

Highlights

District to Add Modular Classrooms at Glenwood, Rose Tree Elementary Schools

At its April 27 Legislative Meeting, the Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors approved the initial payment of \$419,000 to install two modular classrooms at **Glenwood Elementary School**. This is the first phase of an expected addition of three modular units containing six classrooms at Glenwood over the next three years. **Rose Tree Elementary** already employs two modular classrooms.



As the district's enrollment continues to rise, all four elementary schools have found themselves facing capacity issues. On September 24, 2020, after a multi-year process that included consultation with Edgmont Township officials, the board voted to build a new elementary school to address the need for additional space. However, on February 14, 2023, the Edgmont Township Board of Supervisors voted to deny the district's application for a zoning text amendment to allow construction of this new elementary school. Nonetheless, capacity concerns need to be addressed before the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Ron Baldino, RTMSD's supervisor of maintenance and operations, presented information at the April 13 board work session about the modular classrooms the district will lease for Glenwood Elementary. The proposed plan includes adding one unit each year over the next three years. Each unit houses two classrooms, a hallway, and a bathroom.

The district has partnered with Mobilease, a modular building supplier based in New Jersey. While there could be some changes due to costs associated with land development, the district will enter into a contract with Mobilease, which requires an initial investment of \$419,300 for the units, and monthly payments between \$3200 and \$3600 thereafter. This is somewhat higher than originally planned as building occupancy regulations require us to install bathrooms in the modular units.

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The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held a Legislative Meeting on April 27, 2023

Board of Education Members

Theresa Napson-Williams
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Susan Henderson-Utis

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Jason Lanka

Neil Sen

Acting Superintendent

William Dougherty

More information available at
www.rtmsd.org/domain/60

Rose Tree Elementary will need an extra unit added during the 2024-25 school year. The associated cost is still being explored.

In addition to creating more space for student classrooms, the district will continue to work on the logistics of lunch and group movement times to ensure that overcrowding does not impede instructional time.

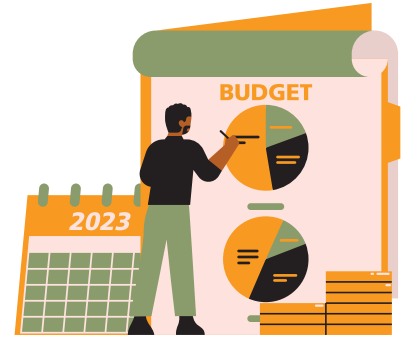
Meanwhile, because the Edgmont Board of Supervisors failed to approve the new school, costs for a permanent solution to the increased enrollment the district is experiencing will continue to grow.

For more information about the planning, progress and next steps associated with a new elementary school at RTMSD, visit www.roomtolearnroomtogrow.org.

Board Advances Proposed Final Budget

The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors approved a proposed final budget for the 2023-24 school year.

The district's 2023-24 General Fund Budget has expenses of \$116,890,117, revenue of \$114,020,892 and includes a \$2,869,225 projected use of fund balance. The budget includes a tax increase of 3.7%, but the Board kept that increase below the 2023-24 [Act 1](#) limit of 4.1%.



PDE's General Fund Budget form 2028 is available for review at the Education Center (308 N. Olive St., Media, PA) and on the RTMSD [Business Office webpage](#) at [this link](#).



Academics

- The RTM Board of School Directors recognized National Merit Finalist, **Benjamin Werner**. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. 15,000 semifinalists advance to Finalist standing based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishment.
- The Board also recognized National Merit Commended students **Alisun Coldiron** and **Josie InTham**.

Athletics

- The Board celebrated the **Penncrest High School Cheer** team for competing in the National High School Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida in February. Penncrest Cheer competed against 50 other teams and finished in the top 10 nationally! Team members include **Allison Brown, Keira Chaga, Rihanna Collins, Isabella Colucci, Raell Colucci, Riley Duffy, Victoria Dunoff, Megan Falkinburg, Riley Fredericks, Gabriella Hamilton, Sarah Meek, Delaney Millison, Abigail Puckett, Heidi Renneisen, and Abigail Wolf**. The Cheerleaders are coached by **Gina Lucente**.
- The Board recognized **Jonathan Hoole** for being a State Silver Medalist in the 100 meter backstroke as well as finishing ninth overall in the 50 meter free at the PIAA State Championships. Jonathan is coached by **Daniel Apostolu**.

Points of Pride

Athletics

- Congratulations to the **Penncrest Ice Hockey** team for winning the Central League hockey title - our first hockey title in 18 years! The Board recognized the following team members: **Ryan Anderson, Ryan Callahan, Colin Curran, Nicholas DelPizzo, Benjamin Ettien, Chase Frances, Nash Grant, Brady Hammond, Gabriel Hartman, Andrew Hausch, Olivia Jacobi, Joseph Kirchoff, Matthew LaBuono, Cole McCarty, Matthew McKay, Edward Morroni, Aidan Naugle, Matthew Psaris, Benjamin Rago, Scott Scranton, Fiona Walker, Kain Walker, and Jackson Wickman.** Team managers are: **Shannon Burdsall, Mara Cropper, and Laci Pandolfo.** The coach is **Steve Mescanti.**

Educators and Staff

The following educators and staff members were recognized by Acting Superintendent William Dougherty during the Superintendent's Update:

- **Tiffany Poole**, a member of the district's support staff, won the 2023 "Making A Difference Award" from the Delaware County Right to Education Local Task Force. This group will also be presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to former superintendent, Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen.
- On May 9, the district will dedicate the Media Elementary School playground to recently retired kindergarten teacher, **Mrs. Lisa Hooven.** She was with the district for 38 years.
- **Sandra Carter**, Mathematics Teacher at Penncrest High School, passed away on March 23. She served the district for 28 years. She "embodied all of the qualities that we endear about this special place. She was compassionate and selfless, and was a wonderful mentor and colleague," said Mr. Dougherty.

Retirements

The Board accepted the retirements of the following long-term employees:

- **Eileen Dolan**, Support Staff II, Indian Lane Elementary, 16 years of dedicated service.
- **Barbara Harmon**, Benefits Specialist, Education Center, 19 years of dedicated service.
- **David Masse**, Bus Driver, 18 years of dedicated service.
- **Joseph Mirarchi**, Bus Driver, 15 years of dedicated service.
- **John Pearce**, Secretary III, Indian Lane Elementary, 4 years of dedicated service.

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