

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: How much will it cost to renovate the West Broad facility?

Response: \$6,765,000.

Question 2: Does the school district believe that the past recommendation of renovating West Broad to becoming a district office space is viable?

Response: No, we do not believe that the past recommendation of converting the West Broad facility into district office is viable, hence our comprehensive recommendations for the district office to be placed elsewhere.

Question 3: Is the district committed to providing physical facility, market and garden space for the Athens Land Trust?

Response: The district is prepared to offer access to the school buildings at Howard B. Stroud and Clarke Middle School, space for the Saturday Market and continuous garden space. The stipulation with our partnership with the Athens Land Trust is that it must align with the educational mission of the district. For example, the Athens Land Trust must demonstrate a connection between the garden and agricultural or science curriculum in the district. If this connection is made, the district will be honored to work with the Athens Land Trust as a partner. We value the partnership and the educational opportunities available to our students.

Question 4: How does the district plan to financially sustain the plan for expanded community school services like a health based clinic or extended partnership with the Boys and Girls Club?

Response: The district is committed to expanding wraparound and workforce development services to the community. To that end, future budget proposals and leveraging of federal funds will be targeted to support this work for the students and community.

Question 5: Why does the district believe that the West Broad location is ideal for an additional Office of Early Learning and School Based Health Clinic?

Response: ideas: West Broad is centrally located for the entire community. The West Broad facility is located on a bus line, making it a convenient location for community members who do not have their own personal transportation. Finally, the West Broad facility is located between two hospitals, ensuring if a patient needed immediate care after receiving a diagnosis from the school based health clinic, medical assistance is nearby.

Question 6: Why has the district changed its direction for the West Broad facility?

Response: It has been determined that the initial plan to make the West Broad facility a district office did not take into consideration the total square footage needed to house all functions of the district office. It was determined under the past administration that the West Broad property was not large enough for a district office. (continued)

The district's educational needs will always supersede all other facility needs in the district. To that end, when analyzing our early childhood education needs, the district is painfully aware of the fact that 136 students were placed on a waiting list in the fall of 2018 due to a lack of space for Pre-Kindergarten services in the district.

Question 7: How can the district afford the construction of a fifteenth elementary school? How will the staffing for this proposed new elementary building be sustained?

Response: The district will need to make difficult financial decisions in the area of operations in order to support our instructional vision of low class sizes and balanced enrollment between all of our elementary schools.

Question 8: If the proposal is to make West Broad an additional location for the Office of Early Learning, how does this recommendation impact the current Office of Early Learning location?

Response: Enrollment trends indicate that the districts needs an additional facility beyond the current Office of Early Learning location.

Question 9: The proposal from the Athens Land Trust underscored great support for educational pathways for students. How will these issues be advanced with the district's recommendation?

Response: The district believe that the Athens Community Career Academy can support the pathways described in the Athens Land Trust proposal.

Question 10: Why wasn't there more community engagement with the development of this proposal from the school district? The use of district facilities is a community issue, where is the community voice?

Response: The administration is charged with determining facility use needs, based on our educational program.

Question 11: The school district has offered to provide land at Howard B. Stroud and Clarke Middle School to continue the community garden and market place under the leadership of the Athens Land Trust. Unfortunately, it is the opinion of some members of the community that the ground at the two proposed sites are not as primed for gardening as the West Broad land. Is there any possibility of maintaining the garden at West Broad?

Response: Unfortunately, there is no opportunity for the co-existence of an Office of Early Learning facility and the current Athens Land Trust Garden at West Broad. The education of the community's youngest students must take precedence over maintaining the West Broad garden.