



Tuscarora School District
100 West Seminary St.
Mercersburg PA 17236

July 17, 2019

Dear Tuscarora School District Community,

Happy July! I trust you are enjoying this beautiful summer. I am writing to invite our TSD community (parents, students, citizens, employees, etc.) to participate in a survey regarding an ongoing enrollment and feasibility study in our school district.

More than a year ago, the school district embarked upon an enrollment and/feasibility study to fully research our future enrollment projections, the condition and capacity of our 6 TSD school buildings, and to make recommendations for the next generation of our buildings, renovations, and educational programming.

The district hosted three separate public meetings on these topics since December 2018. Each meeting was focused on a different component of the study. Information from all three meetings is posted on our TSD website (www.tus.k12.pa.us) under the Board tab (Feasibility Study Information is at the bottom). To summarize (as briefly as possible) the content of these meetings, I will provide the following outline:

1. Our TSD student enrollment has decreased in the last 10 years or so and is projected to further decrease over the next 10-year period. The related information and projections are detailed in PA Economy League Report.
2. Although our buildings have all been renovated since 2005 and are currently in good to excellent condition, responsible long term planning necessitates that the next phase of renovation planning begins very soon. Projected student enrollment is certainly an important factor in this future planning.
3. With our current building configuration of 6 buildings (4 elementary schools), we certainly face some challenges in terms of equal programming, class size equity, duplication of services, and the ongoing costs of maintaining and operating multiple buildings. The June 24th presentation document outlines possibilities for future building configurations in TSD.

At this time, the TSD Board of School Directors and administrators are anxious to gather additional feedback from our community. We invite all interested community members to fully review the information posted on our website. After doing so, we ask that you complete a brief survey which asks questions about various issues noted in the study. This survey link is found on the same web page and we will also post links from our various social media accounts. The survey will be available through early August. I will summarize the feedback at the August 12th, 2019 School Board meeting and additional steps will be announced as determined by the board.

I thank you for your interest in our students and community.

TSD Proud,

Rodney

Rodney N. Benedick, M.Ed.
Superintendent, Tuscarora School District

“Empowering ALL learners for their unlimited Next!”

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