



**STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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To: Board of Directors

From: Bob O'Donnell & Ed Poprik

Re: Community Feedback: Concept Pros & Cons, Website comments

Date: May 13, 2013

Attached, please find two documents. The first document includes verbatim feedback from each of our April *Community Forums* and current *Community Conversations*. The purpose for sharing this information is to ensure you receive qualitative data regarding the current six high school project concepts. The data does not include frequency per comment.

The first chart is a fluid document capturing all unique comments from the April community forums and all community conversations held to date. At each of these meetings, we're asking the attendees to share their thinking regarding each of the concepts, and also to indicate what additional information they would need to help them make a decision regarding the high school project. To date, approximately 204 residents have attended these meetings.

Additionally, we have added comments from the Foxdale retirement community meeting on Friday, May 10, 2013. We are in the process of confirming meetings with the other two large retirement communities within our district boundaries.

We will continue to add comments from the remaining three community conversations:

- Tuesday, May 14 - Gray's Woods Elem.
- Wednesday, May 22 - Easterly Parkway Elem.
- Wednesday, May 29 - Corl Street Elem.

We will use the "additional information needed" feedback to update the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and incorporate it into remaining meetings when possible. This document will be shared with the Community Engagement Action Team (CEAT) on at their next meeting Wednesday, May 15, 2013 and posted on our website.

The second document is a compilation of all comments gathered through the digital dropbox located on <http://www.scasd.org/Domain/101>. This document is updated as of May 13, 2013.

Community Feedback from April - May 2013 Community Forums/Conversations

Updated: May 10, 2013

CONCEPT A	PROS	CONS
	New building- can meet educational needs	Safety issues with crossing the street
	Familiar territory	Athletic facilities not at the school
	Closer to town	Space limitations
	Good for walking	Flooding
	We own the land	Back and forth travel
	2 schools (buildings)	Landlocked
	Split population helps achieve "smaller schools"	Phasing issues for students
	Two buildings provide experience for college where there are multiple buildings	Cost
	New construction allows for best use of space; money to maximize learning for current/future times	Destroys all that's currently there
	Keeps kids together, less overhaul	Departments cannot collaborate
	Maintains current central location	Too disruptive to students
	Newer design within and without	Doesn't take advantage of potential for shared spaces among activities and grades
	Continue to address the North building flooding problem	Concepts A and B are too similar
	Want to keep schools on Westerly Parkway	Why rebuild in an area we've outgrown
		Security nightmare - ongoing issues of drug traffic w/open campus
		Campus too divided
		Expensive while still constant with existing land/school
		Continued security/safety concerns - add a bridge?
		Lose time running between buildings
		Exposure to weather
		Too expensive, waste of existing buildings
		Split facility - no, no, no
CONCEPT B	PROS	CONS
	Less cost than A	Phasing issues
	Bridge/Connector addresses some safety issues	Trailers
	Familiar territory	Unforseen costs
	Buildings closer together	Flooding
	Not as wasteful as A	Walkway/bridge may cause other problems (lateness) and security may still be an issue
	More closed campus	Technological updates may not be fully addressed
	No weather concerns	Unauthorized access/safety still an issue
	New facilities provide better physical comfort	Collaboration still difficult

	Tunnel instead of bridge - protected travel between buildings	Duplication of services (libraries)
	Addresses security	Locker access will still be poor
	Maintains central location	Buildings too close to road
	Renovations may allow for adaptation of learning environment	Why rebuild in an area we've outgrown
	Able to control entry/exit	Not efficient or cohesive
	Better for handicapped children	Construction is disruptive to education
	Bridge should be a building - like a shopping mall - with "wings" off of it that have different uses. Easy to add on and re-evaluate over the years	Less interaction between students
		Bridge seems expensive and excessive -street is low
CONCEPT C	PROS	CONS
	Not wasteful	Doesn't meet "big picture" educational goals
	Least expensive (for now)	Most disruptive
	Brings buildings up to code	Safety still an issue
	Potential for structures to become more student-efficient as overall enrollment decreases in future years	Students late to class
	Green	Flooding
	Reasonable costs, preserves existing values	Too expensive- no bang for the buck
	Much of cost is deferred maintenance	Just a band aid for all the issues
		Does not solve most problems
		Lots of risk
		Waste of money
		No value
		True life-cycle cost
		No changes to current classrooms; doesn't address size or functionality
		Difficult to improve technologies with present class spaces
		Special needs are not taken into consideration in typical/existing classroom spaces
		Should not be an option- remove concept- not sustainable
		This is what happens if referendum is not approved, it should not be included as an option now
		Why rebuild in an area we've outgrown
		Keeps students and staff in outdated architectural educational facility
		Construction challenges in the future, hence more money in the end

		You get what you pay for - cheap is not good
		Least flexible design - not able to accommodate multi-functional space
		Why? for next 50 years?
		Renovating current conditions
		Better than nothing
		This will not be sustainable in the light of probable future needs
		Tired, old buildings
CONCEPT D:	PROS	CONS
	Stays on Westerly- central location	Space/landlocked
	No Flooding	One 9-10 building may meet academic needs/goals better
	Less waste- saving part of North	No space for athletic fields
	Safety issue is helped	Too similar to "mega school" that was rejected
	Delta program stays the same	Tearing down existing facility- waste of resources
	9-12 one building	How long-term a solution for keeping the pool/gyms on the north side as they are not brand new?
	Pools, lockerrooms, gym conserved- save money	Why spend \$121 million in smaller location when you can spend \$4 million more and get more land and more options
	Least disruptive with phasing/staging	Why rebuild in an area we've outgrown
	Green school, energy efficient; green spaces can be integrated	Disruptive to students undergoing/living through the 3 years of proposed construction
	9th grade academy	All students in one building
	Collaboration improves for all teachers and staff	Big school - can design accommodate different grouping/foster community?
	Supports ADA/disabilities and decreases challenges of crossing the street	Concern that all academic classes would not stay in same location resulting in current situation
	Gives educational flexibility- best among less expensive options	New student housing on Waupelani - a negative influence
	Updated and fresh ideas in design	
	Easier to bridge gap between grade and courses that are appropriate	
	Good compromise- blending academic small school approach while keeping use of facilities used for community	
	Use existing land owned by SCASD	
	Concepts D & E seem to be best overall	
	Addition can accommodate any need	
	Focus on academics during day	

	Better opportunity for interaction among faculties, and within faculty	
	Opportunity for block scheduling	
	Schools within schools	
	International Baccalareate - I.B. diploma	
	Keeps local neighborhood stable	
	Probably the most workable concept	
	Place for Delta - sell Fairmount	
	Keeps pool, gym, etc.	
	New "South" building could be first class construction	
CONCEPT E:	PROS	CONS
	New building- can start from scratch	Roads and traffic unknown
	Fits the educational plan	More expensive- but more value
	Allows for expansion	Growth boundary issues
	Fields could be adjacent	Possible cost of property
	Can be creative	Mega school concept?
	Phasing is not an issue	What happens to current high school?
	Parking would be ample and on site	Community resistance
	Would not interrupt school year w/construction	Paving farmland
	All new- full security	Lack of access to PSU/downtown/Delta
	Facilities last longer	Walkers affected, will we need more busing?
	Lower operating costs than 2 buildings	What happens to Homecoming parade?
	Getting more for less money	Locating, securing a suitable site
	Green school, energy efficient; green spaces can be integrated	Concern for hidden costs
	Technology needs can be incorporated from the beginning	Doesn't allow for walking to shops, football field etc.
	Will use shared space & economies of scale	Sprawl
	New is better than reno- longer life cycle	Longer bus rides?
	Least disruption to students and staff	Further from Penn State campus (some students use resources on campus)
	Reasonable cost	May not get land, then a no-go
	No need to worry about crossing Westerly Parkway	Sites are too remote
	We need an International BACC	Less kids walking/biking to school
	Create environment with small size advantages within big school advantages - try to get both	Less sustainable & environmentally sensitive: - extending infrastructure -building on undeveloped land
	Concepts D & E seem best overall	School should not leave present location
	Clean slate - no retrofit	More difficult for students to take PSU courses
	Room for additional fields	
	Increased school safety/security	
	Educational spaces	

	No interference/construction while students are present	
	Everything in one location	
	Safest of all	
	Better security "without" lockdown	
	Pride in new & customized environment	
	Space for adjacent athletic fields and parking	
	Allows for more physical activities - sports teams - interplay	
	Free up downtown location for church, etc.	
	Include price of land when figuring cost. Sold, it brings down cost of E.	
	Keep fields (used for phys ed etc. on same side of road as school	
	Consider selling Fairmount if Delta can be moved.	
	Eliminates moving problems for students	
	Gets out of flood plain problems	
	Keeps kids in smaller groups to lessen alienation	
	Possibly much less costly, if existing site is sold for detached housing	
	Seems ideal...may it last 50 years plus	
CONCEPT F:	PROS	CONS
	Still maintains community cohesiveness with campus at present site	People worried about community culture shift with rival schools
	Smaller schools- better relationships possible	Double of everything
	More extra-curricular opportunities	Higher cost and cost of operations
	More options	Unequal levels over time
	Technology needs can be incorporated from the beginning	Splits the town
	Marginal increase for cost ~\$50/year	Costs too much in the long term
	More opportunities for students in sports	Creates division
	More jobs	Community can't support two full high schools
	Clean slate	Student numbers don't support this
	Positive competition/more opportunities for students	Fewer class offerings
	Increased school safety/security	Will never truly be equal over time
	Less travel/bus time	Why rebuild in an area we've outgrown
	More leadership opportunities	Cost - prohibitive
	More opportunities for "average" kids	Take off the table
	More sports teams	Too much money to build and maintain
		Does not make financial sense with decreasing class size
	It will never happen because of football	Land may not be available

		Cost effectiveness
	Reduces curricular choices in each school	Divides community
		High operational cost which could/will compromise educational quality
		High construction cost
		Higher class sizes unless more staff hired
		Expense ongoing is prohibitive
		Reduces opportunities for special classes
		Two schools would be divisive for our community
		Would increase staff costs
	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED	
	What will happen to old site if we go to new site?	
	Busing/walker information impact on costs	
	We need more clarification on athletic fields at all sites	
	More information about the walkway	
	How solid is demographic information for size estimate?	
	Will all concepts still serve community needs?	
	What parts of Concept B are reno?	
	How many floors for Concept D?	
	Is Memorial Field still field for all options?	
	Is Concept B bridge adequate logistically?	
	What is current and future enrollment?	
	Is SCASD tax base growing or declining?	
	Approximately how many tax payers are there in SCASD?	
	What are average taxes collected per taxpayer?	
	How does footprint of buildings affect educational environment for Concept C?	
	Can we have all concepts grouped by pros and cons (eg. safety addressed by ... or small communities addressed by ...)	
	Do cost estimates of Westerly site still apply?	
	In Concept E, would SCASD have to pay for sewer, etc?	
	If we go outside the growth boundary, who is benefitting from it?	
	What does weighted survey based on demographics mean? Why are you doing it?	
	In Concept D, would students still be crossing the street for Phys. Ed classes?	

	What are the long-term budget implications for Concept F? (Funding 2 staffs, 2 athletic departments, music, etc) beyond the costs of building two schools	
	For Concept A- will we do a new 8-lane pool and full-size gym?	
	Does this location still work? (Westerly)	
	Will Delta ever need a new home?	
	We need more information on the estimated costs of OTHER building projects in SCASD to judge how much we can afford to spend on THIS project. We also need to know non-facility costs (pensions, medical costs, etc.) to know how much we want to spend on this.	
	What are the renovations and additions planned for Concept B?	
	What kind of additional cost increases are expected due to the 3-option E concept being outside the growth boundary? What tax will pay for that?	

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Staff member			Please make sure the music ensemble rooms are big enough in size and number in order to accommodate all the groups. Also, a quality auditorium is very important.
Parent/guardian			As a first plea, a covered bridge between the schools would be a good use of money. Yes, they would not be used in good weather, but would definitely keep our children out of the cold and wet snow and rain on bad weather days.
Staff member	Robert Drafall	rwd11@scasd.org	I would respectfully ask that State College move to one building. As a teacher, I lose about 5 minutes of instruction per day waiting for students to arrive from the other campus. Do the math; it turns into weeks of lost instruction. I am also quite certain that it would be smarter to build new than to try to update what we have. As one of the Education Planner candidates stated in their presentation; "we are used to updating facilities built in the 1970s and 1980s, not the 1950s".
Community member	Jon Vickers-Jones	castletale@yahoo.com	Both buildings have been around for too long. Get rid of them. This is a new age we need new age buildings that take our children into the future. WE already have the land.. put trailers onto the north building and on some part of south building lot. Pull down south building and build half of the new school on the fields behind the south building then move south building pupils into that half and finish building new school . Sell north building land and recover some money for cost of new school. and yes we should pay taxes for the new school after all we are producing people who will look after us in the future, hopefully. PS. if you want I can do outline plans for as little as \$5,000.
Other	John Kovalchik		Please get the job done and do not cut corners. I am well aware how expensive the job can be, but cutting corners often ends up being more expensive in the long run. (retired staff member with property in SCASD)

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Community member	Randy Bitner	rgbitner@comcast.net	<p>First all the master plan, with Circle Ville major development for housing, will most of the new residents go to Radio Park? With all the new homes to be build as well as High Denesity need to know where all these kids go.</p> <p>Second as a former teacher and student from state high class of '69 and taught 31 years in the south building I am very concerned about the new student project going up behind the shopping mall. I remember Mike Hardy when he was hired saying "You have a drug problem here." As this will be all high denesity student housing unlike my first statement, with current location and drugs and influnince on young people I want you to consider another location then current location. Third, please look for a location where a football field could be built with parking. I am not a supporter of spending money on memorial field sink hole for football games. There just is not enough room. Fourth: if we continue to grow (which looks like we will) having four grades in one building will be over crowded. I would like to look at two high schools 9-12. Sell College Heights, Nittany Avenue and Fairmount. Move Nittany Ave and Fairmount into south building, redistrict. Where is most of our grouth in this community and have a second high school in that area.</p>
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High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian			Our concerns are that the Board champion this cause. So often, we've seen a somewhat apologetic stance that seems overly concerned with appeasing the "The School was good enough for me, and it's good enough for them" voices. The school is a wreck. Our sons wore gloves and coats to class in order to keep warm. They were called from class to help bail out hallways. We've watched mice run around the auditorium and water destroy valuable class materials. Every year we continue to patch and mend and jury-rig is more money down the drain, and the Board is taking appropriate steps. Memorial needs to be safe. Classrooms need to be adequately heated. Class space needs to be adequate for collaborative learning. The gym, nat, CTC and music areas need to be safe and adequate for equipping those students in the careers they've chosen. Yes, it will be expensive. But watching the buildings fall apart is not an option, and we'd like to see the board strongly support the project and pushback against the community naysayers. You've done an awesome job so far but to "sell" this to the pennypinchers will take more effort and less ambivalence.
Parent/guardian	Laurie Heininger	heininger4@verizon.net	(blank)
Parent/guardian	Robert Hicks	jakespaw@mac.com	Hello. I am new to the school district. Can you advise as to the expected completion date of the high school refurbishment project. My children are in middle and elementary schools now
Staff member	shelbi smeltzer		I would like to suggest that you make the gyms side by side to open into one large area to hold graduation. The amount of money spent on graduation at BJC is astronomical when you include the building rental, parking attendants, seating attendants, EMTs, set-up/tear-down fees, etc.
Parent/guardian			I understand that several elementary schools that have been built previously were at capacity within a year or two. I think any building that is done needs to take into account growth and plan for that so we don't end up needing more new facilities for many years.
Community member			Here we go again. Aren't school taxes high enough? Walmart could manage schools better than a socialist school board. Instead of of taking more money by force, how about allowing a market to develop in education?

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

former parent and former staff member			You've polled the people before and the majority wants you to renovate what's there and not move the school....please listen.
Community member			I cannot afford any increase in taxes. Please do not do this to my family. We are already struggling.
Community member		davez4@comcast.net	I think the contract for the teachers should be done first!
Parent/guardian	Kim Faulds	kim.faulds@hotmail.com	I think it is important for the school to stay in it's present location. This central location is accessible to many students within walking distance and is a core feature of the downtown. Students from Delta can easily commute back and forth on foot. As to the design of the new facility, a major complaint last time was that there were few classrooms being added. This building needs to be about enhancing the learning environment for students. Our priority should be education not facilities improvement. We need sustainable design with lots of windows and green spaces incorporated. The modern high school campus should be more like a university campus. We should have several buildings with different areas of subject focus. Another feature that should be improved on is the library. It should be the hub of the school. The students should have state of the art technology and a vast collection of books for research. Another area which is sadly decrepit is our sports fields. We must bring our fields and facilities up to par. In considering the sports fields they must be centrally located so that students can walk to them. Community field should be retained for sports but improved. Much of community field is unused grass and old baseball fields. Let's show that fitness is a priority in State College. Make this area a showcase for running, tennis,lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and exercise in general. A key problem with these fields is parking.A path from the lower parking lot must be easily accessible to people traveling up to these fields.

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Community member	Frank Mellott	Frankmellott@earthlink.net	Design & budgeting process should follow the following procedure: (1) What is absolutely essential to deliver the required education as detailed in Federal, State, and local education code? (2) What are those items that are necessary to directly support those items in number (1) above (i.e. admin spaces, cafeteria, parking, etc. -- only those without which it would be exceptionally difficult to deliver those items in (1) above). (3) Additional facilities, prioritized by lowest cost per student directly supported and by number of students that partake of the events or programs supported by those services. (4) For each category above, create a list by priority and total cost to build that portion of the facility. Then, fund everything in #1 and after that, go down the list until the money runs out. All of the above should be supported by first hard data, then by polls of both taxpayers and consumers of the product (students & parents), and by staff. SurveyMonkey or other such device makes for excellent method to ask questions and get responses by group. Then, those should be vetted in a public forum with trained facilitators to help groups prioritize within each list.
			To: Mr. Bob O'Donnell RE: His statement following how to see the best for the District-he would like "Specific opportunities for community", "engagement will be posted on the district website, www.scasd.org, and through local media outlets." RESPONSE: Mr. O'Donnell- as the superintendent of this school district, one of YOUR jobs should be to ENSURE that the media outlets and citizens are aware or your plans. Does a SUPERINTENDENT actually delegate that responsibility to someone else?!
Student		axc22@scasd.org	Where are you going to build the new high school?
Community member	Drew Frank	meadowlanephoto@aol.com	I really like plan D2...but is there any talk of adding a new Memorial Field, to where the North Building is currently standing? That would make a lot of sense, to me.

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

All	Sharon Collins	slcollins61@comcast.net	<p>I would like to see CLIMATE CONTROL!!! And some adjustability w/in the rooms due to the tracking of the sun. Also, it would be nice if we had an auditorium and at least one basket ball gym that could fit the entire student body. Both should be Hi tech w/wiring or capability to be upgraded as technology changes. We need enough indoor and outdoor athletic facilities to meet the needs of our students. There have never been nearly enough facilities since I've been in State College--the last 15 years. We also need cafeterias and libraries w/technology and space necessary to serve us for the next 30 years. Need to have facilities to service the CTC, the family and consumer studies, arts, music, theatre, science labs, testing centers. Enough classrooms to allow for the fluctuations in population for the next 30 years. We need adequate parking for students and faculty. We need SECURITY. I know we could never have things locked down as much as elementary schools, but in the case of attack from someone w/ weapons, there needs to be more of an ability to secure from outsiders and some type of lock down system in case someone gets into the building w/ weapons, there should be some way of locking off classrooms. May need to consider some type of scanning for weapons at entrances to school, and gyms. Also, it would be worth looking into prefab and modular construction, in order to be able to build a school w/in a reasonable amount of time.</p>
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High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

			<p>also think you should be aware that the consultant will hand you some options to compare against each other but that these options are not the only options that exist. Ideally, you all would have read the information we already have obtained over the last decade of thinking about this and come to your own conclusions about what type of facility, where, and cost range and then ask architects to give good, better, best options within those parameters. Ideally, you would, as a board of elected representatives, come up with your own ideas of what is a prioritized need list along with what is "nice to have if we can afford" and what our district's budget can handle given our community, and what kind of facility we should have based on educational need and the massive input you have already collected over the last decade with numerous other "consultants." Then, you would hash out a consensus amongst yourselves. This type of process would require more work for the board and much more accountability -but ultimately, I think it is the kind of leadership required of such a large task and such a large investment from our community. The "consultant with three options thing" is typical for local governing bodies -but has not been that useful in past SCASD decisions related to the large high school project. I think this step could have been by-passed given the many times we have already done this type of thing. However, that part is too late - you are already about to be handed some options. I cannot overstate that these are just one person's opinion of the 3-5 best options - but that there are infinite ways to renovate and/or design our high school with many different price ranges and many different prioritized needs lists met. I hope you will therefore not feel confined to only comparing one of these options against the others as if these are the only options that exist. That is the kind of limited thinking that has occurred in the past and led us toward fruitless and costly mistakes in</p>
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High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian			<p>* I favor an option in which separate 9-10 and 11-12 buildings are built on a new site. Basically, a similar set up to that which is currently on Westerly Parkway, but in a different location. I did not see this option on the list of Master Plan Recommendations (Options A thru G). * Since the demographic center of the SCASD population is shifting north/west with time, the District should look for a site that is north/west of the Westerly Parkway site (perhaps on the expanse of vacant property along Blue Course Drive, north of College Ave. * The current Westerly Parkway site is outdated, and inconvenient because it is dissected by Westerly Parkway. Additionally, the Westerly Parkway site does not mesh well with its surroundings, as it abuts an aging strip-mall on one side, and high-rise college student apartments on another. * New 9-10 and 11-12 buildings on a new site could provide the SCASD with new state-of-the-art facilities on a new campus that is centered closer to the demographic center of the SCASD population, and it not as geographically-constricted as the Westerly Parkway site.</p>
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Comments Received after January 14, 2013:

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian			<p>Our family is very excited about the SCASD high school renovation project. We moved to this area several years ago due to this school district because of it's tradition, high academic standards, and close ties with Penn State University. Our children are currently in Grays Woods and Park Forest Middle School. We have been in the high school for athletic events and were extremely surprised at how much the buildings are in need for repair/renovation. The classroom, the bathrooms, the gymnasium, the football locker rooms, the wrestling room, the cafeteria, the lockers....all need updated! It is an embarrassment to our community to bring people from out of town to the high school or when other schools come to visit. So, this project is NEEDED for the kids in our community! With the school district being so wide-spread throughout several townships in the Centre region, it is in my opinion that the high school could be placed anywhere within the school district, which the land is available for the building structures, athletic facilities, and parking lots. My advise and hope is that the planning committee and architects study current high schools within Pennsylvania that are successful and use those facilities as a guide for creating ours. The high schools that are stand-outs are Upper St. Clair and North Allegheny, both of which are in Pittsburgh and are AAAA school districts. They continue to be blue ribbon schools and must be doing something right to always be rated high in academics and athletics. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I look forward to the continued progress of this exciting community project!</p>
Parent/guardian	Ali Carr-Chellman	aac3@psu.edu	<p>I am not engaging in this process primarily because it is my absolute unwavering opinion that we need a SECOND HIGH SCHOOL located elsewhere in the community (probably to the west). I am not interested in helping to build something that makes no sense to me, we need more opportunities for our kids and the current high school is simply TOO LARGE, making it better is a bad idea, adding a second building is the proper thing to do.</p>

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian	Paul Babitzke	pxb28@psu.edu	<p>The whole high school project has been stunning. Several years back we had a plan in place to renovate the high school buildings. However, a select few in the community did not want a renovated school. As I understand it they instead wanted a new school built elsewhere, in part because developers wanted to tap into what would become new underground infrastructure for sewer and water, resulting in a substantial savings to the developers. Then these naysayers created community controversy where none existed, put up 5 candidates for the school board under the guise of "Vote for Change." They won, put an end to the high school project, which ultimately cost the community \$10,000,000 related to the swap fiasco. I realize that the vote for change 5 was not responsible for signing the swap but they put an end to the reason that the swap was signed in the first place. After the vote for change 5 were elected they had the community decide what they wanted for the high school project. Much to their chagrin, the community WANTED to renovate the school! Now years later we are talking about guess what, renovating the school. But, and this is a huge BUT, for this to occur we now have to vote on the renovation. Sadly, I doubt it will pass because of the large number of tea baggers. Thus, my 5th grade daughter, who wasn't even in school when the vote for change 5 rested control of the school board, will attend high school in existing decrepit 20th century buildings. How sad. I sure hope that the vote for change 5 are extremely proud for all they have done.</p>
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High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian			<p>My input....Please consider a second high school. I would rather pay a lot more taxes for a smaller school where the milieu is manageable and my kids are not so intimidated. 95% of the parents don't care about the quad A status. None of our kids can make a team anyway. Your teacher/coaches should not be influencing our schools by promoting our Quad A/great team status. It is a little self serving. Lots of research promotes smaller schools. I am willing to pay for it. Second point, don't ruin the green space of community field. Build a parking garage if you want in the front and use the over-sized parking lot for more space...don't take green space. We don't want another road through the area please. I really don't want the idea of extending W. Hamilton for bus entrance. It will ruin a great neighborhood. I really appreciate your taking our input. I know the school board is trying very hard and in a really difficult position. Good luck!</p>
Parent/guardian			<p>Knowing that environmental stewardship is one of the guiding principles for this project, I question how leaving the dilapidated current high school empty and building on our ever shrinking open land is in keeping with this principle.</p>
Parent/guardian			<p>As I understand the Upper Dublin High School is the only referendum project to pass, I was curious if our referendum would be as 'general' as the language in theirs? http://www.udcause.org/UDCAUSE_ReferendumInfo.htm</p>
Community member			<p>I wish the public forum had time for us to talk with the community team members after we had some of the information. I don't want to waste people's time at the microphone but I had questions. Also, the survey questions were really hard to answer, the way they were worded.</p>

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian	Scott Reed	scottkreed@gmail.com	<p>forum. I found the forum informative and believe it will be a critical component to the success of the SCASD building project. Fliers provided during last evening forum noted inadequate electrical service as one of the many antiquated systems in the current facilities. Obviously a very fundamental service given today's digital age. The cost of upgrading such systems can be significant, and especially so when performed in extremely outdated facilities. Basic tasks such as installing conduit paths, cutting in wall receptacles, etc. can become quite time and labor intensive. I fear, if a renovation-only option is the chosen model, these fundamental upgrades may consume significant portions of funding, yet yield little, if any, recognizable gain in education value because they tend to be 'hidden' by nature (behind walls, in basements, closets, etc.) and are commonplace in more modern facilities. With the above in mind, the presentations also noted technology as one of the principle requirements of the new high school building. Does a new facility allow for an area(s) to be designated to house critical technologies? As a network/data center/telecommunications architect for nearly 20 years, I see recurring cases where organizations, departments, faculty, staff, students, and even administration have grown to rely on critical IT systems, yet have little or no means to sustain such systems. In most cases, existing facilities are simply inadequate (limited space, HVAC, electrical, UPS/generator, etc.) to host critical IT systems which may need to remain accessible 24x7x365. Generally because such systems tend to creep from convenient to mission critical. This trend has increased considerable in recent years with no end in sight. Digital information influences the way our children learn and should aid how institutions teach. IT has quickly become a basic necessity for many businesses as well as individuals. If integrated wisely, IT can reduce costs by eliminating required</p>
Parent/guardian			<p>I like the school within a school concept. Has the idea of an IB world school curriculum been explored by the board?</p>

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian	Paul Moser	paule_m@yahoo.com	I toured the HS last Wednesday evening. I left with a clear impression that the school is undersized, in poor condition, outdated, etc. My feeling that night was the entire building should be replaced with a new one. Later on through the week, talking with other community folks, I heard impressions of the school that weren't so skewed towards the run down parts. I'm writing to suggest that your tours share everything: the good, the bad, the ugly. To learn later that there are some labs that work very well left me with the impression that I wasn't being told everything. I know that's not your intention and fully support your efforts at transparency. Perhaps February 28th community session would include a more comprehensive tour. not just the ugly. thank you for the forum. You've a monumental task.
Parent/guardian			I feel strongly that the number of students at the high school is too high. I wish you would consider plan F again.
Community member	Emily Filling	efilling3@verizon.net	I understand there are about 2,400 students at State High currently. The plans being developed will accommodate how many students, based on projected population growth?
Parent/guardian	Anastasia	ana60nda@gmail.com	Hi. I heard that Architect is very resilient to use precast in High School project. I would like to see what kind of materials are proposed to be used there. Where can I see this information? Thank you.
Parent/guardian	Ted Reutzel	reutzels@gmail.com	Consider variation of option D in which new school (or addition) moves into the existing parking lot of South Building, with parking shifted to rear or North Building site. A two story building in the parking lot would provide a tremendous amount of room, and it's close to Westerly Parkway, so a short bridge could get folks to parking lot and/or indoor pool/gym facilities on North side (if you decide to leave them). You can have courtyards to include natural light.
Parent/guardian			Very important to consider and report on life cycle and operating costs. Very important to consider and report on impact on local taxes.

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian			Any good architect would want to do the best and most innovative job they can...but we don't necessarily need best and most innovative to remain a top notch school. Consider what other recent high school renovations/construction projects have cost per foot (some information on this is available online at ...), then tell the architects to come up with a functional, good solution that meets some cost per sq ft criteria based on the data.
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Comments received after February 8, 2013

Parent/guardian			Thank you for putting the "two separate high schools" option on the table. Almost everyone that my wife and I talk to about this subject feel this is the best option, so I am very puzzled why the board and administration appear so opposed to it. It is likely that this option would cost a little more, but if there is educational value, a strong case could be made to gain community support. Building "small learning communities" within one large high school is a poor substitute and, if anything like the school's anti-bullying initiatives, likely to be ineffective in achieving its goal. As for the argument that it would be too divisive, it doesn't have to be that way. My wife grew up in a town almost identical in size to State College with two separate high schools. Yes, there was a friendly rivalry in sports, but it certainly didn't polarize the community. I urge you to give this option a serious look. There are many in the community who already prefer such an outcome, and others who could be persuaded.
Community member			You have raised our taxes too much. The tax increases have outpaced the real estate value associated with the SCASD. Find another way to fund whichever high school option you choose and you will have minimal opposition.

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Community member	Randall Bitner	rgbitner@comcast.net	As I shop and drive by Wapallanie Drive behind the shopping center on Westerly Parkway the number of new student housing units going up. As a former employee at the high school for 31 years, the apartments behind the South High school was a drug problem and run away hide place. Now with more student housing bein build and more planned (The open field behind the shopping center is proposed for MORE student housing). I am just afraid withthat much student housing we will have more serious problems with students taking off. Bothers me greatly as a former employee. I would ask that a new location be found. As another note, if not moved and everything becomes housed in a 9-12 building level, the Delta program could move closer to the high school as Delta students do take courses there. Third note is CTC. If one building is renovated and site for another building, only one building needs to house a CTC program. No need to duplicat in both buildings. Randy Bitner
Parent/guardian	Jodi Miller	jodi@psu.edu	While I personally do not like the ideas of 2 separate high schools in the State College Area, the idea of future growth concerns me. Have any studies been done to predict student body population in the upcoming years. With the approximate class size of 600, one high school is best in my opinion. If there is a chance that significant growth will occur, say to a class size of 800, then one high school is probably insufficient...this would be a larger student body than the city high school I attended. I just want to make sure that all bases are being covered!
Other (alum)	John Treaster		Seriously consider a 2 high school district. My children attend the Mifflin County School District and the loss opportunities as a result of going to one high school is a shame. With 2 high schools, students who could not realistically participate in a sport, club, or band program will now have a better chance. A better community of learning where all teachers of a building and their students know each other and can develop positive realtionships will yield better outcomes. Why not survey the Mifflin County High School staff and get their input?

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian	John Kalbach	kalbach@psu.edu	During the update last night the Architect mentioned that the current buildings systems have out lived their life. When the North and South buildings were designed, what was their life expectancy? Also, with all of the options, what is the life expectancy of each? I do not need a direct reply, I think it would be useful to include in future information. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me. Thanks for your time.
Parent/guardian			I've attended both of the evening community forum sessions and am a little concerned about the low turn out. I agree community engagement is critical to the process and a successful referendum and am concerned that if word is not getting out before the end of May, we'll lose community focus and/or support over the summer and then there is a small window before the vote.
Parent/guardian	mike karstetter	mdk86@yhahoo.com	I would support a new school on new property with new athletic and teaching facilities. We could sell the land we leave behind and reduce our costs. Has this been looked at. I am sure the land we leave behind in SC could be privatized and taxed to further reduce our schools cost. Have you visited Cumberland Valley, Central Mountain etc. Good examples of a clean slate. I do not support doing anything with the existing schools. Remodel or tear down is dangerous for our kids. LOOK at sites where we can start on a clean land parcel and then move in and sell the old lands. Why do we keep the little school in College Heights and the football field area. Worth millions to us.
Community member	Ron Pavlechko	ronpav1@comcast.net	Since possible new high school sites (both inside and outside of the growth boundary) have been shared with the public, when will possible satellite athletic sites be identified should the high school remain on Westerly Parkway and new or renovation construction impinge upon the current outdoor athletic sites?
Community member	Karen Foard	kfoardlc@comcast.net	I was just wondering: Has it come up in discussions that if we go to a one HS building format (combining all we have into one campus) that the community loses an auditorium? There are MANY community groups that use our auditoriums, and the schedule is tight enough as it is with two available at the high schools currently.

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Comments received after April 3

Community member	Joe Viglione	joevig99@yahoo.com	I am very impressed with the level of effort you have undertaken to give residents a chance to voice their opinions. No reply is necessary, please keep up the good work.
Parent/guardian	Reginald W. Goeke	Reg@MarketValueSolutions.cc	I would appreciate some information regarding what, precisely, was gained by delaying the building project 5+ years ago. And what was the cost of those specific benefits? Including increased construction costs, impact on learning, waste due to loan guarantees, etc. What was so bad about the previously discarded plan that we will be sure to avoid in a future plan? Can we add a Facebook link so I can promote upcoming meetings via social media?
Parent/guardian	Blair Malcom	wbm101@psu.edu	
Parent/guardian	Mytri		I am in favor of building a quadrangle with four floors going up. All the classroom looking outside and the inner corridor connecting the classrooms. These 14-18 year old kids should have no trouble running up and down. Have staircases in each side of the quadrangle. Have a couple of elevators strictly for the teachers and those who need it. Go to India, Singapore and see how they house the students. This constant whine about taxes is lowering the standards our school district is famous for.

High School Comments received via Website as of May 9, 2013

Parent/guardian Lucy Barber

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6-8 middle schools, two 9-10 schools and one 11-12 high school. When I was in 10th grade, they did away with the second 9-10 high school and put us all together. It was NOT too many students. It gave everyone better chances to be involved in what they wanted to be doing, and to find ample peer groups. "Too large" to me is silly. This was Pennsbury School District in Bucks County. I have been employed as a secondary guest teacher in SCASD; my degree is Secondary English Ed. It is my opinion that the current high schools are not in good shape. It really is difficult to find the office--after passing through hallways and areas where the students are present. This really is not safe the way things are now. Also, I agree the rooms (like the chemistry labs/biology rooms) are undersized. Having students crossing to the other building makes the time allowed between classes rather long. I can't recall what it was, but when I was substituting I remember it being very lax when it came to when the students actually showed up for the beginning of class. My high school was not crowded with close to 1500 students in 11th and 12th, and we only had 3 minutes between classes. It worked. And this new high school can work. My daughter attended Grace Lutheran Kindergarten a few years ago when they were renovating and expanding the school. It was extremely disruptive and we all questioned the safety and impact on everyone's health attending the school. There were noise issues, sauldering fumes, paint fumes, heavy machinery, traffic problems, etc. despite all efforts to maintain a decent atmosphere. One more thing that we personally feel (we have a 2nd grader and a Kindergartener), we feel that having the high school away from the downtown area in a more residential area is favorable. The college has expanded and the areas of families with children have expanded out of the borough area. So, based on our experience and situations, we feel a well-planned new high school with all

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Parent/guardian Scott Wing

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Scheme D3 footprint implies that a (mostly) new high school on the south side will require taking field space, thus making it a less attractive option compared to a new site. Based on hearing this from other participants at the information center I strongly encourage showing a D3 option that preserves all field space. This is best done by locating a mostly new 3-story building in the current south parking area. this has many advantages: 1. places new school close to the preserved athletic facilities along westerly parkway on the north side (option D3). Preserves the newer gyms, natatorium. Reduces number of times students cross road and the walking distance/time to cross. 2. allows for construction without disrupting existing academic spaces (will require temporary parking on practice fields during construction) 3. Topography allows for primary entry on the 2nd floor of the 3-story building (assumes new parking will be where existing building is located to the south of new building). Entering in the middle simplifies circulation in the building. 4. 3-story reduces walking time between classes. 5. 3-story is more energy-efficient, reduces long-term operating costs (less exterior enclosure in ratio to overall volume) 6. 3-story less expansive for site stormwater, roof replacement, exterior cladding, etc. which makes up for some code and structure additional costs of 3-story vs 2-story. This version of of D3 is much better option than the 2-story footprint version currently shown and compares very favorably to the sprawl sites shown for new building locations. The 3-story version is appropriate for the current density for a "town" school vs. a cornfield site.