Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 6:00 PM
LGI Room - High School Commons, 1 Olympian Way, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

1. **Opening of Meeting - President**
A. Moment of Silent Meditation

B. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Acknowledgement of Visitors**
A. Public Comment
3. **Cafeteria and Buildings & Grounds Committee - Dr. Michele Banks**
A. EI Associates Feasibility Study Presentation
B. LB Morris Sidewalk Project Update
4. **Curriculum Commitee - Michele Mazzola**
A. Presentation of High School Data and Goals
5. **Policy & Personnel Committee - Mary Figura**
A. Discussion of hiring a BCBA.
B. Discussion of a possible need for another K-2 Life Skills room.
C. Discussion on school policy for what items are allowed in the classrooms.
6. **Athletic & Activities Committee - Meghan Demshick**
A. Discussion on entry fees for Jr. High and Middle School Events
B. Discussion on supervision of weight room after school and during the summer.
7. **Finance & Insurance Committee - Pearl Downs-Sheckler**
8. **Transportation & Security Committee - Gerry Strubinger**
9. **Legislative Committee - Mary Figura**

JIM THORPE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



AGENDA

- Feasibility Study Review
  - Demographics
  - Options
  - Costs
- Q&A

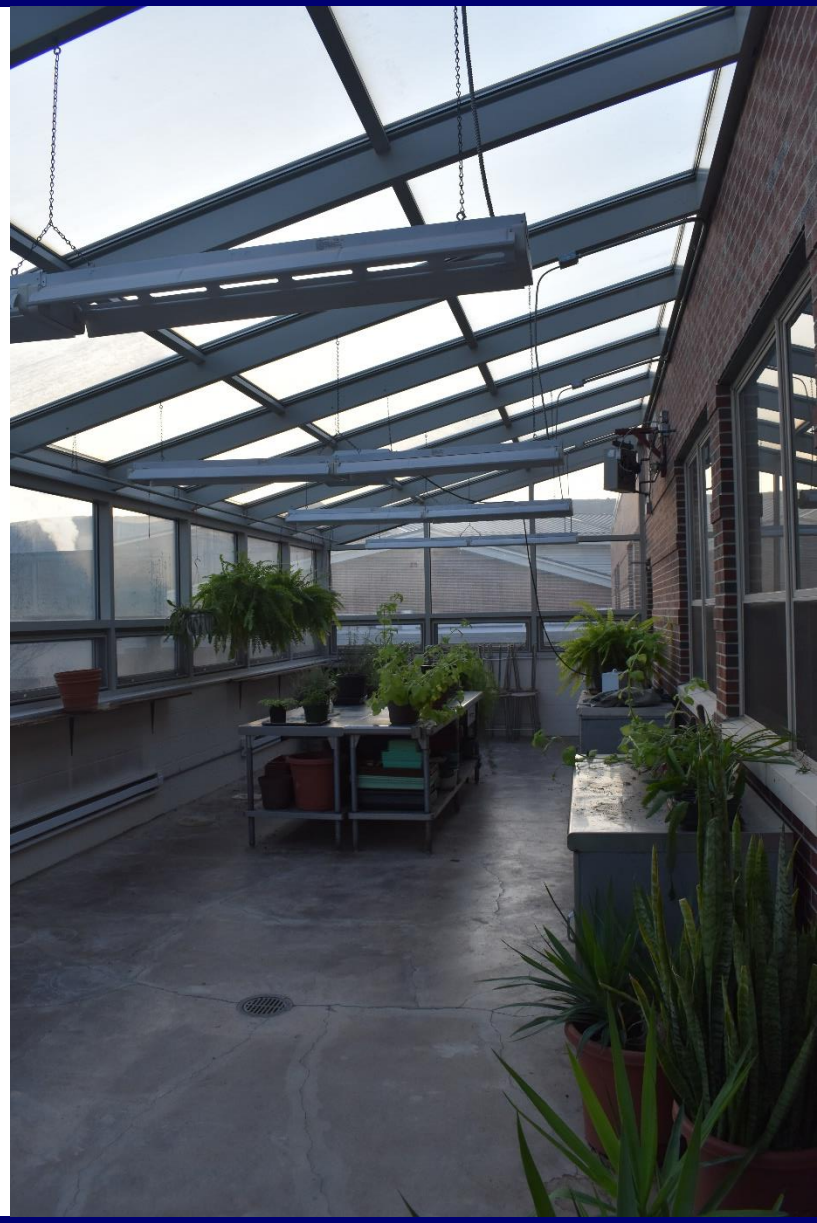


FEASIBILITY STUDY - SUMMARY



FEASIBILITY STUDY – OPTIONS

- Study Options
  - **Option 1** – Status Quo (maintain 3 schools)
    - **K-8** Penn-Kidder Campus – 2 Additional Classrooms
    - **K-8** L.B. Morris School – 2 Additional Classrooms
    - **9-12** High School – Maintain
      - Address rank 1 & 2 deficiencies at **All Buildings**
  - **Option 2** (maintain 3 schools – grade centers)
    - **K-4** Penn-Kidder Campus ***Grade Realignment***
    - **5-8** L.B. Morris School ***Grade Realignment***
    - **9-12** High School – Maintain
      - Address rank 1 & 2 deficiencies at **All Buildings**
  - **Option 4b** (maintain 3 schools)
    - **K-6** Penn-Kidder Campus ***Grade Realignment & Renovations***
    - **K-6** L.B. Morris School ***Grade Realignment & Renovations***
    - **7-12** High School – 12 Additional Classrooms ***Grade Realignment & Renovations***
      - Address rank 1 & 2 deficiencies at **All Buildings**



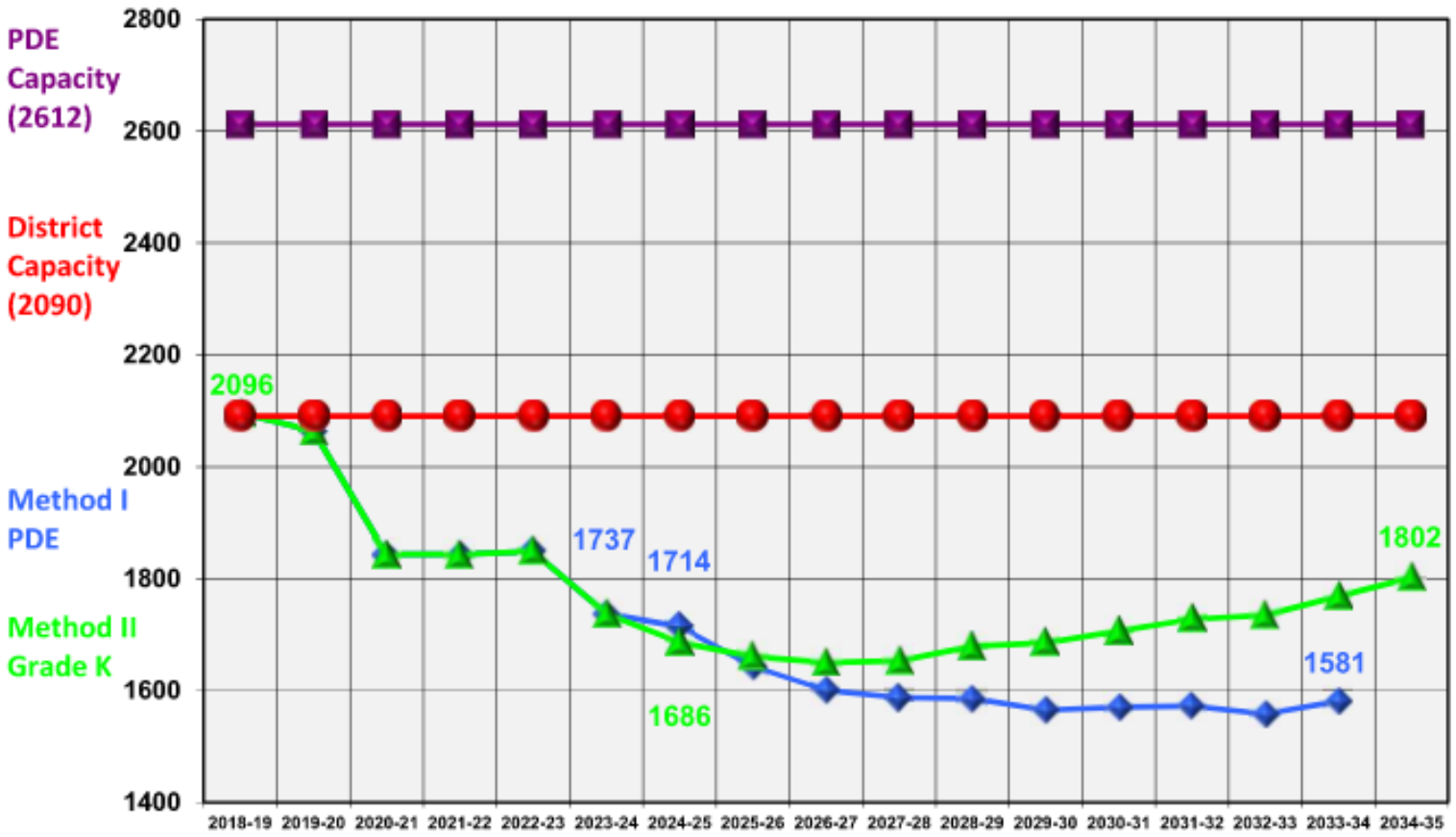
FEASIBILITY STUDY – DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

- ***Enrollment*** – *Historical Trends*
  - K-12 High point 2012-2013 (2,197 students)
  - Overall Decline since 2012-2013
  - 2024-2025 stats:
    - K-8: **1,187**
    - 9-12: **499**
    - Total: **1,686**
- ***Enrollment*** – *10 year Projections*
  - Method 1 – PDE
    - **Declining by 156 students**
  - Method 2 – Projected Kindergarten Enrollment
    - **Increasing by 116 students**
  - Method 3 – Potential Housing & Housing Starts
    - **No Available Housing Projects**

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	K - 8	9	10	11	12	9 - 12	K - 12
2004-05	146	137	123	133	141	140	177	165	179	**1341**	190	135	119	128	**572**	**1913**
2005-06	139	148	148	143	148	133	147	191	188	**1385**	187	141	124	128	**580**	**1965**
2006-07	166	154	153	175	152	172	157	163	190	**1482**	199	140	147	127	**613**	**2095**
2007-08	181	168	148	151	170	160	167	162	156	**1463**	204	164	124	150	**642**	**2105**
2008-09	177	169	179	163	159	175	174	187	172	**1555**	189	156	158	131	**634**	**2189**
2009-10	169	169	169	171	165	167	164	177	182	**1533**	193	153	148	161	**655**	**2188**
2010-11	163	174	183	166	175	169	175	168	177	**1550**	223	152	131	135	**641**	**2191**
2011-12	142	150	172	171	155	168	163	176	166	**1463**	192	165	126	122	**605**	**2068**
2012-13	165	139	168	174	177	170	173	174	205	**1545**	196	177	156	123	**652**	**2197**
2013-14	151	166	136	159	177	176	174	170	177	**1486**	207	147	118	151	**623**	**2109**
2014-15	108	162	170	139	173	176	171	167	178	**1444**	197	181	140	120	**638**	**2082**
2015-16	137	116	167	152	154	162	176	180	178	**1422**	189	158	162	131	**640**	**2062**
2016-17	149	139	129	169	165	151	171	175	172	**1420**	184	168	140	145	**637**	**2057**
2017-18	152	148	149	132	172	172	152	185	187	**1449**	185	163	142	139	**629**	**2078**
2018-19	146	142	152	139	151	176	177	163	184	**1430**	204	166	145	151	**666**	**2096**
2019-20	148	150	141	157	143	157	174	184	167	**1421**	200	167	134	142	**643**	**2064**
2020-21	114	130	148	121	147	118	142	170	162	**1252**	166	147	150	128	**591**	**1843**
2021-22	125	117	138	149	130	153	125	151	176	**1264**	185	121	125	148	**579**	**1843**
2022-23	132	125	123	158	144	135	155	126	154	**1252**	196	165	112	123	**596**	**1848**
2023-24	108	139	126	118	155	139	127	149	127	**1188**	153	152	148	96	**549**	**1737**
2024-25	123	129	134	120	119	157	136	128	141	**1187**	125	128	121	125	**499**	**1686**

FEASIBILITY STUDY – EDUCATIONAL SUMMARY

- ***Capacity*** – *Building(s) / Current Enrollment*
  - K-8: 1,288 / 1,187 (101)
  - 9-12: 802 / 499 (303)
  - Total: 2,090 / 1,686 (404)
- ***Educational Programs*** – *Current needs*
  - K-12 Efficiency of Classroom Spaces
    - Existing : 146 +/-
    - Option 1: 150 +/-
    - Option 2: 146 +/-
    - Option 3: 146 +/-
    - Option 4a: 136 +/-
    - Option 4b: 158 +/-
  - K-12 Efficiency of All Spaces
    - Existing : 406,635 SQFT +/- (-)
    - Option 1: 412,635 SQFT +/- (+6,000)
    - Option 2: 406,635 SQFT +/- (0)
    - Option 3: 404,635 SQFT +/- (-2000)
    - Option 4a: 362,835 SQFT +/- (-43,800)
    - Option 4b: 421,635 SQFT +/- (+15,000)



PROPOSED OPTIONS – COMPARISON COSTS

PROPOSED Options - Costs

Option 1 - Base Project Costs (6,000 sqft addition)
(406,635 sqft renovation)

Total Construction Cost:	$35.1 M
Total Project Cost*:	**$43.9 M**
Rank 1-2 study cost:	$29.8 M

Option 2 – Base Project Costs (406,635 sqft renovation)

Total Construction Cost:	$32.5 M
Total Project Cost*:	**$40.6 M**
Rank 1-2 study cost:	$29.8 M

Option 4b – Base Project Costs (15,000 sqft addition)
(406,635 sqft renovation)

Total Construction Cost:	$38.3 M
Total Project Cost*:	**$47.9 M**
Rank 1-2 study cost:	$29.8 M



*Total project costs have been given an inflation factor of 10% due to previous date of provided costs

PROPOSED OPTIONS – COMPARISON COSTS

OPTION 1

Status Quo

K-8
- ❑ Maintain Penn-Kidder
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)
- ❑ Addition

K-8
- ❑ Maintain L.B. Morris
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)
- ❑ Addition

9-12
- ❑ Maintain High School
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

*Total Project Cost
$43,984,600

Annual Total Share
$3.20m

**Annual Operational Expense Savings
($0k)

***Annual Net Share
$3.20m

OPTION 2

Renovation & Additions

K-4
- ❑ Penn-Kidder
  - Grade Re-alignment
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

5-8
- ❑ L.B. Morris
  - Grade Re-alignment
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

9-12
- ❑ Maintain High School
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

Total Project Cost
$40,684,600

Annual Total Share
$2.95m

**Annual Operational Expense Savings
($2.0m)

***Annual Net Share
$950k

OPTION 4b

Renovation & Additions

K-6
- ❑ Penn-Kidder
  - Grade Re-alignment
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

K-6
- ❑ L.B. Morris
  - Grade Re-alignment
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

7-12
- ❑ Maintain High School
  - Grade Re-alignment
- ❑ Renovations (Rank 1&2)

*Total Project Cost
$47,944,400

Annual Total Share
$3.48m

**Annual Operational Expense Savings
($682k)

***Annual Net Share
$2.80m

*Total project costs have been given an inflation factor of 10% due to previous date of provided costs

** Annual Operational Expense Savings have been updated 9/4/26

*** Annual Total Share & Annual Net Share have not been updated by FSL and are estimates based on provided information

PROPOSED OPTIONS – PROS & CONS

- **Option 2** (K-4 Penn-Kidder; 5-8 L.B. Morris; 9-12 High School)
  - **Pros**
    - More focused curriculum alignment, leadership, and supervision
    - More aligned and focused professional development in literacy
    - Stronger foundational skill development and intervention
    - Less interaction with older, more mature language and behaviors
    - Building features, including bathrooms, cafeterias, and play areas, meet the needs of all learners
    - Resources, including instructional materials and special education, are better allocated
    - Students meet and develop a whole class culture starting in Kindergarten
    - Junior high sports have students from one (1) school rather than two (2) – time/expense savings
    - Increased family engagement by parents of K-4 students
  - **Cons**
    - Students experience three transitions during career instead of two
    - Potential decrease in family engagement by parents of 5-8 students
    - Some students may have longer bus rides

PROPOSED OPTIONS – PROS & CONS

- **Option 4b** (K-6 Penn-Kidder; K-6 L.B. Morris; 7-12 High School)
  - **Pros**
    - Earlier access to advanced courses for all 7th & 8th grade students
    - Continuity of curriculum and remediation with lower level courses
    - Mentorship opportunities for older students to service the younger students
    - Fewer educational transitions with the final transition for students occurring after 6th grade
    - Teachers can teach a wider array of courses associated with their certification
    - Opportunity for younger students to experience more extracurriculars (ex. Drama, Student Council, etc.)
  - **Cons**
    - Students can witness older, more mature behaviors and language
    - Younger students (7th-8th grade) may have fewer leadership opportunities in a 7-12 structure versus a K-8 structure
    - Teachers may require additional training to teach 7th & 8th grade students
    - May be a sense that teachers focus more on older students than the younger students

Q&A



JTAHS 2026- 2027



JTAHS Goals

1. Improve Attendance Rate: This aligns with the Comprehensive Plan as consistent daily attendance is essential to academic achievement.

2. Restructuring of PODs

3. Strengthen Teaching and Learning: This aligns with the Comprehensive Plan as well.

Attendance

- Tracie Henry - Student & Family Services & Truancy Coordinator
- Provided/continue to provide opportunities for attendance incentives
- A.C.E. Program (26-27 SY)

Attendance Data (25-26)

- 1st letter mailed (230 students)
- 2nd letter mailed (142 students)
- 3rd letter mailed (54 students)
- Filed with the magistrate: 39 students (compared to 60 students)
- Re-filed with the magistrate: 5 students

PODs - “Olympian Labs”

- Moved to the end of the school day.
- Now a 36 minute period (increased by 6 minutes).
- Students have the opportunity to use this time to:
  - Creates more lab time for higher leveled science
  - Gain study skills
  - Complete school work prior to leaving the building
  - Provide meaningful opportunities for students to get assistance
  - JT Achieve (MTSS intervention)
  - Weight room/cardio
  - Art
  - Music/band
  - Enrichment
  - Library reopen for silent study
  - Sign up using Smart Pass Flex (We will need to purchase this add on.*) for accountability purposes.
- Senior Release
  - In good academic standing, employed, enrolled in LCCC/internship:
    - allowing them to come in 1 hour late or leave 1 hour early
  - Have the opportunity to leave during PODs every day

Academic Rigor

- Leveled classes to best meet students' needs
- Provide appropriate academic challenge and support based on student needs
- Monitor student progress and performance throughout the year
- Continuously refine course placement to ensure the best academic fit
- Provide opportunities for students to advance to higher levels of academic rigor as they demonstrate readiness
- Promote continued academic growth and achievement

JTAHS Algebra I Spring Keystone Data Spring 2026

Data is not by the 11th grade cohort

Advanced	0	0%
Proficient	5	6%
Basic	39	48%
Below Basic	38	46%
Totals	82	100%

JTAHS Literature Spring Keystone Data 2026

Data is not by the 11th grade cohort

Advanced	3	3%
Proficient	38	41%
Basic	33	36%
Below Basic	18	20%
Totals	92	100%

Staff Guidelines

Personal Cooking Devices and Small Appliances

To help maintain a safe and consistent environment across all district buildings, the following guidelines have been established regarding the use of personal cooking devices and small appliances.

Approved Appliances (Common Areas Only/ Faculty Break Rooms)

The following appliances are permitted **only in designated staff common areas or lounges**:

- Coffee makers
- Microwaves
- Refrigerators

These appliances should not be kept or operated in classrooms, offices, or other individual workspaces.

Prohibited Appliances

For safety, electrical load, and fire prevention reasons, the following appliances are **not permitted** in district buildings:

- Air fryers
- Ice machines
- Hot plates or countertop cooking devices
- Slow cookers, toaster ovens, or similar cooking appliances
- Any large personal cooking appliance not approved by administration

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Electrical & Decorative Item Guidelines

- Glade plug-ins and other air fresheners are not permitted.
- Extension cords must be commercial grade only.
- Christmas-type decorative lights are permitted in single strands only.

Safety Expectations

- Appliances must be used only for their intended purpose.
- Staff should ensure appliances are unplugged when not in use, when applicable.
- Shared spaces should be kept clean and safe for all staff members.
- Administration reserves the right to remove unapproved appliances.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping maintain a safe and compliant work environment for all staff and students.