



Q & A Information for Washington Township Schools Community – *John Strange Elementary*

Question: Has the District held community meetings to solicit the opinions of neighborhood residents about the proposals relative to John Strange?

Answer: Yes. Two meetings were held at John Strange. The community-based Master Facilities Committee reviewed facility reports, data, and options. The updates from and documents created by all Master Facility Committee work was presented at the public meetings of the MSDWT School Board and made available on the District website. Access to District Administration regarding any question related to our Strategic Plan, Master Facility Committee, and facility needs and recommendations has been available, advertised, and encouraged throughout this planning process. All planning documents related to facility planning, including photos documentation of buildings' needs, have been and continue to be available on the District website.

Question: Why is the District considering building a new elementary school on the current Wyandotte site?

Answer: The community-based Master Facility Committee considered several factors, including being good stewards of taxpayer dollars, when completing an extensive review of options and ultimately making this recommendation:

- The cost of renovating John Strange and adding capacity consistent with the Committee's Guiding Principles exceeded the cost of new construction;
- The current John Strange campus is extremely small and is unable to support a larger building footprint and also accommodate increased vehicle traffic, additional needed parking, outdoor learning spaces, and adequate playground areas;
- The Wyandotte site is a large site, able to accommodate an elementary size consistent with our Guiding Principles. In addition, the use of this site for community baseball, softball and soccer would be able to be maintained;
- The Wyandotte site allows the District to construct an elementary that is identical in design, size, and scope as an elementary to be built on the current Harcourt Elementary site. This will save the taxpayers' resources while allowing students to benefit from a modern school design.

Question: Would the John Strange building remain open if it is not used as a K-5 elementary school?

Answer: Yes. The John Strange facility may be used for educational and educational support services such as:

- Special Education Pre-School
- Childcare
- Possible Community Preschool (contingent on district budget and state funding)
- Possible Professional Spaces (such as District technology support)

Question: How would renovations to support the future uses of John Strange be funded?

Answer: If the construction referendum passes, additional funds will be available in the District's capital projects fund to address needed repairs and renovations.

Question: Could the current Wyandotte building be utilized as a District kindergarten center?

Answer: A separate kindergarten center on the eastern side of our District is not consistent with our Guiding Principles which recommends grades K-5 at all elementary sites, all elementary school buildings able to accommodate 650-725 students without the use of trailer classrooms. Also, this would result in nine elementary buildings in the district causing additional administration costs. Neither the current or proposed funding would allow us to operate a ninth school and also adequately support all other schools' staffing needs.

Question: Has the District considered the distance students and families would travel to a new school on the Wyandotte site?

Answer: Yes. Some families may see travel distances increase. However, those increased distances are consistent with current situations in multiple District elementary schools.

Question: Has the District considered the potential impact on traffic in the area between Allisonville Elementary and the Wyandotte site?

Answer: Yes. The preliminary results of a recent traffic study indicate that there are no major traffic concerns associated with re-opening an elementary school on this site. The study accounts for the fact that approximately eight busses currently travel daily in front of the Wyandotte site. The minor issues identified can be addressed by the addition of turn lanes at the entrance and exit points of the school site as well as by utilizing the larger land area to design traffic patterns that will move more cars off of the road by queuing cars on the school campus. The current situation at John Strange regarding car traffic continues to be a safety concern as the small site makes queuing large numbers of cars on site impossible, resulting in large numbers of cars lining the roads and blocking traffic.