

Millersburg Area & Upper Dauphin Area School Districts
Joint Board Meeting Community Feedback session- March 4, 2021
Frequently Asked Questions
March 12, 2021

Why would our school districts decide to vote now during a pandemic?

The Upper Dauphin Area School District and the Millersburg Area School District began the merger feasibility study in April 2019, prior to the pandemic. The Boards have received substantial information from the PA Economy League (PEL) and administration to make an informed decision. A timely vote is vital for planning and preparation purposes.

The curriculum presentation showed an increase in class sizes in a merged district. Why?

While the merged district curriculum presentation did display an increase in elementary class size, they are still very comparable to like-enrollment school districts. A merged Board may elect to direct the administration to alter the staffing complement presented in February 2021.

What are the curriculum benefits in a merged school district?

While the merged curriculum presentation on February 10, 2021 did not reflect significant additions for UDA students, the direction from both Boards at the onset of the feasibility study was to sustain current programming versus curtailments or alterations to curricular or extracurricular programs in future years.

What would happen to our Sports Cooperative if we merge our school districts?

In option 5, all high school extracurricular activities would be hosted at the current Upper Dauphin Area High School with additional facility and field opportunities at the current Millersburg Area Middle/High School. In addition, our grades 6-8 students would have access to additional extracurricular facilities at the Millersburg Area Middle/High School.

What is the transportation impact for our students in a merged school district?

The PEL provided a thorough analysis of the transportation impact for students in the merged district. The information is available on pages 67-92 of the Feasibility Report and can be accessed through the following [Link](#).

Both school districts use different devices and technology platforms. How would this be impacted in a merger?

Current programming in the the Millersburg Area School District utilizes i-Pads K-2 and Chromebooks 3-12 while Upper Dauphin Area utilizes i-Pads K-12. The merged district administration, in collaboration with our teachers, would develop a plan to implement a

technology plan that would best utilize our current resources and instructional delivery models.

Since the Millersburg Board members are elected at-large, and UDA by region, how will the merger assure equitable representation?

On February 27, 2020, a joint special meeting of the Millersburg Area and Upper Dauphin Area School Directors was held in the Upper Dauphin Area Middle School Auditorium. Members of PEL shared the following information regarding the Board configuration options for a merged district during the work session as part of the second phase of the Feasibility Study. Specific information regarding possible Board configuration is available at the following [Link](#).

Why would the merged district use the current millage rate of the Upper Dauphin Area School district?

The Pennsylvania Constitution requires that tax rates be uniform throughout a taxing district upon subjects of taxation, meaning that a single millage rate for real estate tax would be levied across the combined district, regardless of the prior tax rate. As stated in the Phase II Feasibility Study, the millage rate in the Millersburg Area School District is 21.0190 Mills while the millage rate in the Upper Dauphin Area School District is 18.8775 Mills. The joint Board provided direction to the PEL and the administrations to utilize the lower millage rate throughout the merger feasibility study.

Thank you for providing your feedback to the joint Boards. Your comments and questions are valuable to the joint Board of School Directors. The merger vote on Option 5 is scheduled on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7 PM in the Millersburg Area High School auditorium.

There are two ways to provide comment: (1) attend in-person, or (2) submit written comments to the respective Board Secretary to be read aloud prior to the Boards vote. If you plan to attend in-person please RSVP to the respective Board Secretary: Mary Bateman; batemanm@udasd.org or Cathy Artz; artzc@mlbgasd.k12.pa.us so the administration can manage the COVID-19 gathering guidelines.

The meeting will be broadcast on the Trojan Broadcast Network.

<https://youtu.be/3R3zxpzARss>