concern is that the community never learned **WHY** the high school is insufficient to meet our current *and* future educational needs. See the next page for specific issues that impact programs, curriculum, and safety.

Begin by Looking Back

- 1969 Original high school completed; student enrollment: 623.
- 1982 High school expanded due to increasing student enrollment; student enrollment: 1165.
- 2000 Large renovation completed; student enrollment: 1123.
- 2013 **Current student enrollment: 1496.**

To read the complete 100 year history of PTHS see the following web address:

[www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/100years/page four.htm](http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/100years/page_four.htm)

PTHS Building Facts

Square footage 234,000
Students Enrollment 1496
Student Capacity 1500
100 Teachers 30 staff members
Serves grades 9 through 12

Student Enrollment Projections
from the District

<u>Year</u>	<u>Students</u>
2014	- 1474
2015	- 1525*
2016	- 1496
2017	- 1541*
2018	- 1537*

*exceeds student capacity of 1500

Building Issues

- Current building layout does not address today's safety and security concerns.
- Current classrooms and infrastructure limit our ability to capitalize on 21st century teaching methods and learning styles.
- Limited classroom space restricts course offerings.
- Inadequate lab space forces some science labs to use a cart with limited lab supplies and equipment, restricting the number of lab science classes offered.
- The lack of a high school life-skills classroom will impact our ability to provide adequate special education services for life-skills students.
- Feeding all students in the undersized cafeteria requires 4 lunch periods, starting at 9:45 am and lasting until 1:00pm.
- Over-crowding during class change presents safety concerns in the hallways and stairwells.
- With a seating capacity of only 700, the auditorium cannot accommodate the entire student body at once. The small stage and lack of an orchestra pit restrict our ability to rent this space.
- The gym capacity of only 1050 prevents the entire student body from participating in assemblies and pep rallies.
- Extensive infrastructure problems (e.g. leaking roof, original windows, electrical systems, and boilers from 1969) will be quite costly to operate and maintain.
- The lack of windows in many classrooms causes security and safety issues.

These are just some of the high school building issues.
For a more detailed list, see: www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/pta.aspx