Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting – November 17, 2026

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

A. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.
- Per Board Operating Guideline 006.2, this meeting and other School Board meetings are audio recorded.

B. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 20, 2026 meeting minutes.
- The motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Comment

Mel Band – Solebury Township Resident

- Referenced previous comments regarding radon testing and stated that several Middle School classrooms tested positive for radon in 2010. Asked whether additional testing would be considered.
- Raised concerns about the safety of simultaneous activities on the stadium field and track and the proposed permanent end-zone netting.
    - Requested a written assessment from the district's insurance carrier before moving forward with permanent netting.

Pam Kerr – New Hope Resident

- Shared that the New Hope Arts public art program is expected to be added to the Bloomberg Connects app.
- Provided an update on *The Dance* by New Hope resident Ronald Kellmeier and noted that signage is pending.
- Encouraged continued progress on the Lawn to Meadow project.

James M. – New Hope Resident

- Raised a safety concern about an approximately two-inch difference between the grass and infield surface at the varsity baseball field.
    - Reported that approximately 10 tons of material are needed to correct the infield and requested that the work be completed before winter so the material can settle before baseball season.

Committee/Administration Response

- Administration will review the baseball field with Athletics and Facilities and determine the work needed and appropriate timing.
- Field 8 has drainage, providing more flexibility for spring work if the project cannot be completed before winter.
- The committee confirmed continued interest in the Lawn to Meadow project.

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- A committee member noted that radon testing had previously been completed and did not recommend additional action at this time.

D. Old Business

1. Update on Athletics

Fall Athletics

- Fall sports have concluded, with Girls Volleyball and Field Hockey winning their respective leagues.
- Student-athletes received multiple All-League and postseason recognitions.

Athletic Recognitions

- **Girls Soccer:**
  - 1st Team Natalie D'Agastino
  - 2nd Team Cameron Karlovitch
  - Honorable Mention Addy Weisbrot, Ceci Capriotti
- **Boys Soccer:**
  - 1st Team Ryan Kearney, Thomas Marschall
  - 2nd Team Devin Heble, Evan Kearney
  - Honorable Mention Alex DeFeo, Blake McCagg
- **Field Hockey: won league**
  - 1st Team Brianna McBride, Gabi Solis, Elizabeth Varghese, Danielle Wilson
  - 2nd Team Emersyn Thistlewaite, Rebecca Vallyyil
  - Honorable Mention Olive Rankin
  - PLAYER OF THE YEAR Danielle Wilson
- **Cross Country:**
  - State Champ Race - 230 contestants
  - Jake Eggering 122
  - Charlie Taylor 152
- **Golf:**
  - State Champ Match
  - Corvin Bridges
- **Football** plays an independent schedule until we are in a place where we can rejoin the SOL.
  - Record 4-6,
  - Notable win vs S Hunterdon "Battle of the Bridge" 23-14

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District Playoffs

- The district hosted Volleyball, Boys Soccer and Field Hockey district playoff events with approximately 48 hours' notice while maintaining other team practice schedules.

Winter Athletics

- Winter sports begin November 20.
- Girls Basketball returns for the 2026–2027 season with strong registration.
- Participation is generally strong across Middle and High School programs.
- Wrestling numbers are lower following the graduation of 10 seniors; three female students have expressed interest in participating this season.

2. Update on Facilities and Grounds

- **Transportation Fuel Tank:** Installation is nearing completion. The old tank has been removed and disposed of. Certificate coming.
- **Grounds:** Leaf cleanup and winter field preparation are underway. *The Dance* sculpture has been installed along Lions Way near Field 9.
- **High School:** Protective bollards were installed around gas meters near the loading dock and cafeteria.
- **LES Playground:** Remaining replacement components, including a play bubble and climbing ladders, have been installed.
- **Fire Alarm Upgrades:** Main campus panel installation is scheduled to begin at UES the following Monday. Administration is awaiting proprietary programming information from Wayman.
- **Building Maintenance:** Painting and touch-up work continues; boiler preventative maintenance is complete; and the Middle School hot water tank was replaced in-house.
- **Middle School Library/STEAM Lab:** Administration is reviewing drawings for acoustic treatments to address sound in both spaces.

Restrooms Near Fields 11 and 12/Baseball Field

- A previous Lions Legacy concept proposed converting an existing storage building near the athletic fields into two unisex restrooms connected to the transportation-area septic system.
- The existing stadium field house provides restrooms, but committee members discussed the distance from the baseball and Middle School fields and current use of portable restrooms.
- The original concept included two unisex restrooms and connection to the transportation area's septic system.
- The project was paused with earlier Lions Legacy work. A preliminary estimate of approximately $100,000 was previously discussed; no current quote is available.
- The committee also discussed upgraded portable restroom options.
- By straw poll, the committee supported obtaining updated pricing for the two-restroom option.
- Administration will return with pricing and a map showing the proposed location and fields served.

3. Update on FCA Projects 2026

Stadium Long Jump Pit

- Administration continues to work with legal counsel regarding the deteriorating concrete and options for corrective action.

UES HVAC

- Project remains paused while the district awaits a decision on its Pennsylvania HVAC grant application.
- Equipment for the planned work has already been purchased and is being held by the vendor.
- Grant notification is anticipated in late November or December. If funding is not awarded, the district will proceed with the previously planned project.

4. Update Lions Legacy 2026

LES Playground

- The Board committed $50,000 and approximately $48,000 in additional funds were raised, for approximately $98,000 in total project funding.
- A separate Education Fund grant will fund outdoor musical equipment.
- Administration and LES staff will finalize additional playground equipment, with installation anticipated in spring 2027.
- A complete project update will be shared after installation is complete, with before and after photos.

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E. New Business

1. Buck Theatre – Lighting and Sound Quote

- STRAY – Systems Integration provided an equipment quote dated November 16, 2026 totaling **$381,470.75**, including $371,658.96 in equipment and $9,811.79 in shipping.
- Quote includes updated audio equipment, theatrical lighting, projectors/screens, and related control and network equipment. Engineering and installation are not included.
- Michael Howell and Dave Bachart will complete much of the installation in-house.
- Administration estimated approximately $10,000 in additional labor, rentals and incidental materials may be required.
- In-house installation represents significant savings compared with prior vendor-installed proposals.
- Upgrades replace aging lighting and sound equipment and expand theater capabilities, including LED lighting, digital color control, rear projection and updated audio networking.
- New LED theatrical lighting will replace aging halogen equipment, reducing power use and addressing prior issues with older fixtures.

Committee Discussion

- Warranty coverage will remain in effect with the proposed installation approach; lighting equipment includes a 10-year warranty.
- Existing infrastructure will be reused where practical, with limited additional low-voltage/Ethernet wiring needed.
- Installation can occur in phases after Board approval and equipment delivery.

Vote

- A vote taken to recommend the Buck Theatre lighting and sound equipment purchase to the Board for approval.
- Carried unanimously.

2. Environmental Club – Meadow Project

- Environmental Club students and staff presented a concept for an outdoor learning space incorporating the Lawn to Meadow project.
- The initial concept includes approximately one acre of native meadow/pollinator habitat, outdoor learning and seating areas, Wi-Fi, weather monitoring, solar components, and opportunities for environmental data collection.
- Proposed uses span grade levels and include biodiversity, environmental science, solar/energy studies and hands-on data collection.
- The project is intended to support environmental literacy standards and provide outdoor learning opportunities across the district.
- Potential locations include areas near UES and between UES and Middle School; no site has been selected.
- Administration has also explored broader campus solar opportunities.

Committee Discussion

- Possible locations and whether the project should be contiguous or distributed across more than one area.
- Whether components should be completed together or phased.

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- Potential grants and other funding sources.
- Committee members requested examples of similar educational projects and preliminary pricing.
- Whether the project should ultimately be included in Lions Legacy planning.

Motion

- A motion was made and seconded directing administration to further develop the concept, including preliminary pricing, potential grant funding, examples from other educational institutions, and recommendations for location and implementation.
- The motion carried unanimously.

3. Lions Legacy 2027–2030 Projects

- Administration presented proposed projects organized by priority.
- The list reflects projects remaining from previous Lions Legacy planning as well as current building needs.

High Priority

- **HS/MS Music and Performing Arts:** Renovate music practice and instructional spaces, including acoustics, climate control, storage and potential recording spaces.
- **High School Main Office/Athletic Office Relocation:** Return the High School main office to the front Bridge Street area and relocate Athletics to the current High School office near the athletic facilities.
- **UES Playground and Parking:** Separate student recreation from vehicle parking and improve parking capacity, traffic flow and outdoor play areas.

Medium Priority

- **Middle School Art Room Renovation:** Improve room function and connection to the adjacent recording studio.
- **LES Library Renovation and STEM Lab:** Reconfigure the library to create a dedicated STEM lab while updating the remaining library/media space.

Low Priority

- **UES/LES Classroom Furniture Refresh:** Replace aging elementary classroom furniture with more flexible and developmentally appropriate furnishings.

Committee Discussion / Next Steps

- No project costs have been established. The committee requested high-level cost ranges before investing in detailed architectural or engineering work.
- Administration will develop preliminary estimates and maps identifying the affected areas.
- Finance will review available capital in parallel so project priorities can be considered against available funding.
- Members discussed whether funding should determine project order or whether priority projects should drive fundraising and longer-term capital planning.
- The music/performing arts project would require significant design and permitting, with construction unlikely before approximately summer 2028.

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- The High School office relocation may be achievable sooner depending on scope.
- Members identified the UES playground/parking project as a safety priority because student recreation and overflow parking currently overlap.
- Administration will return with preliminary costs and maps before detailed design work is authorized.
- Finance will review potential funding capacity over the next several years.

F. Adjournment

- No Facilities Advisory Committee meeting is planned for December.
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:59 PM.

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