



## Planning for the Future: Reaching Out

As the summer of 2017 drew to a close, the plans for the new Peters Township High School were a sea of sticky notes. Comments such as “push wall out to increase storage,” “are there enough restrooms?,” “ventilation for 3D printer needed” and “swap chorus and band room for better instrument transport” covered the architect’s drawings from weeks of meetings with staff, students, school board, parents and local first responders.

Throughout this schematic design phase, the initial design scheme that defines the general scope and conceptual design of the project, members of the District administration and architects from Hayes Design and Weber Murphy Fox worked to take months of research and turn it into a working design plan. Early in the process, the team reviewed detailed surveys completed by staff members and students and met with High School department facilitators to learn what they needed for a new building.

“The research part of this process has been extensive,” said High School Principal Lori Pavlik. “Our staff and students have been vocal and involved, and we’re excited to see where it leads us.”

With a preliminary design in hand based on the research, it was time to gather feedback. The District organized meetings with important stakeholders to share the plans. During these “gallery walk” meetings, stakeholders toured the plans and were given sticky notes to offer considerations right on the drawings.

In addition to Board members, meetings were held with PTA officers from all levels, booster parents, teacher department facilitators, student leaders, as well as representatives from the police and fire departments and ambulance services. The largest of these meetings involved the entire teaching staff at the High School on their first day back from summer break.

“They had important decisions to make. Our teachers will be in this space daily teaching our children,” added Superintendent Jeannine French. “We need this building to work for them and be flexible enough to meet the needs of our children now and in the future.”

With sticky notes in place, the architect teams from Hayes Design and Weber Murphy Fox got to work revising the drawings to incorporate the suggestions where possible and new designs were presented to the Board in September. Moving forward, the Board will approve the schematic design and the process will progress to the design development stage, focusing on more technical aspects of materials and building systems.

Community members can stay up to date on the process via the District website:

<http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/FacilitiesPlanning.aspx>

*Members of the student leadership team view the plans and provided their feedback.*



*Board members have been working with the research for months and had their chance to add comments to the drawings.*

*Department facilitators met with the administration and architects to review the drawings prior to the unveiling for the entire staff.*



*Faculty members from the High School spent their first day back from summer break diving into the plan with representatives from Hayes Design and Weber Murphy Fox.*



*Architects from Hayes Design talk with PTA parents and booster representatives in August.*

### New High School: Fast Facts

**Planning Centers:** Based on teacher feedback, the new PTHS will feature planning centers on each level. These dedicated areas will have conference areas and storage for planning space to better allow our teachers to share best practices.

**Classrooms:** The new building plans include 12 additional classrooms and two additional labs over the current school configuration.

**Music Space:** The fine arts space includes a band room, chorus room, recording studio, four individual practice rooms and increased instrument storage.

**School Store:** Space for a school store has been added for our life skills students to actively work in a retail environment.

**Technology Education:** A dedicated STEM classroom and 3D Print Room have been added to this space.

**Gymnasium:** The main gym allows for event seating for 2,000 (current gym capacity is 1,200), with an auxiliary gym that seats 300, and an eight lane pool. Physical education will also have a dedicated fitness room.

**Cafeteria:** The food court style cafeteria will seat 600 students, allowing the District to reduce from four lunch periods to three every day.

**Auditorium:** The size of the stage is increased more than 40% over the current stage, and the new auditorium features seating for 1,200 (compared to the current 850 seats). A Black Box theater has also been included in the plans for smaller productions and large group meetings.

**Offices:** High School Administration, Counseling Department and the school nurse will be located in the front of the school, allowing visitors to meet with these staff members without having to access more secure student areas.

**Project Budget:** The maximum budget for the project is set at \$90 million. The estimated impact to our taxpayers is less than 1.5 mills for the entire project – keeping Peters Township’s millage far under competitive schools in our area.