

Hambright Town Meeting – March 2, 2011 – Questions and Answers

Q. If we build a new school, would all of the students presently at Hambright attend the new school or would there be new boundaries designated?

A. At this point a new school would serve Hambright students. We do not have plans to redistrict, but at this point with the uncertainty in the economy, we cannot rule that out.

Q. Has there been any consideration with building a third floor onto the existing Hambright building?

A. The structure of Hambright would not support the addition of a third floor unless very costly work was involved.

Q. If we're running out of room at Hambright now, wouldn't we be building a new school eventually?

A. We are not able to expand on the present Hambright Elementary site which is part of the reason we went ahead with the purchase of land to support new construction if needed.

Q. Is the proposed new Hambright plan larger than the existing Hambright facility?

A. The current plan for a new building is about the same size as the present building. The architect explained that these base plans were reviewed with additional space being added as a separate bid. We would refine plans to include a large enough gym, cafeteria, auditorium etc. to accommodate a larger number of students.

Q. Would the existing Hambright be a structure that would be attractive to a business or is it zoned only for school use?

A. We are in discussion with Manor Township to review zoning for Hambright. Potential rezoning should not be a problem. If we decided to renovate existing structure there would be no major obstacles that would make renovation difficult.

Q. What is the value of the existing Hambright?

A. \$3 to \$3.5 million for the school and an additional \$1 million for the land.

Comment Made: If we vacate existing Hambright we may be lucky enough to sell right away. We must also be prepared to maintain the building if it stays on the market for awhile. We would need to continue to pump minimal heat into the building, keep water on and continue interior and exterior maintenance as needed.

Q. Will we go ahead and spend the \$7 million (difference between a renovation project and a new building) if we don't spend it now?

A. We will continue carrying debt and there are additional projects being discussed. (Pequea, Conestoga). By continuing to carry debt, we avoid a referendum situation. There will always be projects to continue with as we work to maintain all of our facilities.

Comments shared by a staff member: The existing classrooms are small. She worried about the space needed for the geothermal units that would need to be installed in each classroom. This would reduce space in an already crowded room. She also expressed concern about limited playground space with the proposed changes to the property to allow for additional pick-up and drop-off areas. She, along with other staff members, expressed their support of building a new facility with larger classrooms.

Q. What will the square footage in classrooms be with a new facility?

A. The Kindergarten classrooms would be designed to include approximately 1,000-1,200 square feet, Grades 1 and 2: approximately 900-975 square feet, and Grades 3-6: approximately 800-875 square feet.

Q. Will \$15 million be enough to construct a nice facility or will we end up with needing close to \$20 million when all is said and done?

A. The 15 million dollar plans for a new facility would include quality upgrades. We would continue with specific plans for additional space when we get closer to a final decision on whether to renovate or build new. If we decide to move ahead with a new facility, we would be required to hold a formal hearing in a public meeting setting.

Final Teacher Comment: The town meetings have been excellent and we really appreciate hearing about the details of the project and the budget situation. What makes our school great is a combination of the great students, parents, staff and administration. We will continue to be great no matter where we are.