

# Centennial eyes feasibility study for aging middle schools

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, May 18, 2015 4:30 am

The Centennial School District is considering spending between \$25,750 and \$37,100 for a feasibility study on its two middle schools.

Both buildings, Klinger in Upper Southampton and Log College in Warminster, are more than 50 years old and carry the limitations of being constructed in the 1960s.

“We have two aging buildings and a student population that’s dwindling,” school board president Jane Schrader Lynch said. “The questions are what should we do? What can we pay for?”

Last week, the school board heard presentations from three firms regarding options on how to upgrade the buildings.

They were USA Architects, Schrader Group Architecture (no relation to the school board president) and FVHD Architects-Planners.

The options for both schools include renovation, create additions or build one or two more schools.

Lynch was quick to point out that a decision or plan won’t be completed any time soon. And she made clear that — whatever is ultimately decided — “this is a long process.”

The board expects to select one of the architectural firms at its May 26 meeting. The costs for the study, Lynch said, would be \$37,100 for the Schrader Group, \$31,100 for USA and \$25,750 for FVHD.

“The idea, for now, is what could we do?” Lynch said. “It’s something we’re looking at now because it takes years of planning.”

Does the cost of the study make a difference? “For me it does,” she said.

Lynch also reminded residents that the board is asking for the public’s input in its search for a new superintendent to replace outgoing Joyce Mundy.

Residents have through June 15 to fill out a Superintendent Search Survey regarding the strengths, challenges, goals and personal attributes to help determine which candidate will be the best fit for the district.

The link to the survey, which is expected to take about 10 minutes to complete, is on the district’s website: [www.centennialsd.org](http://www.centennialsd.org).

Paper copies of the survey, also available in Spanish, are in the main offices of all Centennial schools, the Warminster Township Library, 1076 Emma Lane, and the Warminster Tax Office, 433 Centennial

Road, Suite 2.

Responses are anonymous and confidential. The school board requests only one response per person.

“Please fill it out and help us help you,” Lynch said.

In other district news, Matthew Shade has been hired as Centennial’s new athletic director. Shade is a sports medicine supervisor at ATI Physical Therapy.

He told the board he was “grateful and honored” to get the job following a “rigorous” interview process. “I look forward to help enrich the lives of the students both on and off the field. Go Panthers.”

Adam Sher of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology read the “student report” at last week’s board meeting.

After he left, director Kati Driban said she just found out he had enlisted in the Marines.

“I want to wish him well in his pursuit,” she said.

Mark Miller, vice president of the school board, said a meeting is scheduled about the formation of a legislative council for districts in Bucks, Lehigh and Northampton counties.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the offices of the Quakertown Community School District, 100 Commerce Drive.

Speakers include former State Rep. Paul Clymer and Glen Grell, executive director of the Public School Employees’ Retirement System.

Topics for discussion include the status of 2015-16 district budgets; the PSERS impact on district budgets; and the proposed use of any new funding from the Commonwealth.