

*Berwick Area School District
Public Hearing Pursuant to Section
780 of the PA School Code of 1949*

*Nescopeck Elementary School:
Monday, February 6, 2023*

Wendy Kupsky
Superintendent



Tonight's Agenda

- I. Opening Remarks
- II. Compliance with School Code and Regulations
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Key Points Considered
- V. Critical Issues
- VI. Consolidation Considerations
- VII. Attendance and Transportation
- VIII. Maintenance and Financial Considerations
- IX. Technology
- X. Elementary Program and Assurances
- XI. Comments, Questions and Answers
- XII. Public Participation
- XIII. Adjournment



PA School Code Section 780

“In the event of a permanent closing of a public school or substantially all of a school’s facilities, the Board of School Directors shall hold a public hearing on the question not less than three months prior to the decision of the board relating to the closing of a school. Notice of the hearing shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of such hearings.”



PA School Code Section 1311

“(a) The Board of School Directors of any school district may, on account of the small number of pupils in attendance, or the condition of the then existing school building, or for the purpose of better graduation and classification, or other reasons, close any one or more of the public schools in the district...”



Public Comment

- Speakers will have up to 3 minutes to share comments and information.
- Please begin your comments with your full name and current address and state if you are a resident of the school district.
- You may not defer your 3 minutes of time to someone else to speak on your behalf.
- Questions may be captured and responded to in writing on our website
- Comments may be submitted in writing up to 30 days after the date of this hearing and will be considered part of the official record.



Cost-effectiveness

In my capacity as a commissioned officer of the State of Pennsylvania, I am charged by the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article III, Section 14, to provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.



Key Points to Consider

Primary Objective : Provide the Most Thorough and Efficient Educational Programs and Services

- Educational Opportunities
- Academic Programs
- Special Education Services and Facilities
- Class Size
- Instructional Supplies
- Equipment
- Attendance Boundaries
- Transportation Guidelines and Efficiency
- Staffing Needs: Teaching, Support Staff and Administrative
 - Salaries and Benefits
 - Instruction and Training
- Building Operational Costs



Critical Issues to Our School District

Issues	
Critical Issue # 1	Decrease in Student Enrollment
Critical Issue # 2	Facility Needs
Critical Issue # 3	Decrease in Local, State and Federal Funding
Critical Issue # 4	Increased Costs



New Fiscal Reality

- Difficult adjustments necessary in our future :
 - Uncertainty of local, state and federal revenues
 - Rising expenditures
 - Focus on the relationship between spending and student outcomes by using data to drive decisions
 - Reconsider standard operating procedures and services to determine what is required and essential versus comfortable and historic



Consolidation Considerations

- Current Feasibility Study identified options to update facilities
- District efficiency can be significantly improved
- Increased opportunities for students can be achieved on the larger Salem ES campus



Why Nescopeck Elementary?

- Low enrollment = least cost-efficiency
- Ongoing maintenance costs are the highest of the three outlying elementary buildings
- Projected costs for renovation are high for an elementary building with low enrollments.



Teresa Conrad & Sara Lanning

Enrollment and Transportation



Transportation

5 buses and 6 vans currently transport 98 students to and from Nescopeck Elementary daily.

If Consolidated:

- Current bus runs could accommodate total Nescopeck enrollment to Salem.
- Daily contracted rates would apply, staying within projected transportation budget.
- Opportunity for increased subsidy: more loaded miles = potential for higher reimbursement.
- Time spent on the school bus could increase based on ridership and daily variables.
- Routes would be analyzed to assess safety and efficiency, and modified as needed.



Transportation

If Consolidated:

- Nescopeck Elementary could be a centralized stop for current walkers, as is current practice for the secondary schools.
- Students that are currently walkers could be split equally among the least loaded buses.
- All buses could potentially stop at Nescopeck Elementary in the PM to pick up CMAVTS students that take a connecting bus home, based on need. This could increase time spent on the bus in the afternoon.

***As per the Pa Dept. of Education, there is no time limit that a student may ride a bus set by law or regulation.**

PDE Link: [Pupil Transportation FAQ](#)



Berwick Area School District 2011-2012 School Year

	SALEM ELEMENTARY	14TH ST & ORANGE ST	NESCOPECK ELEMENTARY
Total Students	463	645	280
Counties Served	Columbia Luzerne	Columbia	Luzerne

BASD Enrollment History from 2011-2012 to 2021-2022

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	Difference
2011-2012	3062	
2012-2013	3045	-17
2013-2014	2969	-76
2014-2015	2899	-70
2015-2016	2877	-22
2016-2017	2875	-2
2017-2018	2816	-59
2018-2019	2781	-35
2019-2020	2757	-24
2020-2021	2635	-122
2021-2022	2599	-36

- enrollment has declined statewide over the past ten years

<i>Highest enrollment in</i>	
<i>2011-2012</i>	3062
<i>Current year of 2021-2022</i>	<u>2599</u>
<i>Membership lost</i>	463



10 Year Enrollment History by Building

Building	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
BHS	929	879	813	767	765	738	751	732	762	765	717
BMS	745	708	663	714	716	975	953	972	933	867	853
14TH ST	225	248	249	252	229						
ORANGE ST	420	456	493	472	467						
SALEM	463	468	468	467	470	397	390	381	358	359	372
WEST BERWICK						561	530	498	512	475	496
NESCOPECK	280	286	283	227	230	204	192	198	192	169	161
Total	3062	3045	2969	2899	2877	2875	2816	2781	2757	2635	2599

Berwick Area School District 2021-2022 School Year

	SALEM ELEMENTARY	WEST BERWICK ELEMENTARY	NESCOPECK ELEMENTARY
Total Students	372	496	161
Counties Served	Columbia Luzerne	Columbia	Luzerne

2021-2022 Average Class Size

West Berwick Avg Class Size 2021-2022

Nescopeck Avg Class Size 2021-2022

Salem Avg Class Size 2021-22

24 Academic Teachers

10 Academic Teachers

19 Academic Teachers

KDG	19/21
1st	17/18
2nd	17/21
3rd	20/22
4th	24/26

KDG	12/13
1st	19
2nd	13/14
3rd	20/21
4th	16

KDG	18/21
1st	17/18
2nd	17/20
3rd	17/20
4th	21



Current Average Class Size

December 2022

NESCOPECK AVG CLASS SIZE	DECEMBER 2022	SALEM AVG CLASS SIZE	December 2022	WEST BERWICK AVG CLASS SIZE	DECEMBER 2022
1- KDG Teacher	27	4-KDG Teachers	21	5-KDG Teachers	22
2-1 st Gr Teachers	13	4-1 st Gr Teachers	19	5-1 st Gr Teachers	19
2-2 nd Gr Teachers	20	4-2 nd Gr Teachers	18	4-2 nd Gr Teachers	21
2-3 rd Gr Teachers	15	4-3 rd Gr Teachers	20	5-3 rd Gr Teachers	20
2-4 th Gr Teachers	18	4-4 th Gr Teachers	21	5-4 th Gr Teachers	20



2023-2024 Projected Class Size

Salem		West Berwick	
27 Academic Teachers		24 Academic Teachers	
6-KDG Teachers	19	5-KDG Teachers	22
6-1st Gr Teachers	19	5-1st Gr Teachers	22
5-2nd Gr Teachers	20	4-2nd Gr Teachers	23
5-3rd Gr Teachers	22	5-3rd Gr Teachers	16
5-4th Gr Teachers	24	5-4th Gr Teachers	20



Philip M. Leinbach, AIA

AEM Architects, Inc.



NESCOPECK ELEMENTARY FACILITIES

- Nescopeck Elementary School was originally constructed in 1932. Additions were constructed in 1982 and 1994. The original building is over 90 years old.
- The last major renovation was completed almost 30 years ago. Minor renovations were completed in 2018.
- At present, significant renovations and upgrades are needed to address the following:
 - Building Envelope (Masonry, Doors, Windows)
 - Building & Site Access & Security, Including an Improved Secure Entrance
 - Interior Finishes (Floors, Walls, Some Ceilings)
 - Building Code & Accessibility Deficiencies
 - HVAC Systems (No A/C, Aged Physical Plant)
 - Plumbing & Fire Protection Systems
 - Electrical Systems (Power & Technology)
 - Stormwater Management



NESCOPECK ELEMENTARY FACILITIES

- Masonry – “Areas of cracking from lack of control joints ... and from settlement due to deterioration of mortar.”
- Kitchen/Cafeteria – “location in the basement is not an ideal location” “consider relocating the kitchen [and cafeteria]”
- Building Security – “reconfigure the office and entry area to provide a higher level of building security”
- Accessibility & Building Codes – “extensive upgrades will be required to provide fire-rated assemblies” ... “Numerous code deficiencies will need to be addressed ... including fire protection, hardware upgrades, bathroom accessibility, ”



NESCOPECK ELEMENTARY FACILITIES

- HVAC – “existing systems have been operational for 28-42 years ... replacement should be considered in the near future”
- Plumbing – “replace fixtures with more efficient models ... and to comply with ADA standards” “a complete fire protection system should be added”
- Electrical – “distribution panelboards installed in 1982 are in poor condition” “original wiring is brittle and at end of life” “there is no emergency generator”



NESCOPECK ELEMENTARY FACILITIES

- The cost to fully renovate Nescopeck Elementary School and bring the facility up to today's building code standards is estimated at \$13,100,000 (not included Kit/Cafe relocation).
- Nescopeck Elementary School is not the only district facility in need of renovations. The estimated cost to fully renovate Salem Elementary School is \$25,300,000.
- The District has previously demonstrated a commitment to replace aging school facilities to improve operational and energy efficiencies and student opportunities. West Berwick Elementary was newly constructed in 2016 and coincided with the closure of the Orange Street, Mulberry Street, and Fourteenth Street Elementary Schools.

Note: Nescopeck Elementary School is not large enough to absorb the Salem Elementary student population.



Tina Hrinda

Business Administrator



2021-2022 Actual Operating Costs of Nescopeck Elementary

Expense	2021-2022
Salaries	\$1,147,373
Educational Supplies	\$22,403
Maint./ Utility Services	\$71,858
Insurance	\$7,900
Total	\$1,249,534



Average Cost per student based on instructional cost

	West Berwick	Nescopeck	Salem	Nescopeck and Salem*
Instructional cost	\$2,472,259	\$908,567	\$1,982,755	\$2,801,322
Enrollment	493	163	391	554
Utilization Factor	91%	48%	79%	est 95% +
Avg Cost per student	\$5,015	\$5,574	\$5,071	\$5,057
	\$559 less		\$503 less	\$517 less

Renovate?

Cost per Student

	Architect Estimate	Enrollment	Cost per student
Nescopeck	\$13,100,000	163	\$80,368
Salem	\$25,300,000	391	\$64,706
Total	\$38,400,000	554	\$69,314



Consolidation vs New building

Cost Per Student

	Architect Estimate	Enrollment	Cost per student
Salem Consolidated	\$30,500,000	554	\$55,054
New Building	\$43,050,000	554	\$77,708



BASD Anticipated Annual Cost Savings Closing Nescopeck Elementary

Expense	2023-2024
Support Staff Salaries	\$86,000
Educational Supplies	\$10,000
Maint./ Utility Services*	\$71,858
Insurance*	\$7,900
Total	\$175,758



Steve Christian

Technology



Berwick Area School District Technology

Our current support footprint.

Servers	25
Desktops	450
Chrome Devices	3132
IOS Devices	93
Network Switches	39
Network Access Points ...	301
Security Cameras	407 and growing
Bus Radios	33
Bus Cameras	66

Not including the hundreds a phones, projectors, printers, document cameras.



Delivery

We aim to deliver reliable technology within our budgeted allotment and present staff.

- Advantages to an elementary building reconfiguration.
- Improved technician productivity by reducing travel time.
- Smaller support footprint.



Recurring Costs

Subscriber	Buildings	Cost Per Year	Difference
Dark Fiber Network Connection	NE, WBE, Crispin, North Berwick	\$17,160.00	
	WBE, Crispin, North Berwick	\$16,380.00	
		Difference	\$780.00
Blackboard	WBE, SE, NE, MS, HS	\$13,300.78	
	WBE, SE, MS, HS	\$11,400.67	
		Difference	\$1,900.11

Periodic Replacement - Recurring Costs

Subscriber	Buildings	Cost Per Year	Difference
Network Switches	All buildings	\$46,800.00	
	All building less Nescopeck	\$43,200.00	
		Difference	\$3,600.00
Wireless Access Points	All buildings	\$108,134.25	
	All building less Nescopeck	\$98,794.00	
		Difference	\$9,340.00

Amy Melchiorre

Curriculum and Instruction



Elementary Curriculum/Instruction

- Equitable Instructional Interventions
 - Curriculum is implemented on a consistent basis across the elementary buildings and will continue to be
- Schoolwide Title I and MTSS
 - Potential for Staff to provide additional instructional supports and interventions



21-22 PSSA Test Scores

NESCOPECK		SALEM		WEST BERWICK		STATE AVG
3rd\4th Gr Avg		3rd\4th Gr Avg		3rd\4th Gr Avg		
ELA	68%\53%=63.2%	ELA	56%\62%=60.1%	ELA	49%\45%=47.6%	54.1%
MATH	50%\37%=44.1%	MATH	49%\55%=54%	MATH	35%\39%=38.2%	35.7%
SCIENCE	72.4%	SCIENCE	86.9%	SCIENCE	77.4%	54.4%

GROWTH MEASURES				
	NESCOPECK	SALEM	WEST BERWICK	STATE AVG
ELA	60%	50%	50%	76%
MATH	50%	50%	59%	76.2%
SCIENCE	50%	67%	50%	74.6%

OVERALL SCHOOL BUILDING SCORES

NESCOPECK = 65.9%

SALEM = 68.4%

WEST BERWICK = 63.2%



Patrick Sharkey

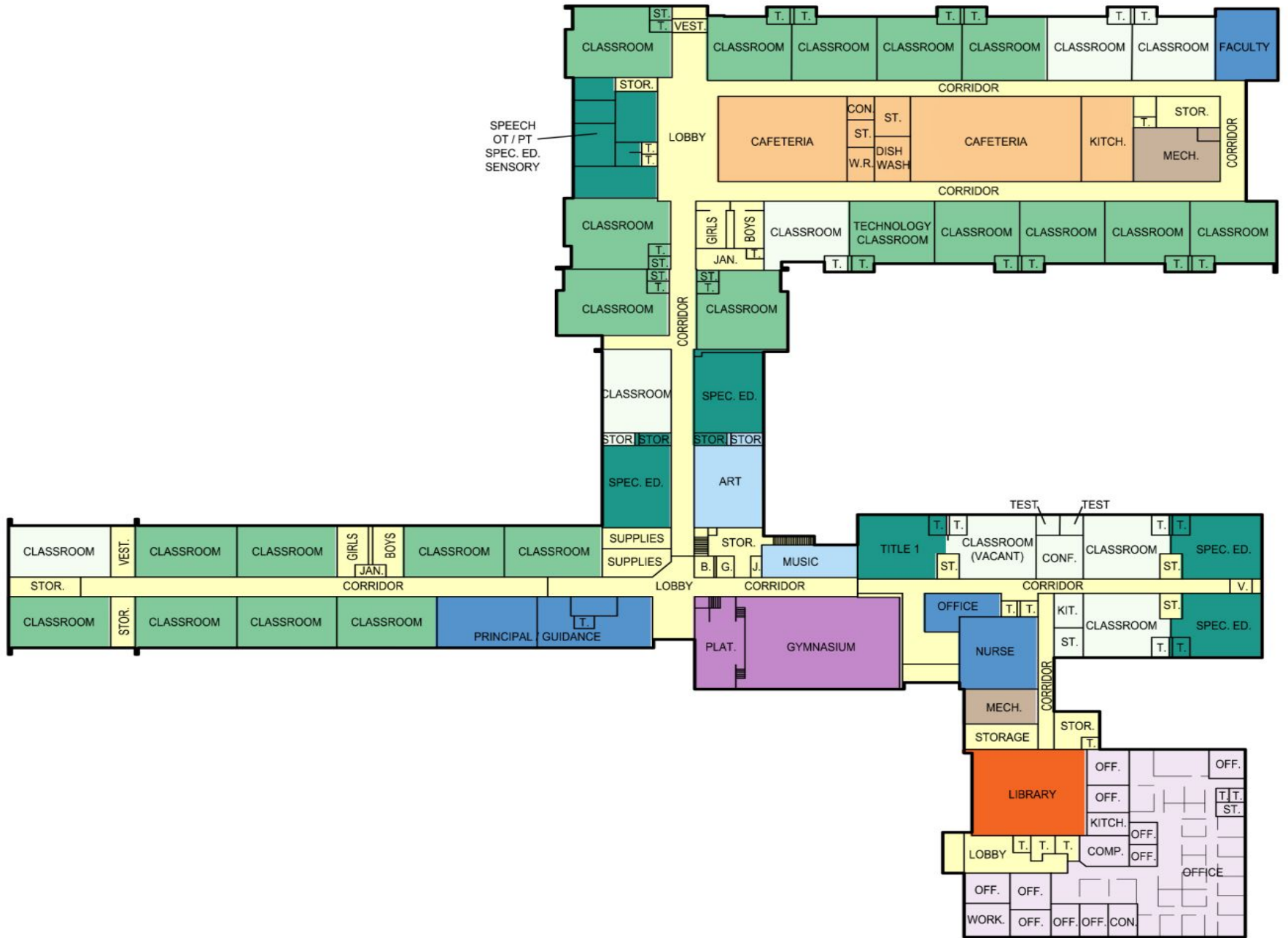
Salem Elementary Principal



Reconfiguration

- Welcome event to start the school year
 - Student led initiatives
- Shared campus for activities and events
 - Access to larger facilities
- Shared extracurricular programs
 - Parent group
 - Student Council
 - Coding Club





Clarifying Questions

This concludes the presentation portion of this evening's hearing. At this time, we will offer those in attendance the opportunity to ask questions to clarify any of the points presented by the administration.



Public Comment

- Public will have up to 3 minutes to share comments and information.
- Please begin your comments with your full name and current address and state if you are a resident of the school district.
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Conclusion/
Adjournment

