

Dear Rose Tree Media School District Community,

As a resident of the Rose Tree Media School District, you are part of a vibrant and growing community of schools. We are proud that so many families are choosing our area as their home, and we expect to continue seeing enrollment growth for the next several years. Our [Room to Learn, Room to Grow](#) plan is our latest step in meeting our residents' expectations for local, neighborhood schools that offer small class sizes and high-quality education.

Currently, our district is working on design and local approvals for our seventh school, a new elementary school just off Middleton Road in Edgmont Township. This building will serve the fast-growing areas to the north and west of our current elementary schools. The site was chosen after an extended process that evaluated 23 different locations in the area central to many of the new housing developments being built in the District. Transportation and site suitability/safety were important concerns in the evaluation, as well as minimizing the impact on current attendance boundaries and grade re-configuration. If you're interested in the site selection process, I encourage you to go to roomtolearnroomtogrow.org/pre-design for extensive resources about the planning process and, ultimately, how the Edgmont Township location was selected.

In recent months, we have encountered a few residents who have sought ways to delay or even cancel this project. School board members and I have met extensively with this group of residents – probably less than a dozen people – but their goal is clear: not in my back yard. They continue to spread misinformation regarding enrollment, zoning, safety, and tax increases to try and garner support to stop the project. Despite the many housing projects approved by Edgmont Township, they believe it is the responsibility of the other surrounding townships to absorb the many new students from these developments, adding to the overcrowding and congestion in our current elementary schools and township communities.

This NIMBY group, who refer to themselves as “saveedgmont”, has not opposed any of the new housing developments in this area. However, when it comes to building a safe, healthy, and educationally strong elementary school to serve the new families moving into the local area, that is considered a step too far. They believe Edgmont Township needs to be **SAVED** from something as disturbing as an elementary school! Meanwhile, the taxpayers will continue to pay the costs of defending against the endless complaints from this group.

Even though developers were already seeking to purchase and build housing developments on the parcels bought by the District for the new school, this group seems to believe that if the school does not get built, these parcels will remain open. This is just not realistic. The new housing developments that will eventually be built on these parcels will lead to much greater traffic congestion and certainly a greater loss of wooded areas and open space than what will occur if the school is built there. Simply put, building an elementary school in this location best serves the children and families of our community AND the neighbors.

If the district cannot move forward with our selected site, the impact will be felt most by our students and their families. Bus trips will likely take longer, and transportation costs will grow. More families may be affected by redistricting, shifting students away from the classmates and teachers they care about. The worst possible result is a long delay or cancellation of the project, which would cause class sizes to significantly increase, including overcrowded lunchrooms and playgrounds. Students will lose the opportunities that come from smaller, neighborhood schools. We would continue to need modular

classrooms to try and accommodate increased enrollment, which is both expensive and less than ideal for an integrated learning environment. Unless the new school is built, we will never have sufficient space to accommodate full-day kindergarten.

On May 17th, the Planning Commission of Edgmont Township will hold a meeting at 7:00 PM to review the school district's application for the new elementary school. This is a critical meeting. If you believe this new school is important for all current and future Rose Tree Media families, I would ask you to do three things:

1. Contact the members of the Board of Supervisors and ask them to approve the new elementary school at Middleton Road. Emails can be sent to the attention of Neil Vaughn, Township Manager/Zoning Officer at manager@edgmont.org. The Board of Supervisors need to hear from our families that support the new school, so they have a balanced understanding of the need and support for our new elementary school.
2. Attend the Planning Commission meeting and express your opinion. The meeting will be held at **Springton Lake Middle School on May 17th at 7:00 PM.**
3. Stay connected by going to roomtolearnroomtogrow.org, and stay updated on the approval process for the new school.

Lastly, we will continue to address the needed capital projects in our other school buildings, including reviewing the installation of air conditioning at the elementary schools. The need for these building projects does not negate the need to plan for addressing the increased enrollment of students.

Thank you for adding your voice in support of the students and families of Rose Tree Media School District.

Regards,
Dr. DiMarino-Linnen
Superintendent of Schools