

EDUCATION

Hearing set for Aronimink school expansion in U.D.

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UPPER DARBY » The first official meeting required by law to discuss renovation and expansion of an Upper Darby elementary school has been scheduled.

The school board Tuesday night passed a resolution approving a public hearing on Jan. 7, 2020, to get official testimony for a \$27.2 million project to build up Aronimink Elementary School to expand its student enrollment from approximately 250 to 700. A public hearing is required by Act 34 of 1973 and the Pennsylvania School Code before any construction, or the entering into a contract for construction for a substantial addition to a current school building.

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administration offices within the Aronimink building will move out to a leased office space in Haverford to open up 11,000 more square feet for education use in the 54,500 square-foot building.

At present, there are 15 classrooms to serve students in grades one through five.

A 36,000 square-foot addition to the current building will include a new gym and more educational space to bring the overall number of classrooms in the school to 34.

Before the mandated public hearing the district had a number of meetings with various school and community organizations since the summer to discuss the plans for the renovation and expansion.

The district is required to advertise the hearing at least 20 days before the hearing. District Solicitor Kyle Berman said advertisement will start on Dec. 4.

Renovation of the building is scheduled to begin in April and building addition construction in May.

The Delaware County Planning Commission heard the final land development plans at its Oct. 17 meeting.

At the same meeting, the board tabled further action on the project's Phase III construction documentation. Superintendent Dan McGarry said an action to hold off on this documentation is due in part for a lack of response from the Upper Darby Zoning Hearing Board's Oct. 22 meeting where the district asked for a variance in regard to the height of the proposed building addition.

Board President Rachel Mitchell approved the action with reservations, saying after the meeting she didn't want to spend money on more planning, "but we need the space in our schools."