Lower Merion School District

Board & Community Questions

June 6, 2016

Public Work Session of the
Lower Merion Board of School Directors
Facilities and Enrollment Growth Update

Elementary School Size

- Advantages and Disadvantages of Large/Small Elementary Schools

  - Research Shows Mixed Results

Core Facilities - ES

- **Comparison of Core Space Capacity**
  - Core Space Comparison at Highest Projected Enrollment (HPE)
  - PE Space
  - Assembly Space / Stage
  - Cafeteria
  - Kitchen and Serving Area
  - Large Instructional Space
  - Library
  - Art and Music

Core Facilities - ES

❑ Areas of Concern at HPE

School	Areas of Concern
BH	Music
CN	LGI, Music
GL	PE Space, Caf. /Serving Area, Library, Art, Music
MR	Serving Area, Art and Music
PV	PE Space, Serving Area, Library, Art and Music
PW	PE Space, Assy. Space, Serving Area, LGI, Library, Art, Music

HPE = Highest Projected Enrollment

Core Facilities – ES

Comparison of Sites

School (HPE)	Total Site (acre per student)	Soft Surface Playground (SF per student)	Hard Surface Playground (SF per student)	Green Space Playground (SF) / SF per student	Notes
BH (541)	.0144	14.3	17.4	107	Large wooded area outside playground
CN (599)	.0060	9.7	11.9	32	Share Green Space Playground with BC
GL (793)	.0180	11.4	6.8	117	Site has regulation sized soccer field
MR (616)	.0141	12.2	16.2	187	
PV (723)	.0230	22.0	5.6	187	Site has regulation sized softball field
PW (823)	.0094	8.8	21.6	80	

HPE = Highest Projected Enrollment

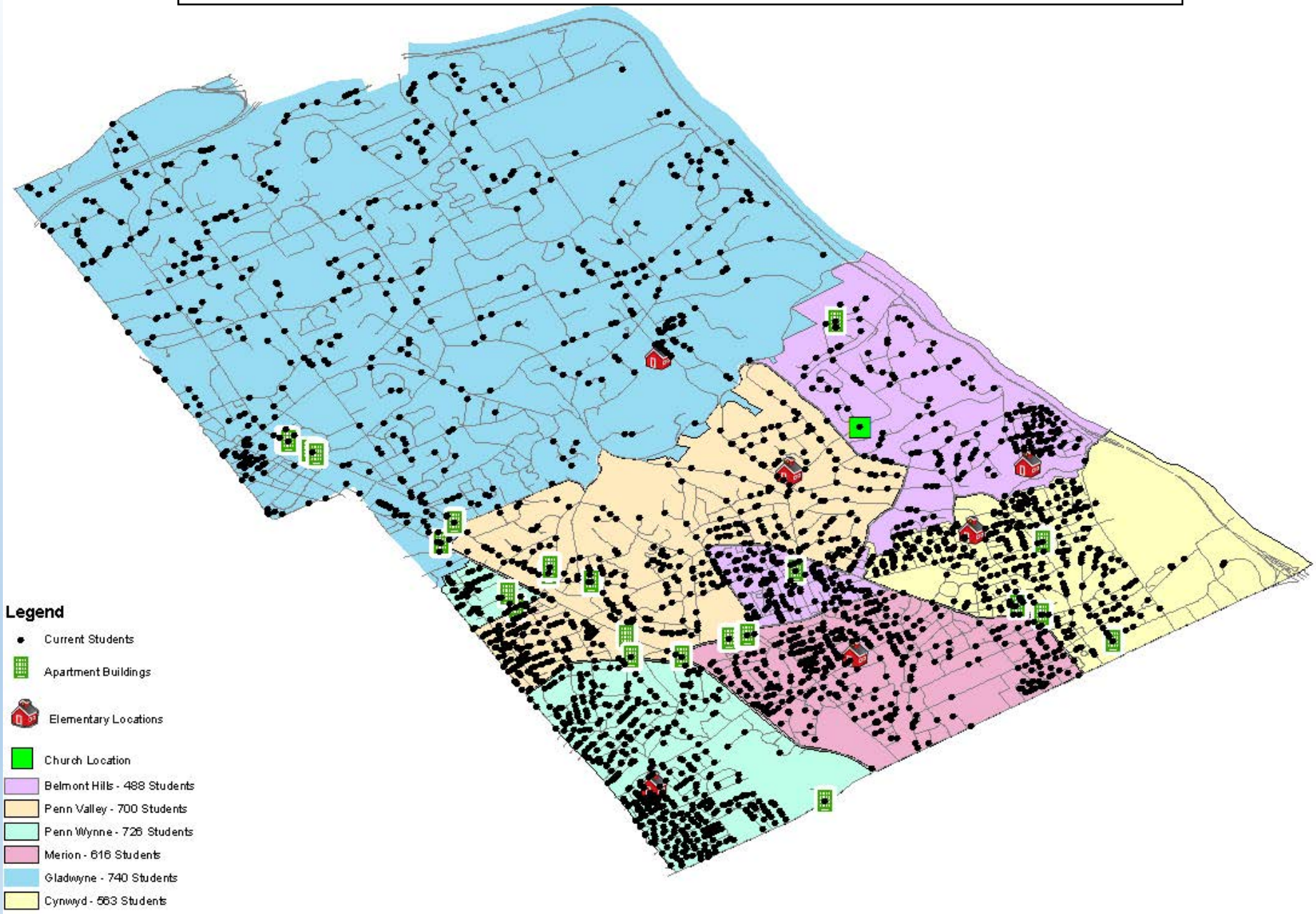
Core Facilities - ES

- **Do Cost Estimates Account for Core Space Needs?**
  - Plans for Penn Wynne Include Increased PE Space and Potential Increased Space for Art and Music
  - Plans for Gladwyne Included an Increase in Library and Cafeteria Space. (Cafeteria Space Requirement May Actually be Serving Area Space.)
  - Other Plans and Cost Estimates did NOT Include Core Space Increases

New Elementary School

- Enrollment is finite at about 550
- May still require some building?
- Cascading redistricting
- Costs 40 million +
- Might solve BCMS problem, but may cause additional problems for WVMS
- Less hoping/more control

Existing Elementary School Boundaries

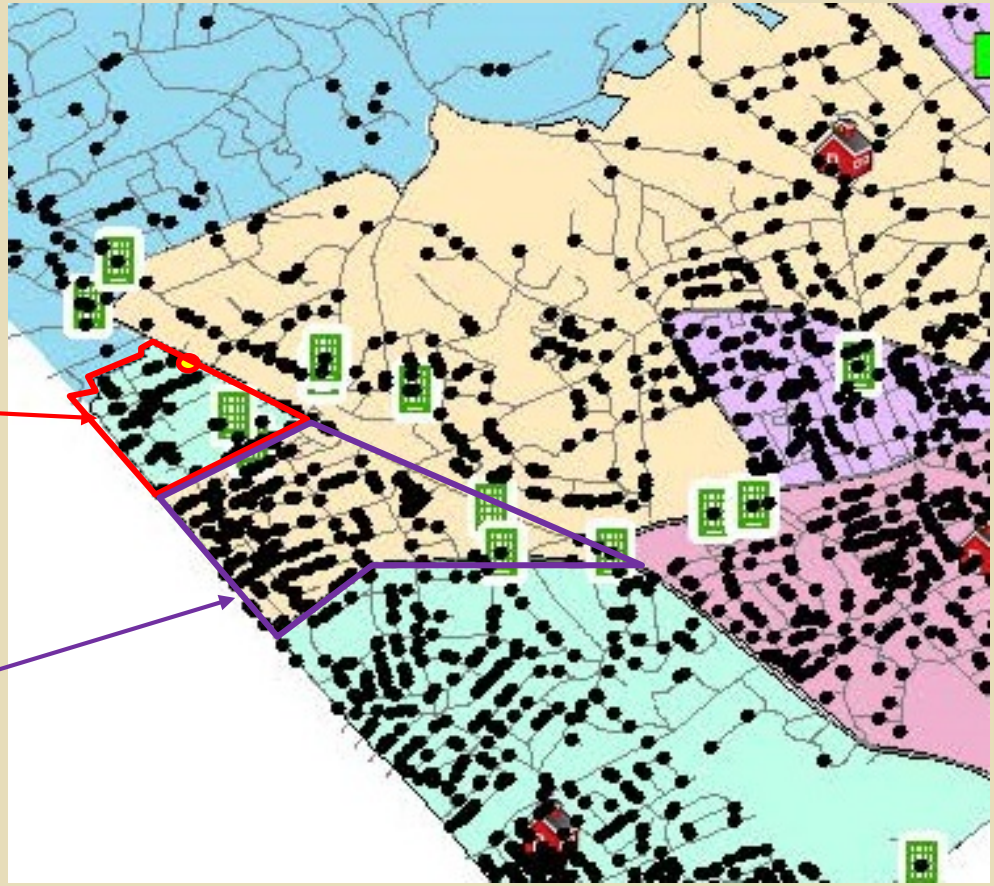


New Elementary School

❑ Number of Students in Ardmore

PW Attendance Area - 79

PV Attendance Area - 249



New Elementary School

- **Will We Still Have to Build at Some ES?**
- **Effect on Feeder Pattern at Middle School**
  - Requires looking into the future using projections
  - Four of six ES have projected peak in 2019-20

New Elementary School

Elementary School Enrollment Projections – Changes from 2015-16

Year	Enrollment	Difference from 2015-16
2015-16	3,830	
2016-17	3,917	87
2017-18	3,980	150
2018-19	4,002	172
2019-20	4,043	213
2020-21	4,019	189
2021-22	3,990	160
2022-23	3,961	131
2023-24	3,977	147
2024-25	4,006	176

These values are all less than 550 – the capacity of a new elementary school.

New Elementary School

- **Will we still have to build at some ES?**

  Answer: No, not if redistricting is done in a manner to sufficiently reduce enrollment at each school.

New Elementary School

❑ Effect on Feeder Pattern at Middle School

- Redistricting Needs to Take Feeder Pattern Into Account
- May Require More Space at Welsh Valley

Core Facilities - MS

❑ Comparison of Core Space Capacity

- Refer to Handout – *Core Space Comparison at Highest Projected Enrollment (HPE)*
- PE Space
- Cafeteria
- Kitchen and Serving Area
- Large Instructional Space
- Computer Labs
- Library
- Art and Music

Core Facilities - MS

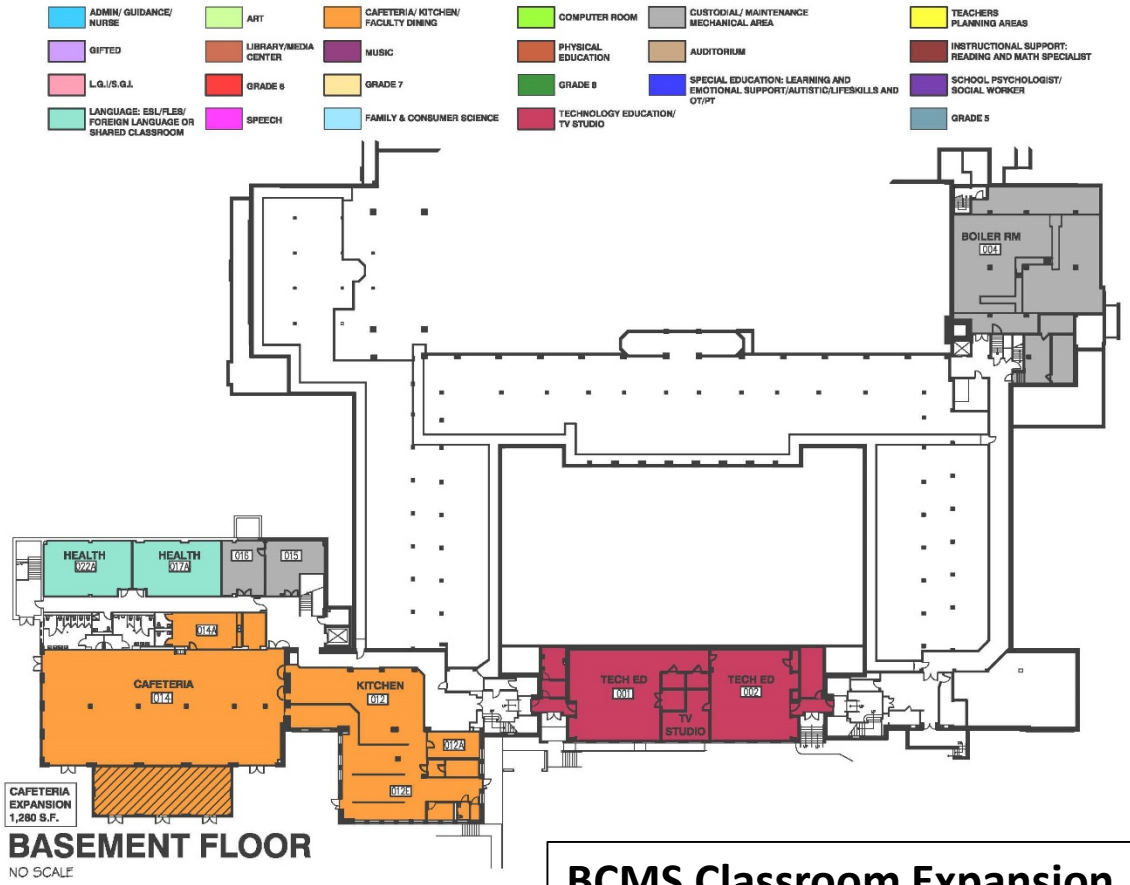
❑ Areas of Concern at HPE

School	Areas of Concern
BC	Cafeteria/Serving Space, Science Labs, Double Rm for Interdisciplinary Pgm
WV	Cafeteria/Serving Area Space, PE, Art

HPE = Highest Projected Enrollment

FIRST FLOOR
NO SCALE

BCMS Temp Classroom Expansion



BCMS Classroom Expansion

FIRST FLOOR

NO SCALE

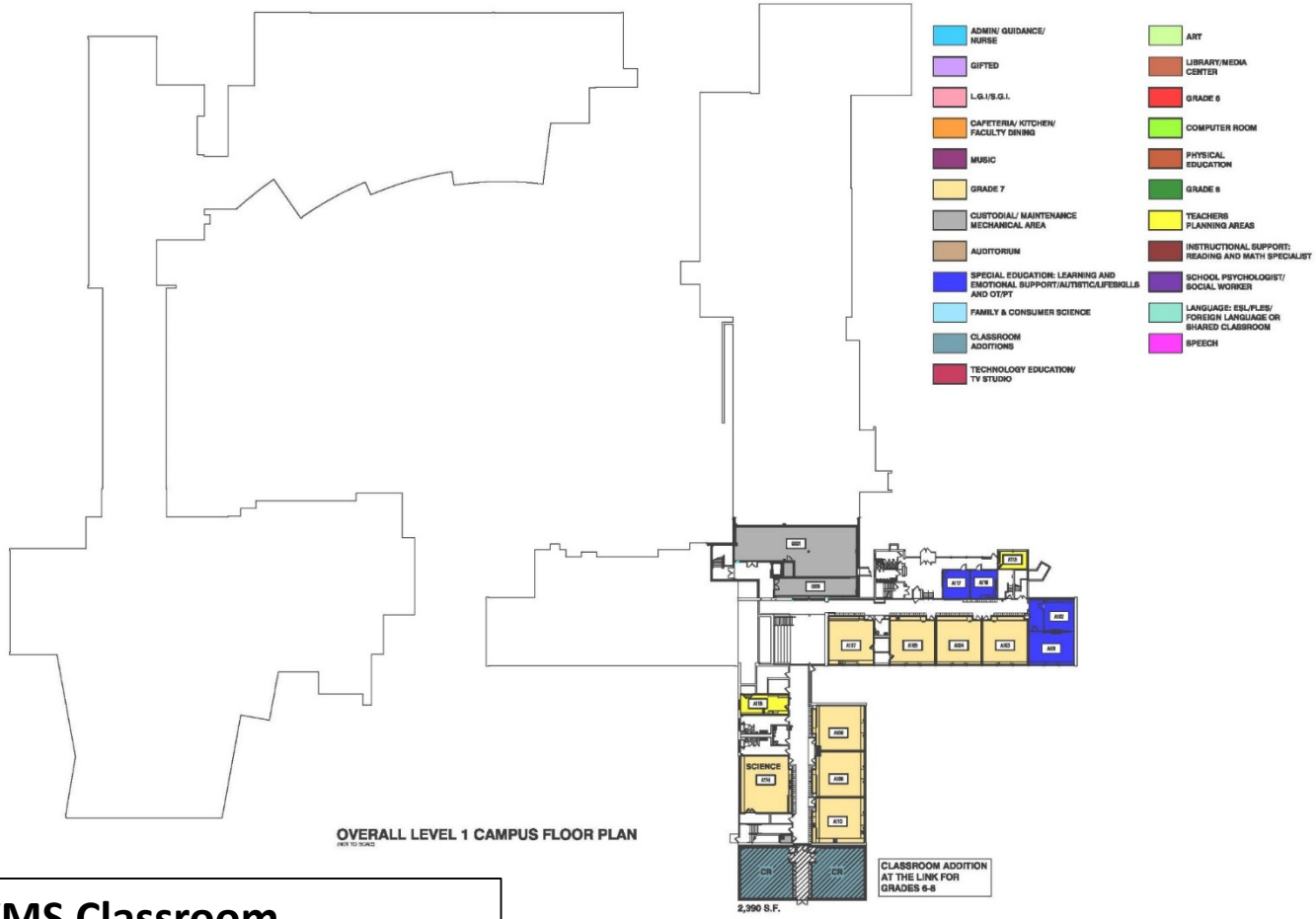
BCMS Classroom Expansion

SECOND FLOOR

NO SCALE

BCMS Classroom Expansion

WVMS Temp Classroom Expansion



WVMS Classroom Expansion

OVERALL LEVEL 2 CAMPUS FLOOR PLAN

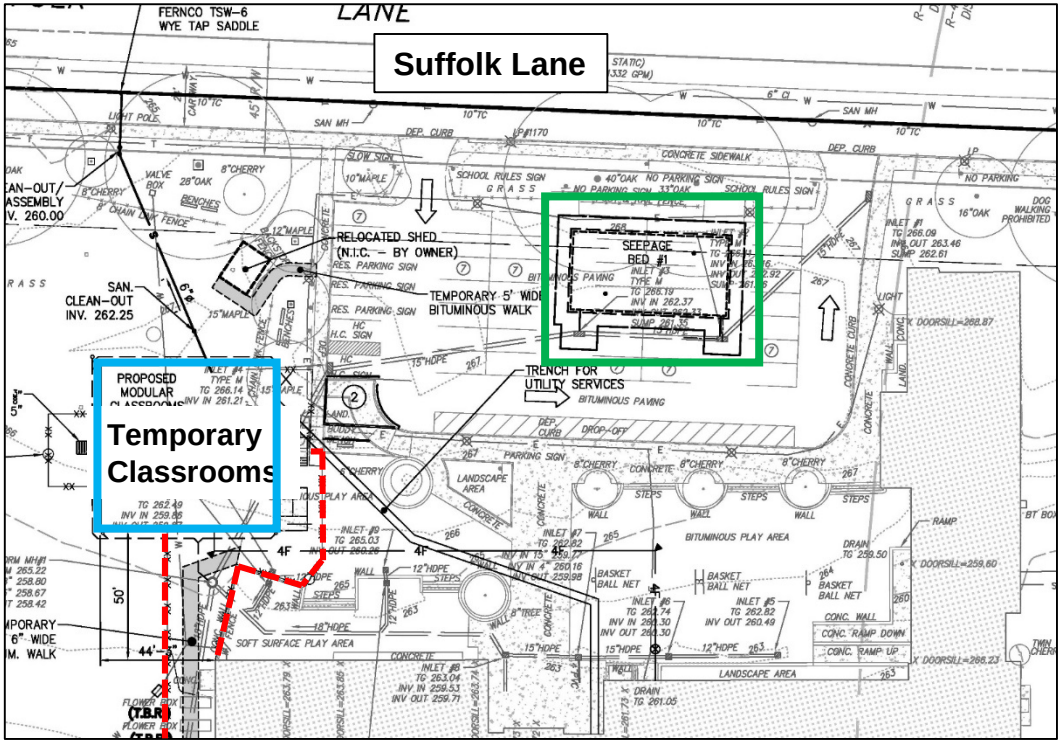
WVMS Classroom Expansion

WVMS Classroom Expansion

Other Questions

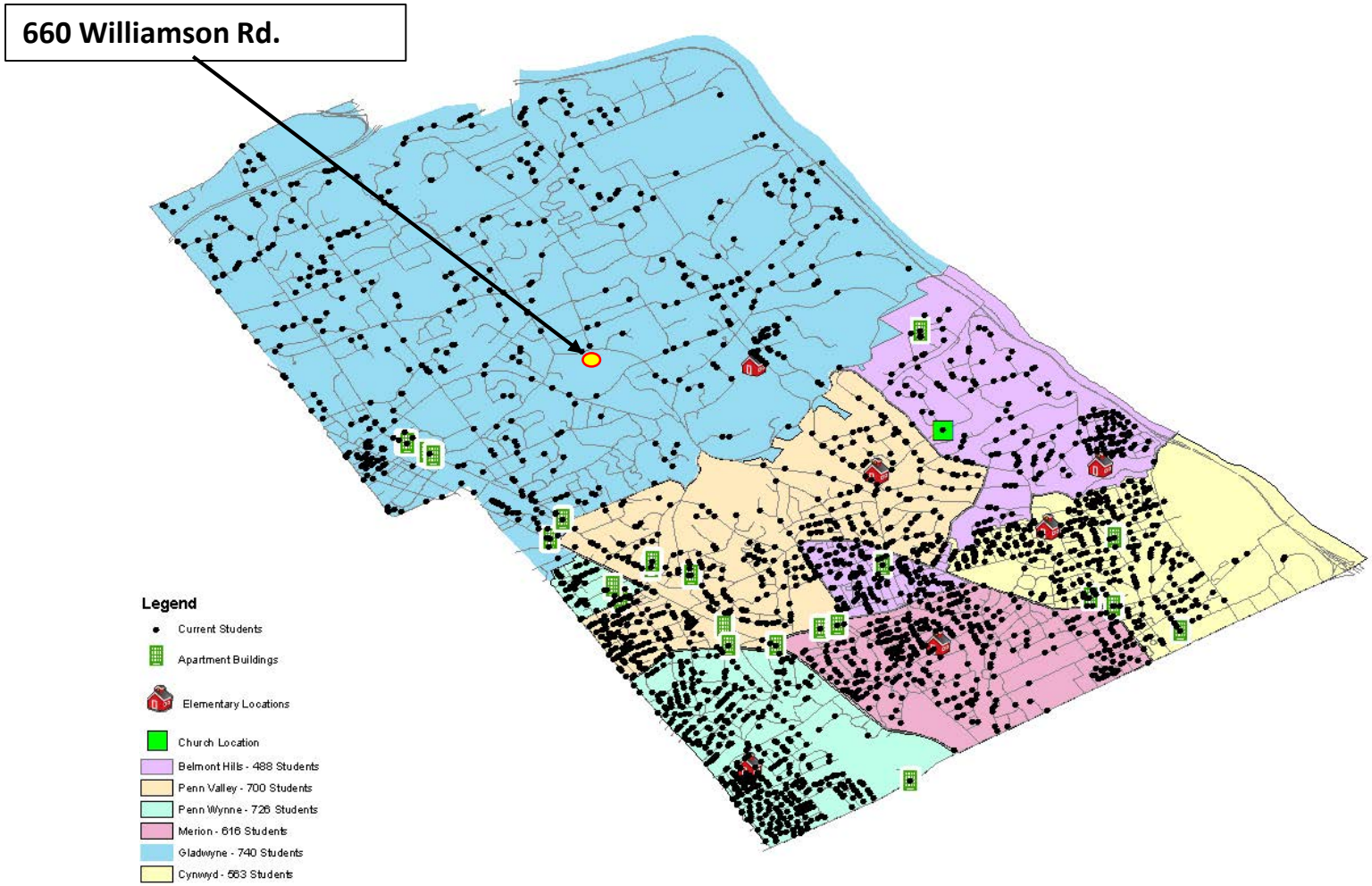
- ❑ Penn Wynne Temporary Classrooms
- ❑ Williamson Road Property
- ❑ Clarify High School Capacities

PW Basin Relocation



- Alternate Stormwater Basin Location in Parking Lot (Green)
- Sized for Future Construction (Option 1 or 2)
- Access to Temp Classrooms Revised

LMSD Current ES Boundaries with Current Student Counts



High School Building Capacity Clarification

- The capacity of the school is based on the current room utilization, which varies from school to school depending on the programs offered
- Lower Merion High School has more classrooms assigned for general instruction (+1) and science classrooms (+3)
- Lower Merion's main gymnasium is large enough to accommodate 1.5 teaching stations, whereas Harriton's gym can accommodate 2 teaching stations
- The capacity at Lower Merion HS nets 3.5 additional teaching stations assigned for instructional areas that receive capacity based on it's current utilization
- Harriton HS has regular sized classrooms assigned for special ed support that are not currently assigned capacity

5-8 Middle Schools

- Relieve pressure on elementary schools by converting to K-4
- Current neighborhood schools remain
- $50 million dollars

Redistricting – without a new school

- Redistrict from Penn Wynne Elementary
- Build on to every other school

Summary

Neighborhood Stabilization

- Positives
  - Keeps current school communities intact
  - Planned roll out
- Challenges
  - Larger elementary schools
  - Impervious surfaces

Seventh Elementary School

- Positives
  - Puts the most control over future enrollment
  - Reduces the need for construction on other schools
- Challenges
  - Significant redistricting
  - Puts additional pressure on Welsh Valley (curtails some issues at Bala Cynwyd)
  - Lack of parking results in $10 million dollar parking solution

5-8 Middle School

- Positives
  - Keeps current elementary boundaries
  - Planned roll out

- Challenges
  - Middle schools become basically as large as our High Schools
  - Both schools have some site challenges
  - Cost of construction is high

Redistricting Students from Penn Wynne

- Positives
  - Merion has easier building foot print

- Challenges
  - Traffic and parking at Merion and Penn Valley
  - Does not relieve increases at Gladwyne, Belmont Hills or Cynwyd
  - Need to increase core spaces
  - Larger elementary schools

Modular Example

- Bala Cynwyd Middle needs 6 classes
- Modular cost = $2 million for 5 years
- Construction = $6.03 million
  - Cost of debt service = $400,000 a year for 20 years

Summary of Options

Neighborhood Stabilization	New Elementary School	5-8 School	Redistricting without a new school	Middle School Expansion
$29,500,000 w/PW Option One	$44,000,000	$52,000,000	$26,598,000	$14,206,000
$34,698,000 w/PW Option Two				
$14,206,000 MS Expansion Cost	$14,206,000		$14,206,000	
PW Option 1 w/MS Expansion $43,706,000	*Total of above =* $58,206,000		*Total of above =* $40,804,000	
PW Option 2 w/MS Expansion $48,904,000				

Additional Questions