



# Warren Township Schools

*Shining Brighter Every Day*

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January 6, 2016

## STUDY TO EXAMINE ENROLLMENT PROJECT (STEEP) UPDATE From Superintendent Elizabeth Nastus and Board President Tia Allocco

In October 2015, the Warren Township Board of Education, in order to analyze the district's declining enrollment, embarked on a Study to Examine Enrollment Project (STEEP). The overriding guiding principle of STEEP centers on a commitment to the highest quality instructional programs for all students and to a school environment that nurtures the social, emotional and academic growth of our students.

To assist the board in examining declining enrollment, subcommittees were established. The three subcommittees are:

- Educational
- Facilities
- Finance/Budget/Transportation

Each subcommittee was tasked with specific directives involving the four elementary schools, periodically reporting back to the full board in public session. Evaluation of the middle school was initially set aside. In December, the Facilities Subcommittee reported on its evaluation of each of the four elementary schools' physical structure. Data included a comprehensive building and grounds walk through and analysis, ranging from building square footage to number and size of classrooms, auxiliary rooms, and building capacity.

At the January 4th board meeting, the Education Subcommittee presented its report, which included "listening tour" meetings with staff and administrators at each of the four elementary schools. As a result of this tour, and after consultation with the Facilities and Finance Subcommittees, the Education Subcommittee recommended that the board expand the STEEP initiative "to include Warren Middle School in every stage and aspect of research from this point forward for a more holistic and robust examination of district options."

Based on this recommendation, the board agreed to incorporate the middle school into the STEEP analysis. The same data collected at each of the four elementary buildings will be gathered at Warren Middle School. Examining data from each of the district's five schools will provide a more comprehensive understanding of options for board review and consideration.

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages all community members to attend future board meetings as subcommittees report on their progress and the full board deliberates the findings. As always, the Warren Township Board of Education remains dedicated to doing what is best for our students.