



PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
PALMYRA, N.J. 08065

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools

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Todd D. Reitzel, MBA
*Business Administrator/
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January 11, 2017

RE: Palmyra Grades 6-8 Feasibility Study

Dear Palmyra School Community,

On December 14, 2016 the Palmyra Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, provided authorization to conduct a feasibility study for the purpose of advising the board on future options for educational services to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students of Palmyra. Such consideration is consistent with the goals and objectives enumerated in the 2016-2017 3D Strategic Plan for the Palmyra School District (Goal III: Sustainability, Objective 1: Further support existing clubs, programs and sports especially in Palmyra Middle School).

The study will assist the district in evaluating the **possibility** of relocating the sixth grade to Palmyra High School to form a comprehensive Middle School consisting of grades 6-8. Likewise, the study may provide alternative options to further meet the educational and social needs of students in grades 6-8.

The committee will target development of a mission statement, a calendar for evaluating progress indicators, and **establishing multiple forums to solicit community feedback**. The feasibility study will have specific goals focused on (1) curriculum and student achievement; (2) accommodation including facilities; (3) cost estimates; (4) impact on staff; and (5) implications for both Charles Street School (CSS) and Palmyra High School (PHS). Ideally, committee representation will include: a member of the Palmyra Board of Education, the Superintendent, CSS Principal, PHS Principal, Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor, Child Study Team Supervisor, Palmyra Education Association (PEA) members, members of the Palmyra Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and members representing families of both CSS and PHS.

Providing the board with a formal report by March 2017 was the original intent. However, a thorough and transparent process involving community stakeholders may realistically require a longer timeline for report completion. Please be advised that the Palmyra Board of Education **has not** reached any conclusion on proceeding forward with relocation of the sixth grade and will await results from the feasibility study along with recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools before considering any further options.

Please visit district's Website at www.palmyraschools.com and view the page, "Palmyra Grades 6-8 Feasibility Study" to learn more about the process. Members of the community are always welcome to contact me at 856-786-9300 regarding the study.

Sincerely,

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent