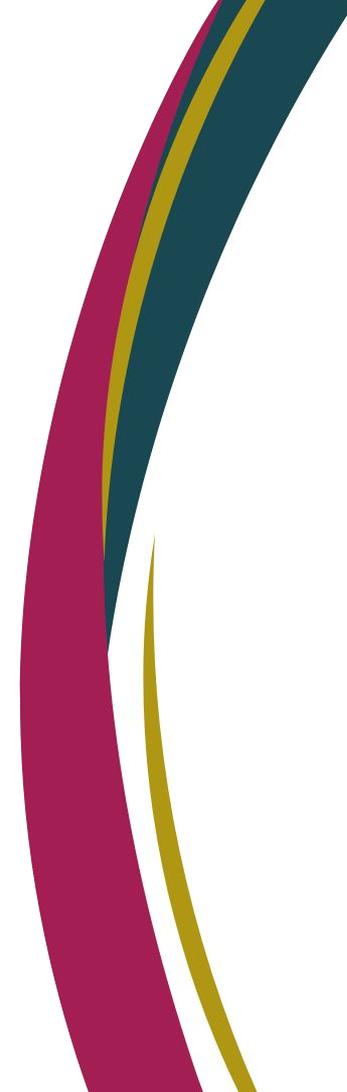




# Early Childhood Community Forum

**June 17, 2024**





# Presenters

Dr. Neely Hackett, Superintendent

Helen Haley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Julie Lyons, Director of Early Childhood

Dr. Melody Alegria, Director of Special Services

Andrew Moskowitz, Assistant Superintendent

George Duthie, AIA, PP- FVHD Architects-Planners

# Overview of the Project, Helen Haley

After a multi-year search to house our growing population of preschool students, the District finalized a deal to purchase 250 Haddonfield - Berlin Road in Gibbsboro. During the 2024 - 2025 school year, the building will be transformed into a state-of-the-art preschool building for 360 children from Voorhees and Gibbsboro. The building acquisition is a critical step in Voorhees' 5-year plan to serve 500 preschool students by the school year 2026 - 2027. The District will continue to use three private preschool providers and the classrooms at Kresson Elementary School.

# Overview of the Project, Helen Haley

Building renovations on both levels of the two-story building will begin in summer 2024. Each classroom will be approximately 950 square feet with individual capacity for 15 children.

In addition to the interior renovations, a playground will be constructed behind the building. Nearby residents will have access to the new playground after school hours and on weekends.

# Overview of the Project, Helen Haley

We have entered into a five-year agreement with our neighbors in Gibbsboro, who will occupy 5 classrooms. We are grateful for this collaboration and the ability to serve our youngest learners in both communities.



# Overview of Curriculum, Julie Lyons

Voorhees utilizes The Creative Curriculum, a research-based program that is both developmentally appropriate and comprehensive. This high-quality curriculum provides enriching learning experiences across all content areas and developmental domains, ensuring the growth of the whole child.

The daily schedule is thoughtfully designed to support each child's development. It includes:

- Morning meeting
- Small group instruction in literacy and math
- Choice time for intentional play experiences
- Large group activities
- Gross motor time
- Snack and lunch
- Rest period
- Shared reading and writing

This structured yet flexible routine ensures that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a nurturing and stimulating environment.

# Overview of Curriculum, Julie Lyons

The Creative Curriculum is designed around [38 research-based objectives](#) for development and learning. These core objectives are central to the curriculum, guiding teachers in their interactions and instruction with children. They encompass 10 different areas of development and learning, spanning broad developmental domains, content areas, and English language acquisition.

By focusing on these objectives, teachers skillfully scaffold learning experiences to cater to each child's unique strengths and needs, ensuring that every child receives the support necessary to thrive.

# Overview of Curriculum, Julie Lyons

Teachers utilize Teaching Strategies GOLD, a whole-child approach to assessment. This formative assessment model requires the collection of data via classroom observations, checklists, photographs, work samples, and family input as related to the aforementioned [38 research-based objectives](#).

GOLD follows widely-held expectations for children from birth through third grade, which allows room for differentiation for each child, for each skill. The objectives have color-coded progressions which guide teachers toward selecting and adapting activities that support each child's development and learning. Meaningful reports inform classroom practices, and this tool yields reliable, valid, and culturally sensitive information. Preschool progress reports are sent home three times per year, based on the objectives.

# We love our preschool students!



# Inclusive Practices, Dr. Melody Alegria

## Inclusive Practices

- By design, our preschool program will continue to be inclusive to students with disabilities. Each class will include students with disabilities and without.

## Inclusive Spaces

- Speech Therapy Space
- Occupational Therapy Space
- Physical Therapy Space



# Faculty, Andrew Moskowitz

19 teachers

19 instructional associates

2 social workers

2 secretaries

2 preschool intervention specialists

2 preschool instructional coaches

1 principal

1 nurse

2 school safety specialists

4 custodians

1 School Resource Officer



# Logistics, George Duthie









## **Arrival and Dismissal**

After a comprehensive due diligence process we have developed a very well thought-out and detailed traffic flow plans for morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times. To complete this process the district engaged the expert traffic engineering firm of Dynamic Traffic. Multiple concepts were developed and refined to achieve the plans that you see today.

Prior to finalizing the school district and it's experts met with Gibbsboro and Voorhees Township officials including police, fire and EMS. These plans have been vetted and approved by all of the affected parties.

## **The Plan**

The overall traffic plan keeps bus and private vehicle traffic pick-up/drop-off zones separated from each other. Private vehicles will use a dedicated lane of Pole Hill Park Road to enter the site and will queue up to drop-off and pick-up students at the front of the building. Busses will also enter Pole Hill Park Road (in a separate lane) to drop-off and pick-up students along Pole Hill Park Drive. In all cases ample consideration has been given to vehicle and bus counts, arrival/departure times, wait times and safety.

Morning and Afternoon traffic circulation is shown on the attached plans.

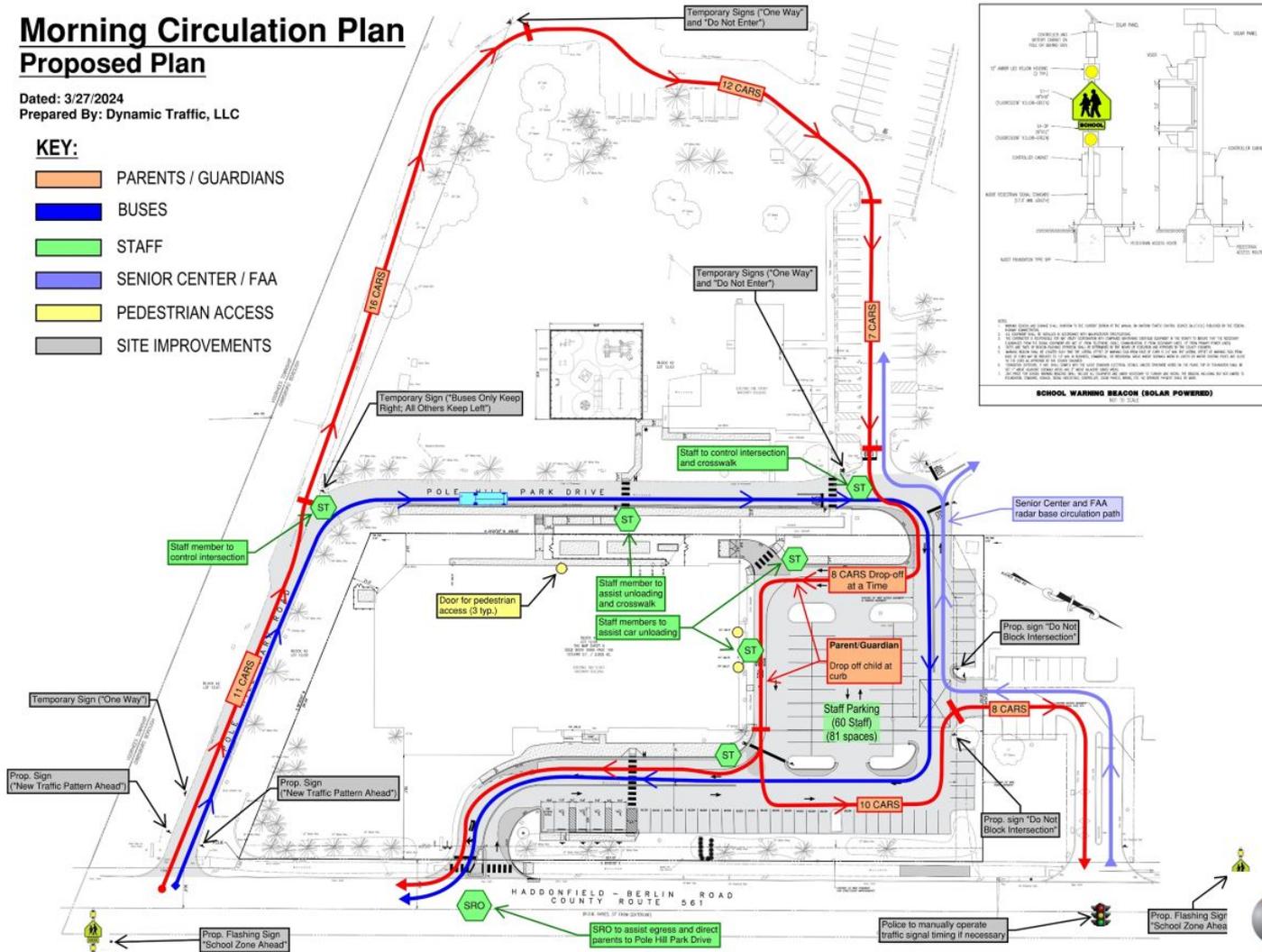
# Morning Circulation Plan

## Proposed Plan

Dated: 3/27/2024  
 Prepared By: Dynamic Traffic, LLC

### KEY:

- PARENTS / GUARDIANS
- BUSES
- STAFF
- SENIOR CENTER / FAA
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- SITE IMPROVEMENTS





## **Construction Time Line**

The Voorhees Township School District is very pleased that this project is finally entering the construction stage. It was a difficult and complex process to get to this point. A project like this has many moving parts and the ability to move forward was impacted by numerous factors including land/building acquisition, financing, design, numerous agency reviews and final logistics planning. As a result, our construction time frame is not ideal, but every effort is being made to have the building completed and ready for students by the end of the calendar year.

A construction bid has been awarded and we are in the preliminary steps of finalizing the construction contract. **Our contractor has committed to completion of the project by the end of the year.** However, it should be noted that a project of this type consists of many types of equipment and materials. Some of these may have inordinately long lead times which could affect the completion date. We have planned for as many contingencies as possible, however, it is not possible to plan for or control everything that can happen in a construction project.

The community should be reassured that every effort will be made to complete the project on time. We have great confidence in our design, construction oversight, contracting and administrative teams. We will report regularly on our progress and inform the community should it appear we will have delays that may prevent us from opening on time.

# Final Remarks, Dr. Neely Hackett

Overall, preschool offers a nurturing and stimulating environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive. By investing in early childhood education, we give children the tools and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and become confident, capable, and lifelong learners.

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# The Road to College Starts in PreK



# Questions

