

February 2023

Highlights

Edgmont Township Denies Application for New School Construction, District Reviewing Its Options

On February 14, the Edgmont Township Board of Supervisors voted to deny the Rose Tree Media School District's application for a zoning text amendment to allow construction of a new elementary school on the district-owned property along Route 352.

At its February Legislative Meeting, the RTMSD Board of School Directors approved a motion to authorize the law firm of Lamb McErlane "to take legal action as they deem appropriate, to appeal or challenge the actions and ordinance of Edgmont Township concerning the School District's proposed zoning for and construction of an elementary school" in Edgmont Township.

The Board issued the following statement following the Edgmont vote:

"We are disappointed in the Edgmont Township Supervisors' decision to deny the district's application for the zoning text amendment that would allow RTMSD to move ahead with a new elementary school.

At this time, Edgmont Township is the only one of the four municipalities in the district without an elementary school of its own. There is no elementary school north of Route 1 to serve the northern half of the district, where houses are being built and the population is growing the fastest.

The board believes that the site in Edgmont is the best possible option for a new elementary school in our district. After vetting 23 potential sites, the location on Route 352 was selected because it provides flexibility, meets student transportation needs, maintains the concept of neighborhood schools, and offers the potential for full-day kindergarten. We have also worked with engineers and other experts to ensure the selected site meets our high standards for safety and educational excellence.

The board is grateful for the many Edgmont residents who support the building of a new school in the community. We are now reviewing our options following the vote and will continue to keep our community updated on next steps."

More information about rising enrollment in the District and the need to build a new school is available at www.roomtolearnroomtogrow.org.



The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held a Legislative Meeting on February 23, 2023

Board of Education Members

Theresa Napson-Williams
President

Ken Dinitz
Vice President

Hillary Fletcher

Jackie Gusic

Susan Henderson-Utis

Shelley Hunt

Robert Kelly

Susan Layne

Kelly Schaffer

Student Liaisons

Joy Chen

Jason Lanka

Neil Sen

Acting Superintendent

William Dougherty

More information available at
www.rtmsd.org/domain/60

Superintendent Search Process Moves Ahead

During the February Work Session, the Human Resources Committee reported that third round interviews for superintendent candidates were scheduled for early March and that a public announcement of a finalist was expected prior to spring recess at the start of April.



Mr. William Dougherty currently serves as the RTMSD's acting superintendent of schools. Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen retired as superintendent in December 2022.

New Assistant Principal Hired at Springton Lake

The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors approved the appointment of Dr. Melissa A. McGuire as the next assistant principal of Springton Lake Middle School.

Dr. McGuire has served as the K-12 gifted education coordinator for the Lower Merion School District since 2022. She has over 18 years of experience in elementary and middle school environments and played an integral role in student assessment and intervention, curriculum development, and academic program implementation throughout her career.

“We are proud to welcome Dr. McGuire as the next assistant principal at Springton Lake,” said William Dougherty, Acting Superintendent of the Rose Tree Media School District. “She has diverse experience and leadership in advocating for equitable learning experiences and building relationships to maximize student care. Dr. McGuire will bring with her these experiences and add to our already strong administrative team at SLMS and throughout the district.”

Dr. McGuire holds a doctoral degree in education from Gwynedd University, a master's degree in elementary education from Chestnut Hill College, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ursinus College. She received a principal certification from Gwynedd University in 2019.

Dr. McGuire will assume her new role on April 10, 2023. She replaces Michelle Britton, who became the principal of Indian Lane Elementary School in January.

Points of Pride

- Congratulations to Penncrest High School Cheer for advancing to the 2023 UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship on February 10-12!
- Congratulations to RTM School Board Director Shelly Hunt for her election as chair of the Delaware County Community College school board liaison committee.



More information available at
www.rtmsd.org/domain/60