

Public Hearing

Monday, July 19, 2021 6:00 PM

Caseyville Elementary School Gymnasium, 433 South 2nd, Caseyville, IL 62232

1. **Call to Order - President Peccola**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Purpose of Hearing: Public hearing concerning the use of ESSER funds for the construction of a new Caseyville Elementary School**

Caseyville Elementary
Est. 1935

\$14.76 Million

- Grant released by July 1, 2021
- Expensed by June 30, 2024
- Expenses are reimbursed after quarterly expense reports are filed
- 20% must be utilized for academics, curriculum, technology and/or supplemental programs
 - As outlined in ESSER I and ESSER II
 - Curriculum w/ an online component
 - 1:1 Devices/Promethean Boards
 - Academic and Social Emotional Programs (Summer School, Jump Start, EL Service, Early Childhood Programs, Learning Strategies, small group instruction, professional development, etc.)
 - Transportation for access to all programs
 - Remote instruction
- 80% must be utilized to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 (air quality improvements and larger spaces)
 - HVAC Improvements (Boiler, Chiller, Air Handlers)
 - New construction or additions to provide larger space for children in classrooms,
 - gyms and/or cafeterias that have congested space
- Replace Caseyville Elementary School
 - Attendance Numbers - 319 (6th Day Enrollment)
 - Principal's View
 - Provides improved air quality in classrooms
 - Provides more square footage per student in classrooms and offices
 - New school located behind the current school and partner with the Caseyville Partner w/ library to share land and space to maximize available land and include a library in the school.
 - Increase square footage of the new facility by 5,000 to 10,000 square feet when compared to current school.
 - Cost: \$13 Million to \$16 Million
 - Funds: ESSER III, O/M or Working Cash Reserves, Debt Certificates
 - Renovation of facility will be more than cost of new construction
- Other Considerations for Caseyville School
 - Acquire new ground for building; however, cost of ground, pushed the budget to extremes

- Demolition of building and abatement is estimated to be \$800,000
- Construct an IGA for Property Transfer and Shared Use w/ Caseyville Library District
- Transparent communication with community

Pros:

- Addresses the district's greatest priority
- Provides Pre-K Classroom at Caseyville which is needed
- Provides a new school in Caseyville to accommodate growth from business and residential opportunities
- Addresses parking and street congestion
- Additional Community partner w/ the library
- School remains centrally located in town
- Provides a visual "WOW" with one time grant funding

Cons:

- Utilizes reserves to cover final cost of project due to increased construction costs
- Requires a Legislative Exception (acquired in the Budget Implementation Bill or BIMP)

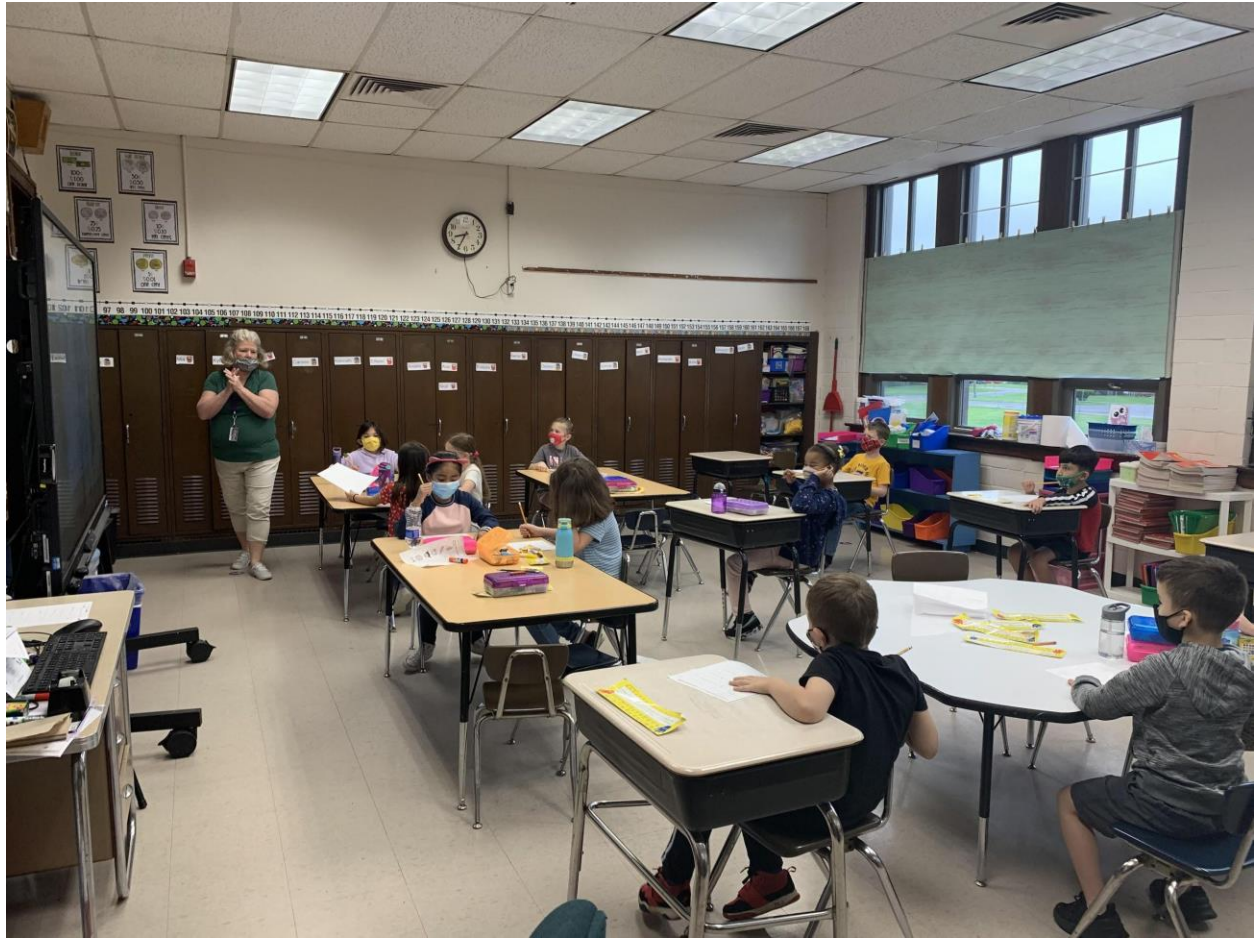
Problematic Areas:

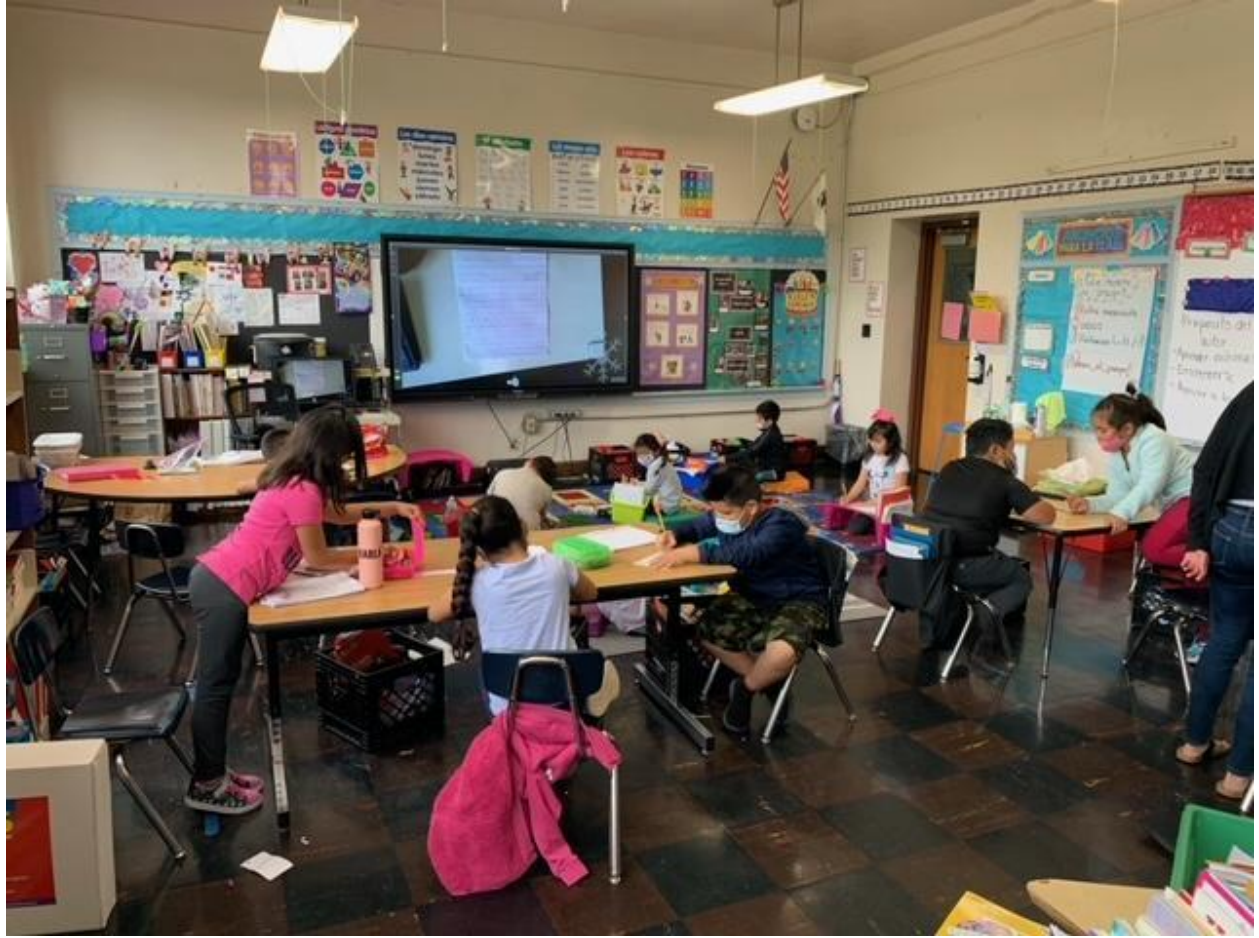
- **Cafeteria** - Our current cafeteria is located in the basement of the original school erected in 1935. Eighty six years later, this is no longer a practical solution for the size of our student population. It lacks function and space. We currently have 12 tables we are able to use during lunch hours in a traditional school year. Our cafeteria size is equivalent to the size of two of our kindergarten classrooms. Unfortunately, those rooms only have to accommodate 24 students per room, but our cafeteria accommodates anywhere from 72-144 students within a half hour for lunch. During that half hour, everyday is controlled chaos. Due to the traffic flow, students waiting to come into the cafeteria either line up in front of the office or along the stairwell and down the hall on the 2nd floor. Students that bring their lunches are allowed to bypass the line completely and go directly to their assigned lunch tables to try and minimize the number of students constantly being redirected as they wait in line. Supervision of these students is an ongoing concern and issue as the assigned aides do not have these students in their sightline while supervising the students already in the cafeteria. Often the aide(s) is toggling back and forth between the cafeteria and hallway supervision. Because of the layout of the kitchen/serving area, I can realistically only have about 15 kids waiting in line for food inside the actual cafeteria. Any more students standing around waiting in the cafeteria, would make it impossible for those students already in the cafeteria to move about to get to their assigned tables, throw away trash or use the restroom. This fiasco is repeated for 4-5 lunch periods everyday depending on how the master schedule is designed. In the last 3 years, Mrs. Clark has worked to develop staggered lunches and recesses to aid in the amount of traffic in the cafeteria in a given lunch period. Even with creative scheduling, it has only slightly helped the acoustics of the cafeteria, but still does not give more space or function. This is a high stress area for all students and staff members involved. Students are yelling at each other not out of anger or defiance towards The Kahok Way expectations of the cafeteria, but simply because they are trying to communicate with one another and it is vastly overcrowded for the space provided.
- **Square Footage of Classrooms** - Caseyville Elementary currently has 12 classrooms that are still utilized from the original building. These classrooms accommodate 2 ELL teachers, 9 general education classrooms and our Title team which consists of 4 teachers sharing one room. For all the classrooms, space is a habitual problem. The teachers and students are extremely limited in their ability to navigate the classroom due to the actual square footage of these original rooms, even in the ELL classes that tend to have less students in the room together than a traditional classroom setting. Their classrooms are comparable to the size of our quarantine room. Additionally, in these rooms, there is a drastic lack of storage for teachers and students. Making the most of what is available to them, teachers use a variety of ways to establish efficient arrival and dismissal procedures for students to unpack and pack up materials from a combination of lockers in the classroom, outside of the classroom, coat closets and hooks. In the 9 general education classrooms, by the time you add seating (tables or desks) to accommodate 24 students, a table for small group instruction and a rug to accommodate whole group instruction and class meeting opportunities, there is no room for additional

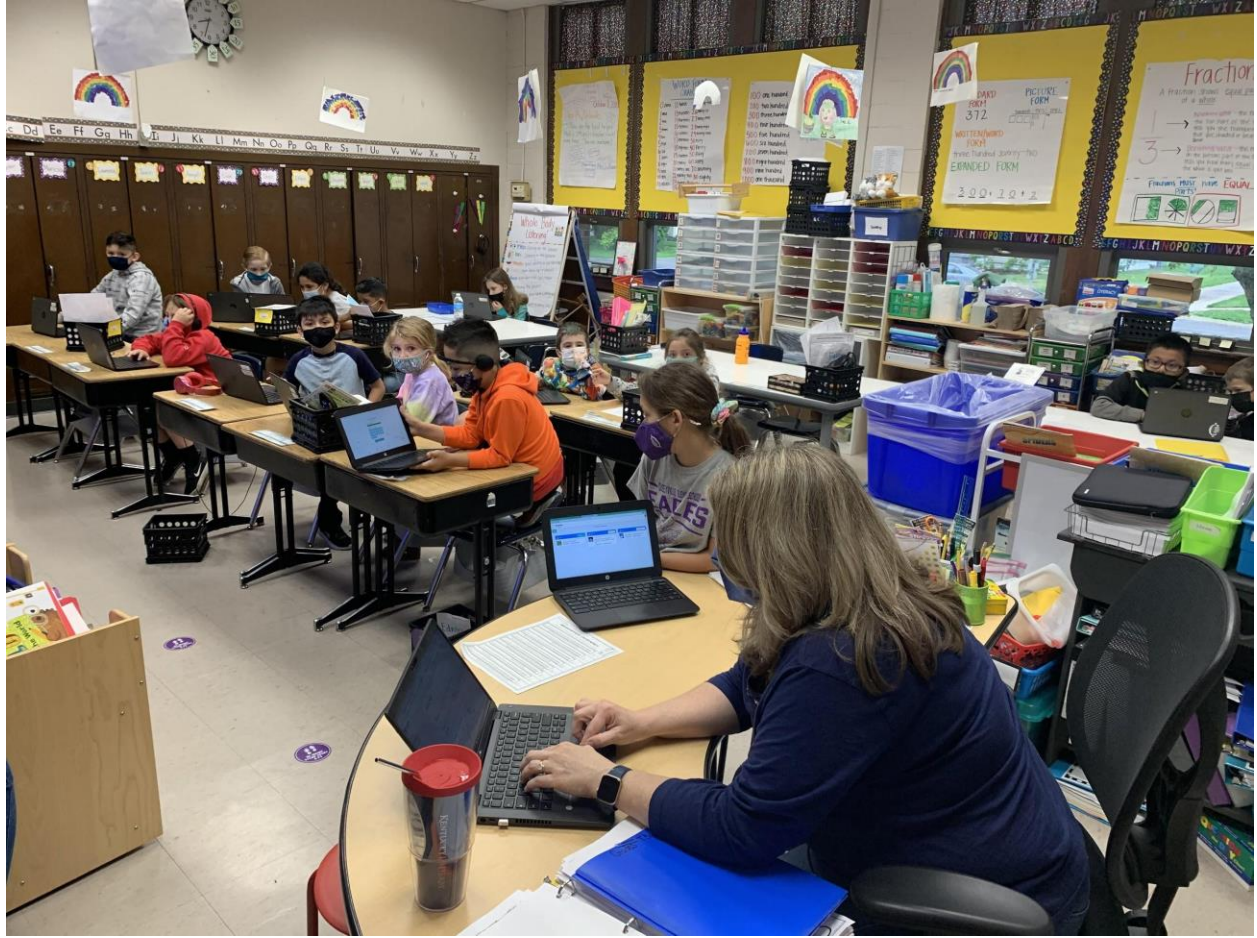
furniture, educational displays/models and resources. All teachers have removed teacher desks to maximize space. In an additional effort to maximize space, some teachers in these classrooms utilize flexible seating.

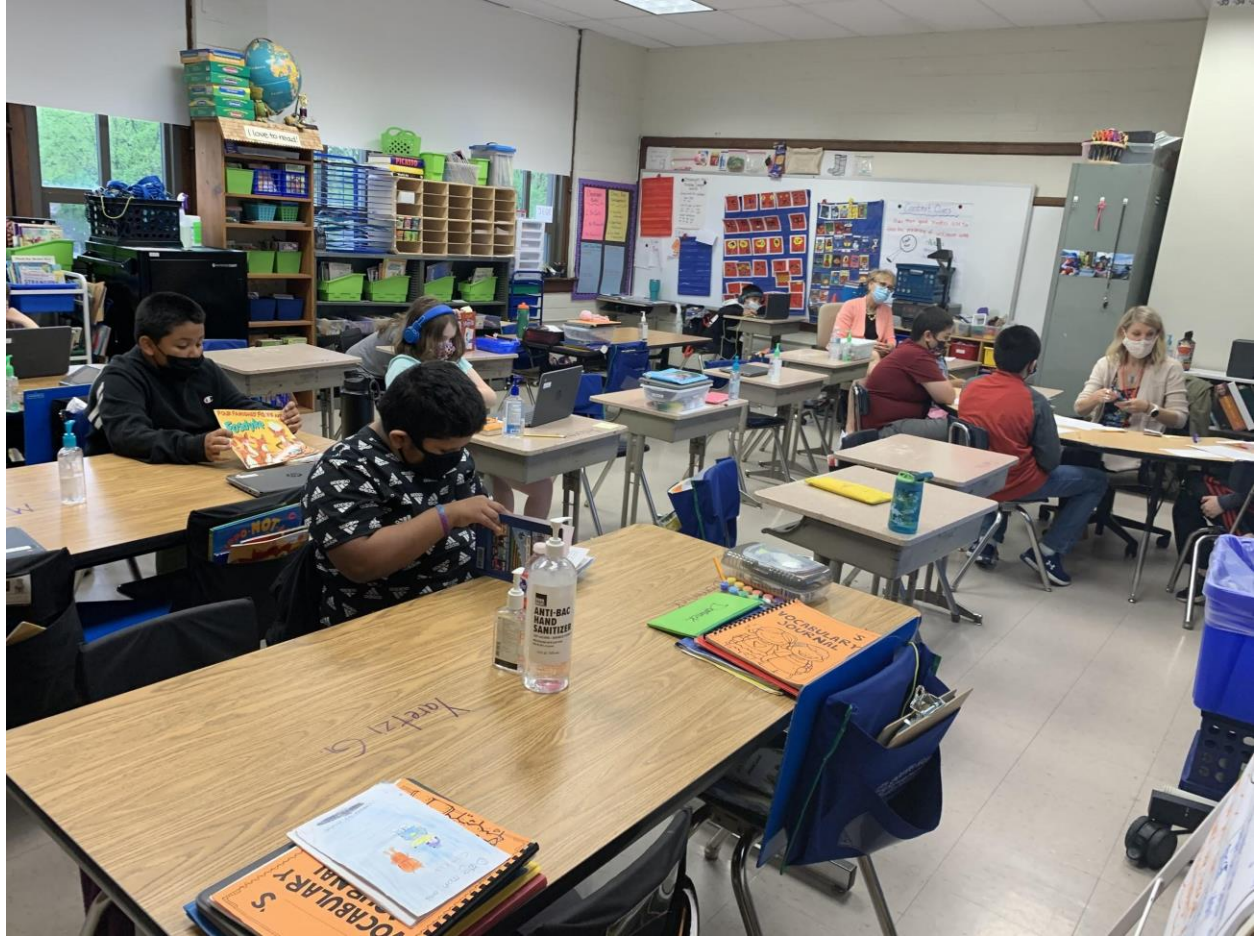
- **Restrooms** - At this time there are 331 students enrolled at Caseyville Elementary. There are 3 boys restrooms, 4 girls restrooms and 2 staff bathrooms that are split off from the girls cafeteria bathroom. Due to the location, the cafeteria restrooms serve as the restrooms for whole class Kindergarten restroom breaks, any students eating lunch or coming in/out from recess. There is currently no designated male staff restroom. We have developed a procedure for male staff members when wanting to use the staff restroom to maximize privacy. In the newest addition to Caseyville, there is a boys and girls restroom next to each other divided by a water fountain. While this is the ideal design, it is unfortunately located where the least amount of classrooms have access to it. The remaining restrooms are divided throughout the building on various levels. The Kindergarten hallway only has a girls restroom in it. Kindergarten boys are required to go to the 2nd level or the cafeteria to use the restroom. The girls restroom is on the 3rd floor. We do have a small individual restroom that was previously used when there were Pre-K classrooms at Caseyville. This is the most efficient restroom in our building that is able to accommodate the health needs of particular students but unfortunately, it is on the complete opposite end of the building from the office or health staff.
- **Hot Water** - We do not have hot water in the restrooms.
- **Lack of Space** - Last year Caseyville Elementary had an enrollment of 358. A boundary change took place at the end of the 2019-2020 school year that resulted in losing 38 students as an effort to alleviate the stress of operating at full capacity across all settings through the school day. Less than a year later, we are already trending upwards with growing enrollment numbers back at 331 to date. There are currently no available rooms, offices or shared spaces open to accommodate any of traveling staff members that provide services to our students, i.e. PT/OT. At this time, these related service providers are meeting students' IEP minutes by completing therapy in the hallways. Additionally, when our School Psychologist needs to test students or if a Chestnut therapist needs to meet with a student, it is a constant scramble on where they can go. If we are lucky, the conference room is available, but if not, myself or our Social Worker gives up our office space for the time needed. As directed by the State Fire Marshall last year, we are no longer able to teach music on the stage of the gymnasium as we have done for years. This year, our music teacher has been extremely flexible as he has shifted from teaching in the general education classrooms, the gym floor and in the conference room. One need that is more evident every year is the need for a Pre-K program to return to Caseyville. As we survey our incoming kindergarten students every year, we repeatedly find that the majority of our students have little to no preschool or even daycare experience. Thus, many of our students start their academic career already below the expected academic learning standards.

<u>Additional Spaces Needed to Maximize Function, Instruction and Resources for Students and Staff</u>	<u>Additional Wants to Maximize Function, Instruction and Resources for Students and Staff</u>
Functional Cafeteria	Nurses Office w/ sink & bathroom
Pre-K Room(s) w/ bathrooms in rooms and an additional handwashing sink outside of bathrooms	Curb Appeal - Signage & Landscaping
District Transitional K Room	Washer/Dryer
Music Room	Improved Parking
OT/PT Room - Motor Room accessible to staff to implement sensory plans outside of therapy sessions	Social Worker Close to Office
Flexible Use Space - School Psychologist, Chestnut Therapy Sessions, PTO Meetings	Drinking Fountain and Bathrooms near gym
2 Playgrounds - PreK - 1st/ 2nd - 4th	Grade/Area Bathrooms on 1 level in same visual field for teacher
2 Conference Rooms with Promethean Boards Installed	Technology embedded into building, not retro fitted afterwards
Storage Space	Library
Outdoor Classroom	Natural Lighting
	Sensory Paths
	PA System in Gym
	Special Education Classrooms near assigned grade levels
	Maintain a minimum of 2 exits or more out of office
	Sink in teacher's lounge











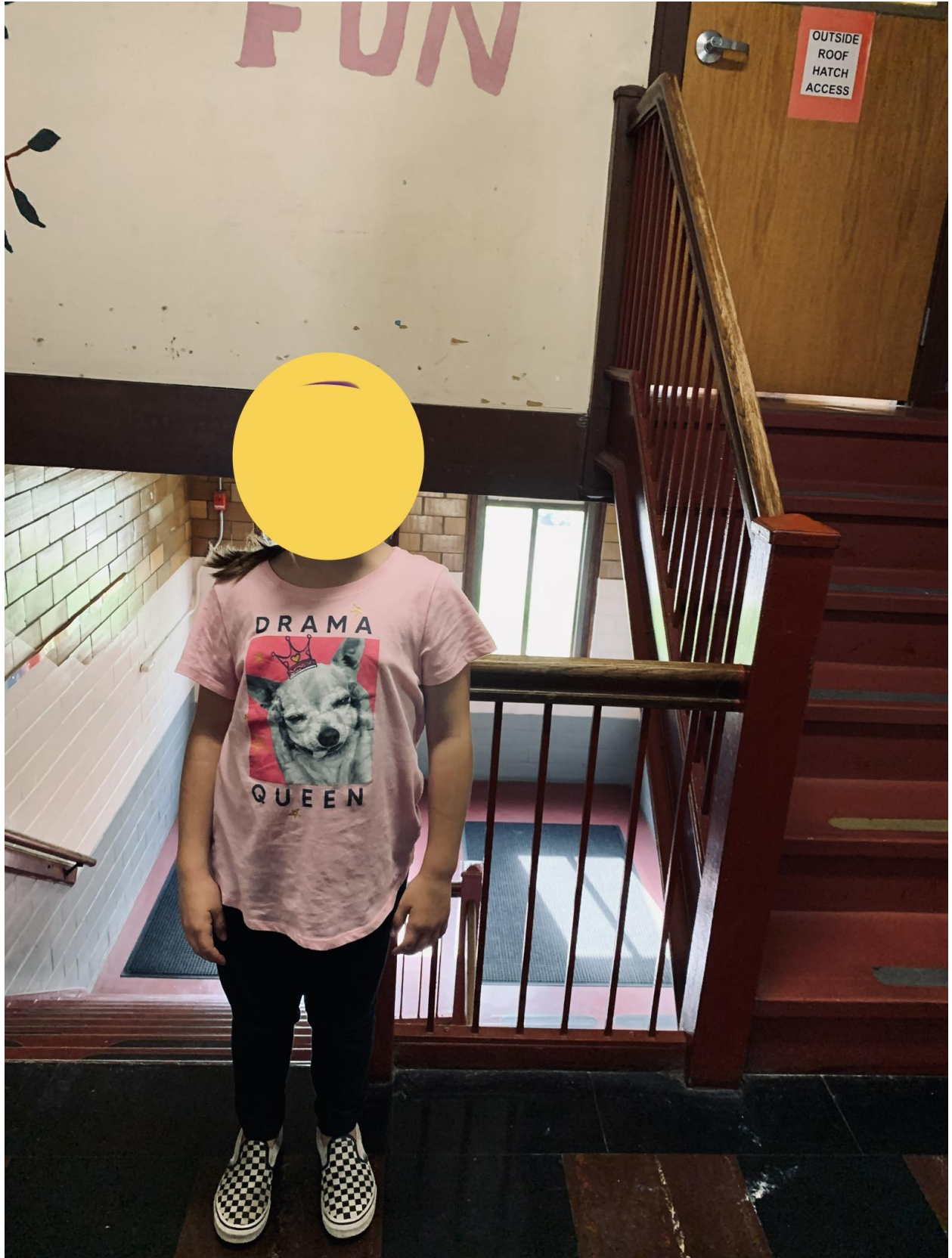












4. **Opportunity for Public Input**

5. **Adjourn**