

At its regular monthly [meeting on March 16, 2023](#), our School Board voted to authorize the district to enter into an agreement to purchase a 9-acre property behind Coopertown Elementary School, running along Highland Lane, which provides an opportunity to help us manage our enrollment growth and educational program goals. We are committed to communicating transparently and clearly and wanted to share this news, as it relates to the future of our facilities and programs and, if it closes as planned in July 2023, is a significant investment.

Since 2007, Haverford's enrollment has grown by more than 1,150 students, or 21 percent. Since 2015, the pace of growth has rapidly accelerated, and school enrollment demographers project growth will continue, though at a slower pace, before leveling off in the next few years. Currently, Haverford educates 6,625 students.

Four district elementary schools are at or beyond enrollment capacity, with the exception being the new Lynnewood Elementary which opened in 2021. With recent renovations/additions, we've added twelve classrooms to our high school to accommodate enrollment growth and to modernize our learning spaces.

Available parcels of land large enough to construct a school are few and are rarely on the market in Haverford Township. The Highland Lane property presents a particularly unique opportunity because it is adjacent to one of our existing schools and a township park.

The District has not made any decisions about the use of this property or additions to its other school facilities. The action the board authorized starts the process to be able to buy the land. It is not uncommon for school districts to purchase land years in advance of construction occurring, particularly when available land is scarce and an opportunity to acquire property near or adjacent to a school becomes available. The purchase of this property would provide our District the opportunity to address our need for additional space, enhancing and securing the future of the district's educational and programmatic offerings.

The Board has approved entering into an agreement to purchase this property for \$4.3 million. The Board's resolution authorizes leadership to sign an agreement once the language is reviewed and approved by our Solicitor's office. The purchase agreement will include a 90-day 'due diligence' period in which studies will be performed to determine the extent to which the land is suitable for construction of a school. The District will engage and contract with consultants, engineers, architects, appraisers, and other professionals to properly investigate and inspect the property. After due diligence is completed, the District would be able to close on the property in 30 days, currently estimated to be July 2023. As we write this update, our Solicitor's office and the attorney for the current owners continue to finalize the non-financial terms of an Agreement of Sale.

As we move forward, our School Board in our regular business and our committee meetings will continue to review, discuss and decide upon options for our facilities, as presented by our School Facilities Use consultants, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, and Associates. You can view their presentations to the Board ([November 10th meeting](#), and the [December 8th meeting](#)), by clicking on the highlighted text. Their feasibility study identified current space constraints and recommended expansion at three of our elementary buildings, including two that still house students in modular classrooms. The acquisition of 9 acres, near district property, opens new opportunities for our district and community, now and in the future.

Residents of the Township may share their questions and concerns about and ideas for developing the to-be-acquired property and priorities for other facility improvements by emailing the School Board or providing comments during our public meetings. Public comment can be requested by emailing publiccomment@haverfordsd.net.

We will continue to update the public as we move forward. Our goal is to provide the most educationally appropriate, safe, and dynamic learning spaces for our students.