

Dear Muncy School District Community Members:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of recent Board discussions and to provide you with opportunities to guide Board decision-making processes related to the school district's facilities by offering input and asking questions of the Board.

Recent meetings of the Muncy School District Board of Directors have centered on the best way to meet the current and future needs of our students. Based on these discussions, the Board is considering the possibility of borrowing funds to address these needs through renovations and new construction. We realize that in these economic times raising taxes to support spending money on school buildings has the potential to be an area of interest for taxpayers. Based on this realization, the Board intends to be transparent and provide opportunities for individuals to provide authentic feedback.

A public tour of all of the district's facilities is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th at 9:00 a.m. starting at Ward L. Myers Elementary School and ending at Muncy Junior / Senior High School. Please join us on the tour to see the current state of the district's facilities. **Please R.S.V.P. for the tour by April 4th by calling Mrs. Mary Smith at 570-546-3127 (ext. 2040) or emailing her at msmith@muncysd.org.**

Following the public tour, the Board will listen to community input between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Public input may also be provided at scheduled committee meetings and board meetings, by reaching out to school board members, or by calling Dr. Craig Skaluba, Muncy School District Superintendent, at 570-546-3127 (ext. 2000) or emailing him at cskaluba@muncysd.org. The superintendent will share all received input with the entire school board in a non-anonymous manner unless otherwise indicated.

Over the last 30 years, there have been building additions, renovations, and careful maintenance of both Muncy Junior Senior High School and Ward L. Myers Elementary School. In June 2004, Ward L. Myers Elementary School underwent a two-story 18,884 square foot addition containing a library media center, computer labs, regular and special education classrooms, reading support rooms, a conference/seminar room, and office space. As part of the same project, the remainder of the elementary building was reconfigured and completely renovated. Other capital projects within the last 15 years focused on updating the infrastructure of the high school. More specifically, upgrades were made to the high school's plumbing, electrical, HVAC, flooring, and roofing. Further renovations addressed the reconfiguration of the high school cafeteria and the high school library, the relocation of the district office, and parking lot additions and resurfacing. Additional high school projects included: the expansion of the weight room, installation of court lights, installation of campus-wide storm sewers, stadium improvements, and campus-

wide security enhancements (e.g., cameras, swipe card access).

While enrollment trends have remained relatively stable (between 1,000 and 1,100 students) since 2002-2003 and enrollment trends are projected to remain stable (between 1,000 and 1,100 students) through 2022, the continual expansion of school district programs and services will impact the needs of the school district for the next 30 years. Overall, the school board and administrative team have determined five areas of need: (1) academic space, (2) athletic space, (3) updates to the high school, (4) community engagement, and (5) storage space.

Academically, there are two main limitations. First, nearly all classroom space in both buildings is currently occupied by teachers and students, limiting possibilities for future program expansion (e.g., the potential development of new regular education programs, new special education programs, and new community outreach programs). Second, the traditional construction of most classroom space limits the development of innovative space(s) necessary for

developing 21st century learning environments (e.g., S.T.E.A.M. – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

Athletically, our wrestling facilities, weight room, and storage spaces should be updated to address health and safety concerns related to size and location.

Additionally, high school locker room areas require attention and would benefit from updates through renovation. In comparison to 12 schools with similar enrollments in Columbia, Bradford, Lycoming, Tioga, and Northumberland counties, Muncy is the only school district without at least two regulation size basketball courts. Furthermore, Muncy has the lowest gymnasium seating capacity of these districts.

Ultimately, the lack of adequate practice and competition space disrupts schedules and limits practice times. Due to the demands for practice space, many of our younger students have both family time and study time disrupted by late practices. Moreover, once games begin many varsity and junior varsity sports are unable to schedule the complete practices necessary to prepare for competition.

Areas in consideration at the high school include upgrading air conditioning, ensuring the functionality of all windows, the potential restoration of the high school's original window fronts, and updating doorways. Meanwhile, increasing community engagement continues to be a focus of the Board.

Discussions related to community engagement include the possible development of community specific spaces (e.g., weight room, conference rooms, adult education space) and enhancing experiences at school events through facility upgrades (e.g., second gymnasium, stadium restrooms, etc.). Lastly, increasing storage areas continues to be a recommendation of the school district's safety committee.

Currently, bond rates allow borrowers to realize historically low borrowing costs. The projected general impacts of borrowing on real estate tax rates are provided in the table below. Projected real estate tax increases would be phased in over a two-year period as recommended by the school district's financial advisor. For example, a total tax increase of \$100.00 might be assessed with a \$60.00 increase in real estate taxes the first year, followed by an additional \$40.00 increase in

real estate taxes the second year depending upon the recommendations of the financial advisor.

Projected Impacts of Borrowing

Borrowing Amount	Projected Total Millage Increase	Projected Tax Increase on average assessed homestead of \$113,872.00
\$5,000,000.00	.37	\$42.00
\$10,000,000.00	.67	\$76.00
\$15,000,000.00	1.55	\$177.00
\$20,000,000.00	1.94	\$221.00

The Board recently developed conceptual drawings for a proposed new high school gymnasium to help facilitate discussions related to what, if anything, should be done to address the needs of the school district over the next 30 years. The purpose of these discussions are to build consensus related to the what, why, when, where, and how behind future plans for the school district.

An electronic version of conceptual drawings developed by Foreman Group's architects and engineers, pursuant to recommendations made by the 2010 Facilities Committee, can be accessed on the Muncy School District homepage at <http://www.muncysd.org>. You can find the electronic version of the drawings by clicking on 'Conceptual Drawings' under the 'Site Shortcuts' tab on the homepage. All other information and updates related to future buildings and grounds discussions will also be accessible in this area. Please continue to check the website for updates and the upcoming meeting schedule. We look forward to receiving your input and appreciate your continuing support of Muncy School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott McLean".

Mr. Scott McLean (Board President)