

Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 4:30 PM

District Office Conference Room, 180 West Bridge Street, New Hope, PA 18938

A. Call to Order

- Board Member Dr. Melissa Persichetti called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and facilitated the agenda.
- Per Board Operating Guideline 006.2, all public meetings of the Board of Directors, including committee meetings, are audio recorded.

B. Approval of Minutes

June 16, 2026 Facilities Committee Meeting

Motion

Ellen Stiefel made a motion to approve the June 16, 2026 Facilities Committee meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Comment

The Chair opened the 3-minute public comment period.

Pam Kerr – Friends of the Library

- Thanked Scott Radaszkiewicz and the district for allowing a Friends of the Library book sale sign to be displayed on Fridays and Saturdays.
- Provided an update on the public art program and stated that the easternmost yellow art piece, *Housing*, is expected to be stay after the summer.
- Noted that Ronald Kalmmeier's *The Dance* remains suggested considering it for display with the lion installation because both incorporate blue and gold.

Mel Band – Solebury Township Resident

- Noted that four Board members were present and commented that a second public comment is required if a fifth Board member joined the meeting.
- Raised a concern about the flag on Bridge Street not reaching the top of the flagpole. Administration responded that a replacement part is on order.

- Referenced an offer to help fund a new flag and flagpole in front of the school and asked whether the district would accept a donation covering materials and labor.
- Raised concerns about the football practice field, including the effectiveness of the netting behind the goalpost as a potential risk to pedestrians using the walkway, lack of padding on poles, lack of a fence separating the field from the concrete walkway, and uneven field conditions.
- Questioned whether football would have sufficient access to the stadium field for practice.

Allison York – Football Parent and Vice President, Boosters Association

- Stated that the concession stand was built without a budget for equipment and that approximately \$30,000 in commercial kitchen equipment was obtained through an anonymous donor with assistance from Booster Association Treasurer Kathleen Taylor. The equipment was less than two years old when donated.
- Reported that the concession stand has no air conditioning or operable windows and that temperatures are typically 95–98°F when volunteers enter the room and remain around 88°F after the concession windows are opened.
- Stated that fans requested during the previous season were delivered but could not be installed because of incompatible power requirements.
- Reported that the large Continental refrigerator failed and that Clark, the service company, identified high temperatures as a likely contributing factor.
- Reported that a smaller Continental deli refrigerator was no longer cooling below approximately 55°F and that Facilities and Athletics were notified on July 31.
- Reported that the ice machine had also stopped working. She noted that the athletic trainer uses the machine to prepare ice baths and provide ice for athletes and raised concerns about availability of sufficient ice during heat acclimation.
- Requested a permanent solution for cooling and ventilating the concession stand, an assessment and maintenance plan for the donated equipment, an urgent repair timeline for the ice machine, and clarification of the district's responsibility for maintaining donated equipment.

Whitney King – Solebury Township Resident

- Raised concerns about concession stand equipment being used by groups other than the Boosters and not being properly cleaned or maintained.

- Reported that the Blackstone grill was damaged after another group used the concession stand and had to be cleaned and restored before it could be used again.
- Requested procedures for groups using the concession stand to help protect and maintain the equipment

Administration Response

- Confirmed that the ice machine had been repaired. The issue was a clogged component that required a replacement part. Noted that two additional ice machines are available on campus if needed.
- Explained that the concession stand was not originally designed to accommodate the amount of commercial refrigeration equipment currently in the space.
- A contractor evaluated the space and recommended installing a powered exhaust fan through the roof and a louver in the door to improve airflow.
- Administration also plans to shut down unnecessary refrigerators and freezers during the summer rather than allowing them to operate for approximately two months when the concession stand is not in use.
- Confirmed that students had used the concession stand for an end-of-year event and that the Blackstone grill had been left outside.
- A paper checklist is being developed for all groups using the concession stand. The person reserving the space, or a designated representative, will be responsible for completing the closing checklist and confirming that equipment and the facility have been properly shut down and secured. Groups that do not follow the procedures may lose future use of the facility. The checklist is expected to be implemented before the start of school, if not sooner.

D. Old Business

1. Update on Athletics – Ms. Anne Tamporello, Director of Athletics

Fall Athletics

- Football and Golf preseason began August 10.
- Cross Country, Field Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Girls Volleyball preseason began August 17.
- Middle School fall preseason begins September 9.
- Turf and athletic facilities are ready for fall sports.

- Additional overseeding of grass fields is planned.

Registration and Physicals

- Fall registration is open.
- Athletics transitioned from BigTeams to Arbiter for registration after Arbiter acquired BigTeams. Some technical issues have occurred during the transition. The new system is expected to provide a more streamlined registration process once implementation issues are resolved.
- The first free athletic physical clinic was held August 5:
 - 17 physicals completed;
 - 12 High School students;
 - 5 Middle School students;
 - 1 no-show;
 - 3 walk-ins
- Additional free physical clinics are scheduled for September 9 and October 28.

Strength and Conditioning

- Summer strength and conditioning programming served up to approximately 30 student-athletes from multiple sports.
- Participation was open to New Hope-Solebury student-athletes with required athletic paperwork on file.
- Plans include continuing strength and conditioning opportunities during the winter and summer with support from a qualified strength coach.

Committee Discussion

- Positive feedback on the summer strength and conditioning program and student participation.
- Benefits of the streamlined Arbiter registration process compared with maintaining separate parent and student accounts through BigTeams.

2. Update on Facilities and Grounds – Mr. Scott Radaszkiewicz and Mr. George Arslanian

Summer Building Preparation

- Summer cleaning and preparation of district buildings is substantially complete and buildings are ready for the August 31 start of school.

UES HVAC

- The Upper Elementary School has 24 aging HVAC units scheduled for phased replacement at an estimated total cost of approximately \$1 million.
- Six units are being replaced during the current phase.
- Previous project pricing for the six units was approximately \$158,000.
- Parts are being sourced and installation will be coordinated with the district HVAC contractor once all materials are available.
- Additional groups of approximately six units are expected to be considered in future Lions Legacy project planning.
- A project budget summary comparing estimated and actual costs will be provided at a future meeting.

LES Storage Building

- The former storage shed has been removed.
- A new concrete pad has been poured.
- Construction of the new steel storage building is underway and expected to be completed the week following the meeting.

Lower Elementary School

- Classrooms and other spaces were painted over the summer by a combination of district staff and contractors.
- Approximately 30-year-old carpeting was replaced.
- Rubber flooring was installed in the staff kitchen.

High School Theater Sound and Lighting

- Equipment specifications are being developed with Michael Howell and Dave Bachart.
- Pricing for the sound portion of the project is still being developed.
- Work is expected to begin after equipment is received, with a goal of having the upgraded system operational for the first fall production.
- In-house installation is expected to result in significant savings.
- Total project cost compared with the previously discussed \$420,000 budget is not yet available because final sound pricing is still pending.
- New shelving has been installed with donated funds.

- Old, carpeted stage risers were replaced with lighter decking.

Transportation Fuel Tank

- The replacement transportation fuel tank has been ordered and is being manufactured.
- Installation will be scheduled once manufacturing and delivery are complete.
- The tank is located at the bus garage and can be replaced during the school year without disrupting school operations.

LES Playground

- Existing playground equipment will be refinished/re-powder coated and worn plastic components replaced.
- The playground footprint is being expanded by approximately 3,600 square feet.
- Existing buried timber edging will be removed and replaced with approximately 460 linear feet of plastic playground edging.
- The expanded area requires 12 inches of certified playground mulch at installation to maintain the required settled depth.
- The digging associated with the expansion required coordination with the township. The district has met with the township and applied for the required zoning approval.
- Goal is to have the existing playground refinished and the expanded footprint completed with new mulch before students return August 31.
- Mason's Landscaping and Construction quote for the playground extension and edging is \$24,474.41.
- The Lions Legacy playground donation campaign will continue through September 30.
- After fundraising closes, available funds will determine the additional playground equipment that can be purchased and installed.

Committee Discussion

- Board commitment to the playground remains \$50,000.
- Approximately \$30,000 in additional donations/fundraising was discussed, bringing available project resources to approximately \$80,000.

- Approximately \$30,000 has been spent or committed to initial work, leaving approximately \$50,000 for equipment.
- Current funding is expected to purchase approximately three additional playground pieces.
- Additional fundraising, including previously expressed interest in sponsored benches, will continue.
- Equipment installation is anticipated for the fall if timing and funding permit; otherwise, installation may occur in early spring.

Field 5 – Softball Field

- New chain-link fencing with yellow safety protection has been installed.
- The entire infield was removed, leveled, and rebuilt with new infield material.
- Grass was removed along the baselines near the dugouts and behind home plate.
- Replacement bases/plates and pitcher's mound components are on order and will be installed before the season.
- Drainage improvements have kept Field 5 dry during significant summer rain.
- Heavy rain displaced some of the red stone in the drainage channel along the paved walkway from the Upper Elementary School toward the field house. The stone will be reset and heavier stone added.

Committee Discussion

- Infield reconstruction addressed playing conditions rather than the drainage project itself. It is not an annual project. Will require ongoing maintenance to maintain.

Fire Alarm Upgrade

- Equipment and parts remain on order.
- Installation will be coordinated once all materials are received.
- Most campus panel work may be completed on non-student days or professional development days.
- Lower Elementary School work is expected to be more extensive and may require scheduling during Thanksgiving or winter break.

Middle School STEAM Lab

- Construction of the Middle School STEAM Lab is substantially complete.
- New walls, doors, viewing windows, storage areas, and workstations have been installed.
- A viewing window was added from the Middle School hallway.
- The adjoining library was painted, including the ceiling, and new lighting and shelving were installed.
- The TV studio and related staff/resource spaces were relocated.
- Equipment installation was completed.
- Mr. Gosser will continue setting up and customizing the instructional space.
- Project remains under budget; final costs are not yet available.
- The Wynn family was identified as a significant donor to the project. A recognition plaque and possible ribbon-cutting/unveiling are being considered.
- The district is considering highlighting the new space during Back-to-School Night.

Committee Discussion

- A question to be addressed, possibly in Curriculum Advisory meeting, is how the STEAM Lab will be incorporated into Middle School programming and which grade levels will use the space.
- Earlier planning considered beginning with Grade 7, but final programming has not yet been confirmed following summer training.
- Quotes are still being developed for permanent stadium netting and scoreboard work.
- Permanent netting is expected to be a six-figure project and will require a competitive purchasing process.
- Netting is intended in part to address balls leaving the playing area.
- Powered roof exhaust fan and door louver are planned as the first step in addressing excessive heat. Estimated cost is approximately \$7,000. A temperature sensor will also be included with the installation. Administration will explore whether the sensor can provide automatic alerts when the room exceeds a set temperature. Effectiveness of the exhaust system may not be fully known until hot summer conditions return. If ventilation does not sufficiently address the problem, additional options will be considered. One large commercial refrigerator

has failed and a smaller refrigerator is beginning to experience cooling problems. Repair of the failed refrigerator was estimated at approximately \$2,000, prompting discussion of whether replacement would be more cost-effective. Administration and the Boosters will review how much refrigeration is actually required and how concession items can be stored efficiently.

- A meeting with the Boosters is being planned for the following week, with a Zoom option anticipated for participants unable to attend in person.

E. New Business

1. LES Playground

- Mason's Landscaping and Construction quote dated July 29, 2026 totals \$24,474.41 for the playground expansion and edging work.
- Scope includes:
 - removal and disposal of existing buried 6x6 timber;
 - excavation of approximately 3,600 square feet to 12 inches below finished grade;
 - installation of 12 inches of certified playground mulch;
 - installation of approximately 460 linear feet of district-supplied 4-inch playground edging;
 - disposal of construction debris;
 - finish grading, seeding, and straw installation in disturbed areas.
- Quote requires a 30% deposit of \$7,342.32, with the remaining \$17,132.09 due at completion.
- The project was administratively approved under the district's summer purchasing authority and work was expected to begin during the week of the meeting.
- Township coordination and zoning requirements associated with the excavation have been addressed, with the formal permit process underway.
- Goal remains to complete the playground footprint expansion and initial improvements before students return August 31.

ParkMobile – Future Discussion

- ParkMobile was raised for possible discussion at the next Facilities Committee meeting following concerns related to Booster fundraising.

- Boosters reportedly earned approximately \$7,000 less than in the prior year, while ParkMobile generated approximately \$7,000.
- Administration plans to meet with the Boosters to review the impact, discuss possible solutions, and determine whether the issue should return to Facilities or be referred to Finance.
- Administration noted that this was the district's first year using ParkMobile and that adjustments may be needed based on the first year of implementation.

F. Adjournment

- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

DRAFT