



July 8, 2022

Dear Mr. Restauri,

The Leet Township Zoning Hearing Board rejected the Quaker Valley School District's request for a zoning variance for the proposed high school based on a safety concern regarding access to the school from Camp Meeting Road.

As the people responsible for public safety in Leet Township, we agree with the Zoning Hearing Board's opinion.

From a public safety point of view, there are several risks associated with limiting access to the proposed high school location to Camp Meeting Road.

- Anyone who lives or works on the upper side of Camp Meeting Road will tell you the road is closed many times per year for any number of reasons. Ice, trees, or power lines down, water main breaks, road maintenance, etc...
- Camp Meeting Road is owned and maintained by Allegheny County and their performance in clearing and salting the road in winter is spotty at best.
- Any closure of lower Camp Meeting Road would vastly increase the time it would take any type of public safety response.

- If both upper and lower Camp Meeting were to be closed at the same time it would be impossible for any law enforcement, fire service, or EMS to respond.
- In this unprecedented and horrible time of common school shooting events, a natural, or man-made, closure of upper and lower Camp Meeting Road at the same time could be disastrous if something like this were to occur here. First responders would not be able to get to the proposed new high school.
- It's been learned repeatedly in school emergencies that parents flocking to the school in vehicles are a major obstacle in getting first responders to the scene. In the case of the proposed high school, Camp Meeting Road would be the only pathway for parents and first responders to the scene.
- It was learned at a meeting with the facilities director at the Watson Institute that the biggest safety concern there is a possible closure of Camp Meeting Road and the ability to get kids home. Unlike Encompass, the Watson Institute does not have the ability to feed or house people. Leet Township Emergency Management would be required to come to their assistance if the children that commute there daily could not return home due to Camp Meeting Road being closed. A secondary emergency access through the high school property that does not use Camp Meeting Road could be an emergency access road to help evacuate children from the Watson Institute.
- There is an existing access road that led to the Walker property on Little Sewickley Creek Road. This access road could be improved and used as the emergency route. We suggest this be investigated by the school district as well as the local governmental bodies and first responders.

As first responders we feel it is imperative and common sense to have an emergency access to the proposed high school not using Camp Meeting Road and it should be able to accommodate the Cochran Hose Company's ladder truck, which is the largest, and possibly the most important piece of fire apparatus in the Quaker Valley area. Minimum requirements to accommodate this and other

emergency vehicle should be specified by the mutual aid fire departments in the immediate area.

As first responders we are also surprised that the Quaker Valley School District never asked for input on the location or design of the proposed new high school from the people responsible for responding to emergencies there.

Respectfully,

Stephen Panormios – Acting Police Chief, Leet Township
Law Enforcement Officer – 21 years
Firefighter – 12 years

Nathan Turner – Fire Chief, Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire Department
Firefighter – 24 years, 4 years as Chief of the department

David Volk – Emergency Management Coordinator, Leet Township
First Responder Market – 34 years
EMC Leet Township – 6 years