



PAYMON ROUHANIFARD

SUPERINTENDENT

CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Seeks Community Input on Camden High Reconstruction

With \$133 million project approved, Superintendent Rouhanifard to form committees to guide reconstruction of historic Camden High School to completion

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Less than two weeks after the State approved a \$133 million proposal to reconstruct historic Camden High School, Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard and Board President Martha F. Wilson announced today the creation of three community-led committees to drive the project to completion. The committees will focus on project overview, school culture and history, and extra-curricular activities.

“Camden High plays a huge role in the lives of Camden residents, and Camden residents should play a huge role in the reconstruction of Camden High,” said Superintendent Rouhanifard. “This project is expected to take a long time and cost a lot of money—we’ve been down this road before, and this time we want to see this project through. I encourage all interested alumni and community members to express their interest in serving on a committee, and I look forward to partnering with the committees in the coming months.”

Mayor Dana L. Redd, Superintendent Rouhanifard, Board President Wilson will appoint the committee chair people, and the chair people will select 12 committee members through an open nomination process. Of the 12 members, at least one each will be reserved for students, parents, and staff members, with the majority of seats expected to be filled by community members. Preference will be given to alumni and Camden residents.

The open nomination process will launch Monday, October 24 on the District webpage dedicated to the Camden High reconstruction project, www.camden.k12.nj.us/camdenhigh. Through self-nomination or peer nomination, individuals will be asked for their name, class year (if applicable), town of residence, which committee they are interested in serving on, and why. The nomination form will be live through Friday, November 18.

“We’ve gotten further along with taking Camden High in to the 21st-century than we have ever before, and now is the time to ensure there’s a broad base of engaged community members digging in and moving this project forward,” said Board President Wilson, an alumnus from the Class of 1970. “I’m grateful that we’re as far along as we are, and I’m eager to take the next steps with members of the community.”

As a way of increasing accountability and sustainability, committee members will be expected to serve for the duration of the project, which is through 2021. Each committee’s members will define its exact scope; at a high level, the committees will focus on short-term issues related to the move to temporary space as well as

longer-term issues related to the design and setup of the new campus with the four schools. This project is immense and complex, and there are plenty of areas where the District will lean on committee members for their guidance.

Each committee will also hold public meetings to ensure continued community input is heard throughout the process.

On October 5, the Schools Development Authority voted to [approve a \\$133 million project](#) to deconstruct the current 100-year-old Camden High School building and construct a new building on the same land. The new Camden High will be a campus that is home to four schools under one roof with certain shared facilities for the approximately 1,200-1,500 students. Deconstruction is expected to begin after the 2016-17 school year concludes and last about a year. Students are expected in the new Camden High for the 2021-22 school year.

More information, including an FAQ and videos, is on our website, www.camden.k12.nj.us/camdenhigh.

Committees are expected to be announced in December.

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