

High School Building Project: October 27, 2016 Open House

In the 2009-2010 school year, the West York Area School District embarked on the arduous task of evaluating our facilities in relationship to the needs of our students and community over the next twenty years and designing a plan to meet those needs without increasing taxes due to building related projects. To that end, the Board established a Facilities Steering Committee to study data, review our existing facilities and make recommendations for improvements to these facilities. One of the Committee's recommendations was to address problems related to the existing aging of our buildings and system infrastructures, overcrowding concerns and improving the efficiency of the spaces used for work and storage.

The High School project began in October 2014 with the new gymnasium opening in January 2016. The new, larger gymnasium is Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant, is capable of seating 1,800 spectators, and includes a mezzanine running track. Additionally, the new gymnasium includes a new entrance/lobby, four team rooms, restroom facilities, a concession stand, two new locker rooms, and ample storage for sports equipment.

Prior to the opening of school on August 22, 2016, the following needed renovations, upgrades and additions occurred.

- A new two-story wing was added that includes eight additional technology-enhanced classrooms, and a large group instruction/meeting room.
- Existing science labs were renovated and three new state-of-the-art labs were added.
- A choral room was added with sufficient space to securely store music and choral/band equipment.
- A new double door entryway system was added at the main entrance of the building to enhance security.
- A new guidance suite was added to assist students.
- A smaller version of the old gymnasium with renovated locker rooms continues to exist, now called the auxiliary gym, and is being used for physical education classes. In addition, offices that were a part of the original 1958 construction were relocated to increase building safety.
- The Auditorium has upgraded stage rigging, lights and sound systems.
- All known asbestos was removed from the building.
- HVAC and boiler systems were upgraded to more cost effective systems.
- Energy efficient lights and a new sprinkler system were installed.
- Two new parking lots were added.

West York students and residents can be proud of their high school and know that we are positioned to provide the next generation of students with a high quality, technology-enhanced education in a safe and well-maintained building.

The Board of Education invites everyone to attend the West York Area High School Open House that will be held on October 27, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

You will be amazed at the improvements and additions that were accomplished without the need to raise taxes. The Board accomplished this by using a general obligation bond and investing in its facilities. This investment will benefit today's students, future students, and ultimately our community by maintaining a school educational program that attracts students, employees, and members of the community.

With great bulldog pride,

George H. Margetas, Esq.
School Board Director