



ARCHITECTURE
INTERIOR DESIGN
HISTORIC RESTORATION
EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

Eshleman Elementary Teachers' Survey Results

prepared for

the

Penn Manor School District



by

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Teaching Staff

1. What building and site improvements would you recommend to create a stronger student-centered environment in the Eshleman Elementary School?
 - Several small rooms for tutoring, small groups, etc. - 11
 - used for teacher/parent conference during the school day, or for MDE, IEP meetings. Maybe we could even put extra phone lines in these conference rooms!
 - specials room for reading recovery, guidance, speech, etc. (larger)
 - Discover Program — room for Discover classes so back of library would always be open so teachers would have access to teacher resources, phone and laminator.
 - instrument and band practice
 - Students should not be in storage areas or on stage for small group instruction.
 - small room for time-out/detention with one-way glass for monitoring purposes
 - Separate art and music rooms - 8
 - with ample storage
 - large music room which would accommodate large group movement. Because of the "noise" factor, ideally it should be located away from classrooms.
 - safe and secure storage for classroom instruments
 - a small, separate room to accommodate instrumental lessons with "cubbies" for instrument storage
 - larger art room — improved storage for materials and projects
 - Electrical systems need major improvements (outlets, lights, ceiling fans if not all temperature control). - 8
 - no extension cords
 - air conditioning for 90° days
 - ceiling fans
 - well-lit classrooms and hallways
 - Windows - 6
 - better ventilation
 - update blinds — cleaner, lightweight
 - Screens on windows and doors will help with the flies.
 - More storage space - 5
 - Perhaps utilize the 2' underneath the chalkboards and bulletin boards by building in shelving units. (These shelves would be ideal for youngsters to access materials.)
 - to free countertops, sink area for work space
 - more teacher storage room in classrooms
 - improved space to hang coats/store personal items
 - Library - 4
 - needs to be enlarged so that more than one class can use it at one time
 - increased library/technology space
 - update, complete with technology
 - Addition of a gym - 3
 - separate from cafeteria/auditorium
 - with an entrance off a lobby so the rest of the school can be locked up when evening activities are being held in the gym
 - Larger all-purpose room to handle entire student body - 3
 - Our school needs work areas large enough to accommodate cooperative learning stations. Our all-purpose room is such a space, but it is seldom unscheduled.

- New and larger faculty room - 3
 - larger work area for faculty and parents
 - Parking facilities/traffic - 3
 - more parking with a separate bus entrance and drop-off away from walkers — Safety!!!
 - improved traffic flow
 - Playground - 3
 - more swings, seesaws, climbing equipment
 - basketball area
 - enclosed outdoor playground areas
 - larger paved playground area
 - Larger office suite - 2
 - attractive lobby
 - Larger cafeteria/auditorium space - 2
 - should still share a combined space
 - New carpet for classrooms - 2
 - Cubbies - 2
 - built-in cubbies for K students and own bathrooms
 - closets replaced with individual cubbies
 - Nurse's room
 - Bathrooms for each classroom
 - Additional classroom for each grade level
 - keep size of classrooms as large as they are now
 - Computer Lab
 - Double-sized classroom for projects or educational videos for two classes
 - New desks and chairs
 - New filing cabinets for teachers
 - Update the cafeteria at least to the 20th century before we get to the 21st century.
 - Inter-classroom communication system
 - Additional telephone and telephone lines
 - Outdoor areas for environmental education
2. What current programs and/or program changes (e.g., expanding and/or changing curricular content, advanced technology, changing instructional practices, revised district or state requirements) will impact the need for additional space in school buildings?
- Room for a computer lab - 3
 - With the impact of technology, classrooms need to be prepared and able to handle computers. - 3
 - increased technology use in all areas of the curriculum
 - computers need outlets
 - Physical Education Program - 3
 - We would just like to adequately implement our current curriculum. (Shooting to trash cans can be fun, but not the same as a basketball hoop.) Volleyball equipment safe and adjustable to play at heights for elementary, but easily adjusted to higher heights for adult use.
 - Art and Music Curricula - 3
 - The music department is in the process of revising the curriculum based upon the National Standards as articulated by MENC. This curriculum stresses movement and instrumental playing by students. Students will not so much learn about music, but how

to make music. This is ideally performed in a large room.

- The growth of the string/instrumental music program and the increasing number of students taking lessons and staying in the program will necessitate a large room for band and orchestra rehearsals.
- More "hands-on" activities being used, but no place to store materials when not in use (math manipulatives, costumes/props for literature groups). - 3
 - Special programs, tutoring, ESL, parent volunteers need space to work in and places to store materials.
 - Cooperative groups require room to move around classroom. Need room for tables, shelves, etc.
- Library needs to be updated and expanded to handle all the new resources as well as some current books for the children.
- More conference rooms to give individualized instruction.
- Telephones placed in private rooms — sometimes it's difficult to speak with a parent in private.
- Large group instruction with activities, students who are working on enrichment activities, independent projects need a place to go.
- Centers need bulletin boards/chalk boards.
- If gifted elementary services were expanded to include one gifted teacher per building, space would be needed to accommodate teachers full time.
- If gifted services were expanded to include a resource room (books, magazines) accommodations would have to be made.

3. Schools provide many services (e.g., health, guidance, etc.) for students in addition to delivering a strong academic program. How does the allocation of space in the school building affect the delivery of these services?

- It is very important that each specialist have their own classroom/space/office to work in - 13
 - If these were centrally located, that would aid children, as well.
 - There really isn't a space for Reading Recovery, Speech, Guidance, Tutoring, Discover, Special Education.
 - All of these rooms are extremely small. Some of the rooms were storage rooms. Most do not have windows and have poor ventilation.
 - Services are provided in closets, the stage, and hallways.
 - not conducive to being effective work areas
 - Speech and guidance rooms are so small, that it's impossible to meet comfortably with a group of five students.
 - Discover, guidance, art and music are all affected by our limited space.
 - Larger guidance room needed.
 - No room for band, orchestra.
 - Students should not be in storage areas to receive these services and be safe. Our students should have the same opportunity as other students in Penn Manor Elementary Schools.
 - Space should be provided for health, guidance, etc. which is separate and apart from academic areas. This should not include closet space. Reading, health, counseling services, etc., are able to provide more support to children who are in need if they are in comfortable and "safe" areas away from the student body.
 - It's difficult to have a lesson on stage when students are entering the cafeteria for lunch.

Likewise, it's hard to concentrate when lessons are given in a storage room. It is necessary to provide a classroom environment so students can focus on the task at hand. Separate, small classrooms for instrumental lessons would be the ideal.

- Health room is very small — no privacy for children. - 2
 - More small group meeting/conference rooms are needed.
 - Office is so tiny, people have to step aside to let others pass by.
 - Support groups are sometimes too large to meet in the conference rooms that exist now.
 - Providing a CTM for a student requires several adults at one meeting (conference room to handle such meetings).
 - Phys. Ed. instruction is limited because of our limited facilities.
 - Allocation of space is important so that the services may be utilized to their fullest potential.
 - If the space is too small or inadequate, people may perceive that the programs are diminished or insignificant. The location of the rooms in the building may also send a negative message.
4. What modifications should be included in the design of a school building to accommodate visitors to the school during the instructional day and to encourage community use of the school after the regular school hours?
- Addition of a gym - 8
 - separate from cafeteria; large enough to hold school assemblies (perhaps with stage and bleachers?)
 - would encourage after school use of the building for sports
 - alternate entrance to a gymnasium
 - would allow for more use by rec programs, etc.
 - Separate storage should be provided for school equipment vs. equipment belonging to outside groups using the gym.
 - Office - 5
 - more open and large
 - should be very visible from main lobby for visitors to enter and sign in
 - attractive and welcoming lobby with comfortable seating, display cases, parent library
 - larger office area
 - lobby area with immediate access to the school office
 - More parking — easier access to the school - 4
 - entrance/exit areas
 - entry way to accommodate more people entering the building
 - All-purpose room which is not the cafeteria or gym - 2
 - A very modern library could also invite some adult education classes which our community would use. - 2
 - Parent-helper workroom - 2
 - inviting exterior and entrance
 - sound system for stage
 - new stage curtain
 - no storage on stage
 - community room — large room for meetings, assemblies, etc.
 - computer lab, that is, a full classroom devoted to the use of computers

5. In your classroom and the special program areas of the school (e.g., library, physical education area, art room), what are the features that provide positive opportunities to educate students?

Classrooms

- My classroom - the large size of it! - 9
 - We are able to have many learning centers, which allow students to move.
 - room for displays
- Adequate blackboards and large bulletin boards - 7
 - magnetic chalkboards
- Windows - 2
 - are newer and have mini-blinds between the glass and have screens.
 - wall of windows (on the quiet and cooler side of the building)
- Number of outlets in my room
- We use the library.
- The use of many books, technical provisions, (computers, video/computer system, TV, VCR, cassettes, etc.)
- We as teachers work hard to make our classroom a place that invites the best learning experiences so our students can get the best education possible.
- Lots of built in storage
- Outside of closet doors lend themselves to hanging centers and activities accessible to students.
- I love our small school with only two of each grade level. It enables us to really get to know our families and makes for a very positive "family" atmosphere in the school.
- Closets for students are out of the way and don't take up classroom space.

Gym

- I will use Conestoga as an example: High gym — at least 42 cinder blocks high with 6,912 acoustic cinder blocks will provide a good learning environment, because there is very little echo in this gym. A wood floor marked with red, blue and white lines. Keep all air ducts 2' away from the ceiling and walls because they will trap balls which will never be retrieved unless we have scaffolding. Gym office, gym storage, storage for outside activities have access directly to gym. Gym office should be big enough for desk, file cabinet, storage cabinet and computer accessibility. Volleyball specs should be AVAI equipment, because this equipment definitely will exceed elementary needs, but meet community and adult team needs. Poles should be made of aluminum because other poles are too heavy. These poles should fit into sleeves in the floor. Storage for PE should allow for nets to be hung on the wall and poles secured with pole harness against the wall. The reason for some of these criteria are because this will be the community gym used by adults and high school teams for volleyball and basketball practices or leagues. Telescope style of poles are needed to adjust for a variety of heights. Storage room should be high, so equipment can be stored on top of shelving or cabinets especially used for track and field days. This equipment is used once year but takes up a lot of space. We need a storage area as big as Hambright for PE, but a gym like Conestoga. Please visit for specs. A small blackboard would be nice in the gym.

Gifted

- Internet drop
- chalk boards
- easy access to library resources

Learning Support

- size
- number of chalkboards
- natural lighting from windows
- Internet hookup

Music

- large, open areas of room space
- easy and organized access to instruments and their storage
- large chalkboard space with at least one board with staff lines

6. In your classroom and the special program areas of the school (e.g., library, physical education area, art room), what are the features that hinder opportunities to educate students?

Classrooms

- lack of storage space - 7
- lack of electrical outlets - 5
- no screens on windows — too many bees/bugs in the room - 4
- Temperature control - 4
 - Heat in rooms during summer and winter make learning difficult.
 - hot, stuffy rooms
 - need air conditioning
- small rooms/lack of space - 2
- need brighter lights - 2
- lack of bookshelves - 2
- cabinets
- carpet (noise level)
- magnetic blackboard
- science lab
- tables (built-in)
- study carrels
- blower is noisy on heating system
- special areas — lack of space, equipment (sinks, etc.)
- Windows facing playground allow much noise and distractions to occur.
- Blinds on windows rattle when wind blows.

Physical Education

- Separate gym - 8
 - Time is limited to PE because the gym is shared with cafeteria, music programs, other programs.
- Intermediate children are taught basketball skills using trash cans for baskets.
- lack of facilities (i.e., no basketball nets, small room, etc.)
- storage down the hall: poor supervision and does not allow teacher to change equipment quickly between classes
- sound: number of acoustic slits is necessary for students to have a good learning environment without an echo
- Basketball nets and backboards should be plexiglass for main court with breakaway rims (adult use). Side baskets — white boards with mats under them. Mats should be attached to wall, not velcro. They are more trouble than they are worth.

Art

- Art and music room is shared. This limits activities which might need more time and space. - 4
- more sinks for children to use - 2
 - not the semi-circle stainless steel that operates with a foot pedal.
- storage rooms - 2
- place for kiln
 - Need to have a properly vented kiln in the art room, not down the hall.
- Tables and chairs are needed instead of individual desks.

Library

- temperature — should be air conditioned in current location
- could use more space
- need "reading roost" (a special area to read to children - similar to the Lancaster Public Library)
- update
- does not have space to utilize technology fully

Gifted

- Working in the back of the library results in frequent interruptions by students and teachers.
- Having a phone in the room I use results in frequent interruptions by teachers making and receiving phone calls.
- Having limited storage and display areas hinders the amount of materials I can store in the classroom, hence having to store supplies/resources at home.

Learning Support

- limited electrical outlets
- limited storage space
- lighting
- climate control - lack of temperature control, air conditioning, no screens on windows
- no magnetic chalkboards.

Music

- lack of storage facilities
- size of room for movement
- The fact that art and music room are one and the same
- lack of instrument storage space
- lack of bulletin board/chalkboard space

Guidance/Speech

- Guidance/speech rooms are too small.

7. Other information you might wish to share:

- Gym — separate from cafeteria
- Forum — a room with a stage that could be used by classes to perform small plays or used by K for a gym

- Computer Lab
- Larger teacher's lounge
- Adult restrooms
- Improve all bathroom facilities to handle more children.
- I'm very opposed to combining Eshleman and LeTort into one large school. The small school family atmosphere is very beneficial to Eshleman families, students and staff.
- A larger work area for teachers would be heavenly. Our little work area is great, but it gets awfully crowded at time.
- Increased parking areas and entrances to school are other areas that need attention.
- Increasing built-in shelving in the classrooms would be helpful.
- I think Penn Manor needs to update the facilities at Eshleman and LeTort to promote positive educational experiences in physical education, art and music.
- The ideal music room would have the following:
 - plenty of storage space for texts, instruments, etc.
 - a large carpeted area for movement, an area for chairs, and an area for instrumental playing which is set up on a regular basis. This room accommodates smooth transitions between classroom activities.
- Air conditioning is needed in all rooms.