

## Two Middle School Projects

**Council Rock is designing two middle school projects** (an addition and renovation at Holland Middle and a new school to replace Newtown Middle) that will go out to bid in May of 2016 with the projection, at this writing, that both will be finished by September of 2018. In the same timeframe, the district will take steps to either close or use Richboro Middle for other district needs.

**Decisions on which Elementary students will attend each middle school and the subsequent high school tied to it are still being evaluated.** Two main reasons for this evaluation are:

1. The current elementary boundaries will be dependent on the elementary redistricting that will be implemented in September of 2017.
2. The district has not determined the final size of each middle school. This decision is dependent on the outcome of future decisions that revolve around the merits of rectifying the existing underutilization at CR North. At this time, CR North, the bigger of the two high schools, has 372 less students than CR South. To balance enrollment, Holland Middle, which feeds into South, would need to be smaller than Newtown Middle, whose students will go to North. In order to be demographically bigger than Holland Middle, the new Newtown Middle population would have to include students who live in Northampton.

Until these decision are made, both middle school projects are being designed to go out to bid with a relatively equal number of classrooms, core sized special rooms (i.e. Cafeteria, Library and Gym, etc.), and non-educational space to support 7 teams with a maximum of 140 students in each, for a total school capacity of 980 students. The bids for each school will include an option to remove 4 classrooms and allow either middle school to have just 6 teams. Having 6 teams at one school and 7 at the other, plans for an enrollment of 1820 students which matches the current and projected enrollment needs at the middle school level. Making Newtown Middle the bigger middle school that feeds into the bigger high school will better utilize both existing high school buildings. If the district does proceed with the option to take off 4 classrooms at either middle school, it could save \$750,000 at either or both middle schools.

Until then, as part of State Act 34 requirements of 1973 (which regulate school construction projects qualifying for state reimbursement), the public has the opportunity to make written comments on the renovation of Holland Middle School and the new Newtown Middle School, up to and including Monday December 21, 2015. Information about the projects can be found in the Act 34 booklets available for examination at the Reception Desk at Chancellor Center or at crsd.org. The purpose of the Act 34 booklets, and the hearings that will be held on November 19, will be to establish the need for the projects; review options considered by the Board prior to the decision to proceed with the projects; describe the construction and educational programs; present estimated construction cost, total project cost and local tax impact; and to give citizens and residents the opportunity to comment or pose questions. Below are some of the basics from the Holland Middle and Newtown Middle Act 34 booklets:

	<u>Holland Middle</u>	<u>Newtown Middle</u>	<u>Richboro Middle</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Construction Date	1973	1954	1963	
Renovation/Addition	none	1959	none	
Square Footage Before Renovation/Old Building	135,000	119,000	88,000	342,000
Finished Square footage	187,872	185,400		373,272
Capital Improvement costs 2014/2015	\$24,639,708	\$22,096,239	\$16,933,184	\$63,669,131
Estimated Asbestos Abatement 2014/205	\$407,028	\$357,900	\$266,472	\$1,031,400
Maximum Construction Cost	\$10,205,520	\$45,098,568		
<b><u>Act 34</u></b>				
<i>Maximum Building Construction Cost*</i>	\$11,021,962	\$48,706,453		
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$53,321,802</b>	<b>\$58,582,310</b>		<b>\$111,904,112</b>
Estimate to Remove 4 Classrooms	\$750,000	\$750,000		

*\*If the maximum building construction cost based on bids is equal to or greater than the maximum building construction cost based on estimates plus 8%, a second public hearing will be required before entering into contracts and starting construction on any planned work.*