



QUAKER VALLEY

— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

EST. 1956

DECEMBER 2021

Greetings Quaker Valley,

THANK YOU for your on-going commitment to the Quaker Valley School District and the high school project. We are a tight-knit school district with proud roots. We are endeavoring to do something that has been talked about for decades and is now advancing to the next phase.

Communications and discussions around a new high school began in 2002 with a master facility plan. Since that time, we have had four superintendents, 15 school board elections, 41 school board members, and approximately 3,000 students graduate from QV. The issues and challenges surrounding building a new high school have been a struggle for years. However, we are proud that during the last three years, we have acquired property, determined financing without the need to exceed the cost-of-living taxing limits, evaluated programmatic needs, engaged the community, hired architects and engineers, and sought zoning approval. If the community was not passionate about this project, the conversation would have ended years ago.

There have been many recent milestones in this process, and we are following a defined plan to make it a reality for our students. A review of the timeline on our website demonstrates the years of work it has taken to get to this point in 2021. We are steadfast in advancing the project, and construction



is slated to start in 2022. After careful consideration based upon the trusted recommendation of professionals, the decision was made to build a new high school as opposed to renovating the current facility. At times those debates were challenging, but we remained committed to our Quaker Valley vision to provide an unparalleled educational experience that ignites a passion for learning in the pursuit of personal success in a location that is worthy of the students it houses. This major decision will shape the legacy of our community.

It is also critical to note that renovating our current high school with the necessary large addition would have required more square footage to maintain than a new building. We would still be living with the access deficiencies and programmatic needs we suffer on the current cramped campus that lies mostly in a flood plain.

Renovations of the current school would cost approximately \$73 million, while the new school will cost in the range of \$85-\$95 million. For a median priced home of \$231,500, the projected tax increase to renovate is about \$10 a month, versus building new which would increase taxes \$16-\$19 monthly. That is a difference of \$6 to \$9 a month. As a homeowner, would one renovate an entire home and get an inadequate finished product or build a new home that meets all of the efficient and long term needs if the difference was less than \$9 a month? This decision was considered carefully.

Despite great efforts in the last 20+ years and a renovation project in 1998, conditions have continued to deteriorate within the nearly 100-year-old building impacting the services and programs offered to our students. This is not about one school board, one election, one principal, or one superintendent. It is now our time to fulfill our obligation to the students of Quaker Valley and how we plan to deliver our programs and mission for decades to come. It is time to fulfill our mission to educate and empower all learners to design their best future in a facility that meets their needs.

It is important to remember, the benefits of a new QVSD high school include:

- New construction that is fully ADA compliant.
- Advanced technology and areas for academic programs that ensure our students will have access to current demands, so they are ready to meet the needs of the future.
- Prioritizing safety, where new construction allows for new camera systems, captured vestibules, and new sprinkler and alarm systems.
- Updated and efficient systems, a need highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to electrical and utility systems, HVAC systems will be brand new, allowing for increased air flow and ventilation.
- Outdoor spaces, outdoor classrooms, trails, and access to water systems and wetlands that provide creative learning environments, wellness spaces for students, and options for future facility expansion.
- No relocation of students from the existing facility will be necessary and graduating classes will not be disrupted.
- Community access and parking that can never be afforded to us by staying on Beaver Street.

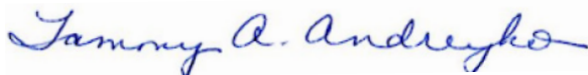
Supporting this project advances the legacy of our school district. We must be laser focused on carrying this effort over the finish line. The consideration of the Leet Township Hearing Board is vital to the future of our school district and the education of our students. Thank you to the many community members who voiced their support for this project. The zoning hearing board held

closing arguments on November 30th. We are eagerly awaiting the results of their decision and the benefits that will significantly impact our students and staff.

Furthermore, thank you to the hundreds of people who participated in the community engagement sessions with our architectural team in October. We are excited to see your comments and feedback come to life in the initial schematic designs. Your commitment to this effort shows that our community is ready for this project to begin. It is time to put the students and the staff first and follow our blueprint to make Quaker Valley High School the center of pride and education in our school community. We have an obligation to provide this for our young people.

As Superintendent and School Board President, we are fully in support of this project. On behalf of our students, teachers, administration, and staff, we ask for your continued support. Copies of the presentations, reports, FAQs, and additional resources that highlight all of the work to date are available on our website. You can learn more about the project and stay updated as we move forward at www.qvsd.org (see link for *BlueprintQV*).

Very truly yours,



Tammy A. Andreyko, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Jonathan G. Kuzma
QV School Board President



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