



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bradley C. Landis, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

Shellie A. Feola
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

February 24, 2010

Dear Pottsgrove School District Parents and Community Members:

This is an update about the renovations planned for Ringing Rocks Elementary School. Last night the Pottsgrove School District Board of Education held a special update on the issue at its regular board meeting.

The board heard a review of a demographic study that shows Pottsgrove can expect about an additional 100 students district-wide over the next several years at the elementary grade span. This information will impact the board's final decision on the scope/expansion of Ringing Rocks. Pottsgrove will need additional elementary classroom space in order to accommodate these 100 students and to expand full-day kindergarten across the district. The board also heard an update from its architects and reviewed financing options to fund the Ringing Rocks project.

A lot of parents are concerned about where we will locate Ringing Rocks students during the renovation. Many attended the board meeting to learn more about this issue. The board has considered three options: keeping students in the building (there are serious safety concerns with this option); leasing the St. Pius High School property and relocating the Ringing Rocks students and staff there; and leasing modular classrooms and placing them at the middle school during the construction. Grades 1 – 5 would be located at the middle school and kindergarten students would be located in one of the district's other elementary schools.

The District is continuing discussions with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia regarding a possible lease agreement for the St. Pius High School property but we continue to move forward with planning for the modular option as well. We need to keep all reasonable options open at this point.

At the meeting, several school board members remarked that their own children attended school in modular classrooms several years ago when the district was renovating Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School. They said students and staff adapted well, and they believe Ringing Rocks students would do the same.

Administrators answered questions from the audience, and many of those questions and answers will be posted on our website in the coming days. The school board hopes to make a decision on a relocation plan in March. A formal transition plan will be developed with staff and shared with parents as soon as possible.

The board and administration are working hard to balance educational and fiscal needs and responsibilities as well as listen carefully and respectfully to parents. We will work together to ensure our students receive a great education in the least disruptive manner possible.

Thanks for your time and patience as we work through this transition. Please check our website for updates. We'll keep you updated as best we can.

Sincerely,

Bradley C. Landis