



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDIA RELEASE

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SCASD Board of Directors To Continue Reviewing Elementary School Options At Special Meeting

On Monday, Nov. 7, at a special meeting, the State College Area School District Board of Directors will continue assessing elementary school project options with an eye toward voting on Nov. 14.

During the meeting, the design team of architects and district administrators will give [a presentation](#) outlining the various factors being considered for Corl Street, Houserville and Radio Park elementary schools.

Working through the schematic design process for the schools, the design team met with the Board's Facilities and Grounds Committee and the State College Borough Planning Commission, both of which aided the preparation for the special meeting update.

The Board is weighing addition/renovation or new construction projects for Houserville and Radio Park. All options still on the table call for an addition/renovation project at Corl Street.

Additionally, the Board will decide on the number of classrooms per grade.

Currently, the district administration is recommending addition/renovation projects for all three schools, with three classrooms per grade at each. For Radio Park, the recommendation includes adding a bid alternate for a fourth classroom per grade for the following reasons:

- The school's central location within the district
- The potential growth of neighboring attendance areas
- The economic advantage of including an addition now due to the opportunity for PlanCon reimbursement

The recommended option would meet expected student enrollment up to 2025-2026, the projection period in a recent demographic analysis of the district's elementary attendance areas.

Estimated net costs for the recommended option are as follows:

- Corl Street: \$15.02 million (after \$900,000 in PlanCon reimbursement)

- Houserville: \$15.37 million (after \$1.11 million in PlanCon reimbursement and \$1.5 million in state grant)
- Radio Park 3 classrooms per grade: 15.86 million (after \$1.45 million in PlanCon reimbursement and \$1.5 million in state grant)
- Radio Park with alternate bid 4th classroom per grade: \$17.07 million (after \$1.77 million in PlanCon reimbursement and \$1.5 million in state grant)

Total net costs of three projects would be:

- \$46.25 million for 3 classrooms per grade at each (\$6.46 million in PlanCon and grant funding)
- \$47.46 million for 3 classrooms per grade at Corl Street and Houserville and bid alternate 4th classroom per grade at Radio Park (\$6.78 million in PlanCon and grant funding)

Monday's presentation also will cover:

- **Capital financing** — The district has the capacity to finance up to \$50 million for elementary projects in addition to the remaining borrowings for the State High Project.
- **Project site plans** — The design team will provide updated site plans for both new construction and addition/renovation projects. In the past week, the team has focused on playground location/access, pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow and phasing considerations, as well as other considerations.
- **Phasing costs** — These will be incurred in all the scenarios. For an addition/renovation project, typical costs include modular classrooms, temporary building provisions and temporary site changes. Utility relocation and potential redundancies in site and stormwater accommodations are among the typical costs for a new construction project. All project cost estimates include anticipated phasing costs.
- **Construction contingency** — An addition/renovation project would have a higher expected risk for change orders. Based on previous district projects and the design team's analysis, the team estimates a 5 percent construction contingency for the addition/renovation options and a 3 percent contingency for new construction options. Those costs are included in the project estimates.

Policy 217 - Graduation Requirements

On Monday, the Board also will discuss [proposed changes to Policy 217 - Graduation Requirements](#). The revisions center on increasing total credits required for graduation from 22.5 to 25, mainly in order to better prepare students for college and career experiences. The change is expected to affect about 20 percent of students.

