

# Centerville-Abington Elementary School

**“Educated For Success”**



200 West South Street  
Phone (765) 855-5132 \* Fax (765) 855-5719

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Mrs. Kelly VanWinkle  
Principal

Mr. Sean Stevenson  
Asst. Principal

To: Phil Stevenson, Superintendent  
From: Kelly VanWinkle  
Date: February 9, 2018  
Re: Annex Concerns

Staff and some parents have voiced their concerns about having students occupy the Annex. Listed below are some of those concerns.

## **Safety Concerns:**

- Glass doors at north end of the building and also one on southwest side of the building are a safety concern if an active shooter was trying to get into the building.
- Concern for mold because of old musty smelling carpets
- Concern for unsupervised students outside of the school building during the day walking between the buildings- Students coming over to see the nurse, for special ed. services, or picking up items from the office.
- Glass on classroom doors present a safety issue if there was an intruder or active shooter.
- Valves have come off of radiators and steam comes out
- Old carpet has snags and we have had to put metal strips in many places to hold down carpet. There are still some loose pieces of carpet that teachers and students trip over.
- Cockroaches are found in entry ways and on stairs daily as well as wasps and other insects easily find their way into the Annex.
- Lift is old and recently got stuck on stairway in the way of students making it difficult for students to get by it. If we had a true emergency, this would have made it difficult for several students at a time to get down the stairs quickly to evacuate the building.
- Inclement weather conditions- Students walking between buildings in heavy rain, lightening, ice, flooding, below zero temperatures, and snow.(Parents concerned)
- Radiators get very hot and could burn students if they touched them.
- There is only one way for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor students and staff to exit the building in the case of an internal threat-down the stairs
- Flaking paint on some classroom walls could be health hazard.
- The roof has been patched but there are still water leaks that have made large pieces of the ceiling fall to the floor.
- Pieces of the ceiling will fall in classrooms students are occupying.

## **Instructional Concerns:**

- Much time is wasted walking to and from Annex for related arts, lunch, etc.. , which takes up teaching time- Annex students and teachers walk back and forth from CAE to Annex 4-6 times per day.
- Annex teachers have less prep time and lunch time than CAE teachers due to walking between buildings and sometimes up or down two flights of stairs.
- VERY hot in the early part of the year and late in the year. Makes for a very uncomfortable classroom during those times. When heat is on during colder weather it is excessively hot and air conditions have to be turned on to make rooms bearable. Teachers have to turn air off during instruction and then turn right back on when students are working independently because of noise air conditioners make. Air conditioners are old and freeze up easily.
- Old boiler system is not dependable and doesn't always work. Teachers and students had some days this winter where their classrooms were in the 50's for the entire school day.(parents concerned)
- During ISTEP testing(2016), students and staff had to wear coats/gloves because it was so cold, when the boilers did start working there were loud noises coming from the pipes. At one point there were banging noises coming from the pipes and tiny pieces of debris fell from the ceiling in several classrooms. One teacher had to move a student away from the pipes during ISTEP testing so the debris wouldn't land on her.
- During ISTEP testing the lights in one 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom were shaking for about 15-20 minutes because the students above were walking across the floor.
- It is difficult for teachers to manage behavior and supervise students when climbing stairs- difficult to manage both the front and end of the line when they can't be seen by teacher at all times.
- The noise level from the floors above is very distracting. Students going up and down stairs makes a lot of noise that is a distraction for students in classrooms.
- Chalkboards aren't magnetic
- Tech issues...not always able to do the latest things due to inability to wire the building
- Posters do not always stick on the wall. This makes it difficult to hang a lot of things and make the room visually stimulating which is part of teacher evaluation
- Due to the time it takes to use the lift, any student that cannot maneuver the stairs would always be late coming and going.
- Bathrooms are small with only 2 stalls in each for over 100 students to use during breaks. Students are late to class because of this.
- Windows don't open so students cannot get fresh air and AC blows out the door if classrooms doors are kept open to keep air flowing.

## **Other**

- Staff was told more than 15 years ago that the Annex would need to be replaced within 5 years.
- Teachers feel isolated in the Annex.