

Jan 11, 2023

Dear RTMSD Community,

I am writing to make you aware of the next step in the process to construct a new elementary school in Edgmont Township to address our growing enrollment. At its public meeting on January 19, the Edgmont Board of Supervisors will be discussing the District's application for a zoning amendment on our Middletown Road property where we have planned to construct the new school. That request had been denied in June by the Edgmont Township Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Penn State Brandywine Campus, Student Union Building, 25 Yearsley Road in Media.

The property is currently zoned for residential use, and the District has requested an amendment to change the zoning to school use. This approval would be the final step in clearing the way for the new school. We've involved our community in a five-year process to plan for the growth of student enrollment in our school district that is primarily centered in Edgmont Township. Districts commonly request zoning changes to build schools on parcels of land as their enrollment grows.

The Middletown Road site was chosen because it provides the Rose Tree Media School District with the following:

- Needed space for a growing elementary school enrollment, particularly in Edgmont Township
- Aligns with the District's goal of operating neighborhood elementary schools
- Limits disruption to current families with students in other schools
- Provides a location that is both buildable and suitable for a modern school
- Minimizes traffic disruptions for residents

The process we used to select the Middletown Road site involved community engagement and input from teachers, engineers, safety experts, and others experienced in school construction. We evaluated 23 different sites, learning that most options available in the District would not be suitable for a modern school. We also communicated frequently to area residents, provided a website with numerous materials about the planning process, and attended community meetings to discuss our plans with area leaders. We also amended our architectural plans for the school based on feedback from the Edgmont Township Planning Commission. You can find more about the District's site selection process at www.roomtolearnroomtogrow.org.

We will continue to provide updates as we move forward.

Thank you for your continued support of the students of Rose Tree Media School District.

Sincerely,

William M. Dougherty
Acting Superintendent of Schools