



District seeks public input on HS options

Renovation/construction proposals outlined in series of public meetings

More than 200 district residents have turned out to learn about the future of Penn Manor High School.

The Penn Manor school board is considering four options to upgrade/renovate or replace the school, which was originally built in the late 1950s and renovated beginning in 1994.

Inside

Option details, diagrams

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The high school is experiencing deterioration and major component failures, and improvements are needed to adequately meet current and future educational needs.

The school board is considering four projects, ranging from a basic renovation at an estimated cost of \$52 million to construction of a new school at an estimated \$100 million.

The board expects to decide on an option by the end of the school year, but construction would not begin

until summer of 2019, at the earliest.

This is a major undertaking that will impact district programs and finances for years to come, so public input is crucial. Please attend one of the upcoming meetings and provide your input.

Penn Manor has created a web page that contains links to a PowerPoint presentation on the high school master plan, a summary of the four options, a survey about the four projects, and a link to a Facebook page on project developments.

You can access those resources by clicking on the High School Master Plan link on the district website home page, www.pennmanor.net.

Please be a part of the discussion!



Above, residents listen to principal Dr. Phil Gale during a presentation on Penn Manor High School renovation/construction options. Below left, school board members and district administrators chat with residents following a presentation.



Future public meetings

- **March 17, 2016:** 7 p.m., PMHS auditorium – Public meeting/presentation on High School Master Plan.
- **April 21, 2016:** 7 p.m., PMHS auditorium – Public meeting/presentation on Master Plan.
- **May 16, 2016:** 7 p.m., district office board room – School board discussion of Master Plan.
- **June 6, 2016:** 7 p.m., district office board room – School board final discussion on Master Plan.
- **June 20, 2016:** 7 p.m., district office board room – School board vote on High School Master Plan.

Penn Manor ranked among best in student achievement



Congratulations to the students, staff and faculty of Penn Manor High School, ranked the No. 1 high school in Lancaster County by U.S. News & World Report!

The high school also was recently named to the AP District Honor Roll for increasing student participation in advanced placement (AP) courses and maintaining a high percentage of students who score

well on AP exams.

The U.S. News annual Best High Schools issue evaluates public schools and awards gold, silver and bronze medals to those it considers the best at preparing students for college. Penn Manor is ranked 27th among the 216 Pennsylvania schools that made the 2015 list, earning a silver award and the highest ranking of any high

school in Lancaster County.

Superintendent Mike Lechlitter said the high ranking is the result of improvement efforts that started in 2008.

"It shows me that we are on the right track. The high school faculty and administration have made a concerted effort to raise standards and expectations for

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Message from the superintendent

Inscribed under a statue in front of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., is a quote from William Shakespeare: "What is past is prologue." This quote is emblematic of various discussions occurring within the Penn Manor School District about remaining on the cutting edge of academic programming, student achievement, school facilities, and the use of technology in classrooms.

Penn Manor continues to experience success in our academic and co-curricular programs, as recognized recently by U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools and in a documentary about the district's 1:1 laptop initiative by a Fortune 500 company. While celebrating these successes, we continue to explore options for building upon these and other past successes.

The feature article in this edition discusses the process the school board is following to solicit public input on the future of Penn Manor High School. As superintendent, I have received a number of questions regarding the need for updating facilities for our high school students.

The most frequent comment from longtime community members is that it seems as if the district just renovated the high school. I must admit that I feel the same way. I was a first-year high school assistant principal 19 years ago when the school fully reopened following a renovation that began in

1994. While we were excited for the wonderful changes made, including the addition of a new gym, cafeteria and auditorium, those of us who worked in the building understood that there were many areas left untouched.

"Many individuals ask me how the district can contemplate a large and expensive high school project when there is so much uncertainty in Harrisburg. This is an excellent point and one that the Penn Manor school board and administration wrestle with on a regular basis."

As a result, the building has many problems, including potential structural deficiencies, outdated and deteriorating infrastructure (plumbing, electrical systems, and data wiring) as well as space limitations not appropriate for the learning needs of students in 2016 and beyond.

Another common comment I hear is that surely the school board knows exactly what option should be chosen,

and that public input is not necessary.

While individual board members and district administrators may have some personal preferences, the full school board has not made a decision and feels strongly that the best decision can only be made after our entire Penn Manor community weighs in on what is best for the community.

If you have not been able to attend an informational meeting, I strongly encourage you to attend one of the sessions to be held through this winter and spring. The list is on the front page of this newsletter. After the final community meeting on April 21, the school board will begin to discuss the direction members feel is most appropriate after weighing community input and information shared from the architectural and engineering professionals hired to provide technical review and information.

Finally, many individuals ask me how the district can contemplate a large and expensive high school project when there is so much uncertainty in Harrisburg as it relates to the state budget, property taxes and school funding. This is an excellent point and one that the Penn Manor school board and administration wrestle with on a regular basis.

The issues being debated in Harrisburg are complex and



Dr. Mike Lechlitter

have placed public schools throughout the state in a difficult position during the past six months. Regardless, the school board is charged with making wise fiscal decisions regarding finances and school buildings.

Therefore, knowing that many areas of the building require attention as well as understanding that the needs of students in 2016 are different from those when the original high school was constructed, it is essential that our community engages in a discussion this year to determine the best course of action.

As a district, we look forward to your continued participation during the remainder of this school year.

- Dr. Mike Lechlitter

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Gov. Tom Wolf visits Hambright Elementary

Hambright Elementary School hosted a special visitor July 9 when Gov. Tom Wolf stopped at the school during his "Schools That Teach" Tour.

The governor discussed his education funding priorities, stressing the importance of increasing support for public education.

Prior to his address, Wolf greeted Penn Manor students, faculty and administrators gathered outside the school.

Superintendent Dr. Mike Lechlitter thanked Wolf for making "Schools That Teach" a keystone of his administration.

He urged Wolf and the General Assembly "to try to find common ground, to work together and to address our funding needs."

Penn Manor School District was honored to have hosted the governor.



Superintendent Dr. Mike Lechlitter, left, introduces Gov. Tom Wolf, who stopped at Hambright Elementary School in July on his "Schools That Teach" tour.

Fast Facts: Class of 2015

More than 400 Penn Manor seniors received their diplomas during commencement in June, earning more than \$1.9 million in scholarship money to continue their education beyond high school.

Here are some stats on the Class of 2015:

- 96 seniors earned 154 awards at the Senior Awards Ceremony.
- 49% are attending a four-year school.
- 20% are attending a two-year school.
- 5% of the senior class joined the United States military.
- 69 students achieved a 4.0 GPA or higher.
- 86 students graduated in the honors program (by earning a 3.75 or better GPA while taking three years of foreign language and earning a "B" or better, and four advanced-placement credits and five



High school principal Dr. Phil Gale, left, and Penn Manor superintendent Dr. Mike Leichter pose with commencement speakers, from left, Andrew Mintzer, Hailey Kresge, Craig Jahnke (salutatorian), Alan Dang (valedictorian), Hannah Willig and Sarah Beth Ranck prior to graduation exercises at Franklin & Marshall College.

honors classes, earning a "B" or better).

- 65 students are graduating with honors and a 4.0 GPA or higher.
- 265 students took 436 advanced-placement tests in 20 different subjects.

- Two seniors, John Clark and Hailey Kresge, were recognized as National Merit Commended Students.
- One student, valedictorian Alan Dang, qualified as a National Merit Finalist.

Upcoming in Penn Manor

Feb. 1 – School board meeting, 7 p.m., district office conference room

Feb. 9 – Pre-K Expo, 6:15 p.m., Ham-bright ES

Feb. 9 – Kindergarten Information Night, 7 p.m., Hambright ES

Feb. 15 – President's Day (no school)

Feb. 16 – School board meeting, 7 p.m., district office conference room

Feb. 18 – High School Course Selection Night, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 26 – K-12 early dismissal (no p.m. kindergarten)

March 4, 5, 11 & 12 – High school musical "Grease," 7 p.m. and 2 p.m.

(March 5 only), auditorium

March 17 – High School renovation/construction master plan presentation, 7 p.m., HS auditorium

March 21 – School board meeting, 7 p.m., district office conference room

March 24 – Weather makeup/vacation day

March 25 & 28 – Spring break (no school)

April 1 – End of marking period

April 4 – School board meeting, 7 p.m., district office conference room

April 8 – K-12 early dismissal (no a.m. kindergarten)

Achievement: High school honored

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all our students," he said. "We just weren't willing to work with the status quo."

The rankings were calculated using standardized test scores in math and reading, as well as participation and success on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams.

Leichter said the school has offered more AP classes in recent years and encouraged more students to take them.

In 2013, 208 Penn Manor students took AP courses; in 2015, that number rose to 265.

Over that same period, the number of AP exams administered at Penn Manor rose from 340 to 436, and the number of students who scored 3 or better (out of 5)

rose from 182 to 232.

Students who score 3 or better tend to be better-prepared for higher education and often receive college credits for completing AP courses.

The growing participation and strong test scores – 87 percent of Penn Manor students scored a 3 or better – earned Penn Manor a spot on the Honor Roll, which includes 345 schools from across the United States and Canada.

The recognition acknowledges the increased emphasis on academics at Penn Manor High School, Leichter said.

"Fifty years ago, people saw Penn Manor as a small, country school," he said. "People are now seeing us also as an academically focused school."

Special education services provided

Penn Manor School District is required to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who are determined, through the evaluation process, to need special education and related services under IDEA and 22 Pa. School Code §14.

A school-age child with a disability who is determined to be in need of special education and related services is identified as a child with a disability eligible for special education in need of specially designed instruction.

The following are disability categories under IDEA:

- Autism
- Deafness
- Deaf / blindness
- Emotional disturbance
- Traumatic brain injury
- Hearing impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Speech and language impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Visual impairment, including blindness

A full description of the services and programs available is accessible at: www.pennmanor.net/special-education/ or by contacting Theresa Kreider, director of student services, at 872-9500, ext. 2227.

Big changes for district schools – past and present

Pequea Elementary project to wrap up in summer 2016

Work is progressing on a \$15.2 million project to upgrade and enlarge Pequea Elementary School, which has been closed since last summer.

The improvements include enlarging and brightening the school's entrance and lobby, relocating the stage, enlarging the kitchen, adding two large academic spaces for classroom groups and modifying bus and car access points outside the building.

In addition, mechanical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning and lighting systems are being replaced with more efficient systems.

A new front entrance with a secure vestibule will



An architect's rendering shows how Pequea Elementary School will look when the project is completed this summer.

increase security, and two new "academic commons" spaces will be added to provide for large- and small-group student and teacher collaboration.

All art and music rooms are being relocated and upgraded. Pequea also is getting a

renovated library and an expanded and modernized kitchen.

To minimize disruptions and expedite the project, the school was closed for the 2015-2016 academic year. Pequea students and staff were

relocated to Conestoga, Martic and Hambricht elementary schools and Marticville Middle School.

Work is expected to wrap up this summer, with the upgraded Pequea opening for the 2016-2017 school year.



This is a rendering of the new entrance to Conestoga Elementary School.

Safer entrance, new kitchen, classrooms for Conestoga

Just as work is wrapping up on the Pequea project in the summer of 2016, workers will begin an \$11.8 million project to upgrade Conestoga Elementary School.

As with the Pequea project, students and teachers will be relocated during construction, which is expected to wrap up by the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

The proposed improvements will include renovations to the existing school, plus a new kitchen, classroom additions and large-group instructional

spaces, a relocated and expanded library and a new main entrance.

Site work will include a new geothermal heating system and paving overlay work at the bus and parent drop-off areas and the hard-court play area on the northern side of the school. In addition, site enhancements will improve stormwater runoff, and new lighting will improve security and reduce light pollution.

A new front entrance with secure vestibule will be constructed, and a new

"academic commons" instructional space will be created at the existing library.

A new library will be created in the former multi-purpose classroom space that also currently serves as a cafeteria. The gym will be upgraded to become a multipurpose room, serving as both the physical education space and cafeteria.

The kitchen will be relocated to the south side of the building, reducing vehicular traffic in the parent drop-off area.

Old Hambricht property sold for \$1.5 million; site to be care facility

Penn Manor School District has completed the sale of the former Hambricht Elementary School to Signature Senior Living LLC for approximately \$1.5 million.

The sale marks the end of the school's 80-year existence.

"While many students and teachers have fond memories of the old building, the school district is pleased that the property will be used by a taxpaying entity and that the proceeds can be used to offset other capital expenses of the district," said superintendent Mike Lechlitter.

The former Temple Avenue school was shuttered after the 2013-2014 school year, replaced by a new Hambricht on Charlestown Road that opened in August 2014.

Signature has razed the building and is constructing a memory care and assisted living facility on the site.

PMHS renovation/construction options

Graphics key: = renovations = new construction

Option 1 Estimated cost: \$52 million



- Renovations to existing building only
- New mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems
- New doors, windows and interior finishes
- New roofing systems
- Integrated technology
- Expanded food service

Pros: Lowest cost

Cons: Does not address education program issues, security or site/building circulation issues; 1950s building remains

Option 3 Estimated cost: \$87 million

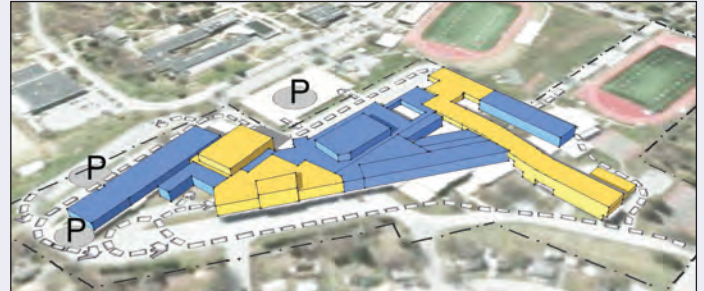


- New primary circulation corridor and student commons
- Consolidated athletic department
- Direct outside access for music department, stage support spaces
- New agricultural sciences wing and yards
- New central plant adjacent to loading dock
- Flex spaces between academic wings

Pros: Reorganizes/improves site circulation and internal building circulation, preserves cafeteria/gymnasium wing, consolidates athletics/physical education, establishes controlled main entrance

Cons: Second-highest cost

Option 2 Estimated cost: \$80 million



- Retains 152,000 square feet of existing building
- Centrally located upper and lower primary entrances
- New primary circulation corridor and central plant at loading dock/service area
- Upper entrance includes administrative offices and parent drop-off
- Consolidated athletic wing
- Separates bus traffic from student/staff/visitor traffic
- New 158-space parking deck

Pros: Improves site/internal building circulation, preserves cafeteria/gymnasium wing, consolidates athletics and physical education into single wing

Cons: Retains significant portions of 1950s academic wings

Option 4 Estimated cost: \$100 million



- Construct new school on campus of Manor Middle School/Hambricht Elementary School

Pros: New building systems, ideal placement of educational spaces, adjacent play fields, ample parking

Cons: Highest cost

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Above & Beyond newsletter is published by Penn Manor School District. If you have questions or comments, please contact Brian Wallace, Community Relations Coordinator, at 872-9500, xt. 2241, or by email: brian.wallace@pennmanor.net.

Penn Manor's 1:1 laptop program is subject of film

Penn Manor's innovative 1:1 Student Laptop Program is the subject of a documentary that was shown before a crowd of 3,000 people attending a global conference in Boston over the summer.

"Penn Manor: The Power of Open in Education" includes interviews of Penn Manor students, teachers and staff about the 1:1 program, which provides laptops utilizing free, open source software to every student at Penn Manor High School and Marticville and Manor middle schools

Penn Manor saved about

\$345,000 in software fees by using open source programs and apps in the first year of the 1:1 program at the high school. This year, 1:1 was expanded to the middle schools.

In all, 2,400-plus students are using school-supplied laptops.

The documentary was created by Red Hat Films to demonstrate how a school district can successfully utilize open source programs to expand educational opportunities and enhance instruction.

The film debuted in June at the Red Hat Summit, a global conference sponsored by Red Hat, the world's largest open



Penn Manor High School student technology apprentice Susan Black, seated, is interviewed by a Red Hat Films crew in the high school student help desk work area.



source software company. Red Hat provides support and integration services to businesses and organizations, including major airlines and the New York Stock Exchange.

Red Hat learned of Penn Manor's 1:1 program after seeing a TEDx talk by the school district's technology director, Charlie Reisinger, about the power of

trusting kids in education.

A central theme of the film is how technology, when stripped of its traditional limitations, can empower students in new and exciting ways.

Penn Manor is honored to be the subject of the film, which you can see on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj3dGK3c4nY>.