

## NESHAMINY

## Tawanka could stay open one more year

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Don't pack your bags yet, Tawanka students. You might not be going anywhere next year.

While the Neshaminy school board had been considering closing the Tawanka Learning Center next school year, Superintendent Paul Kadri recommended Tuesday night keeping the alternative program in the same Lower Southampton building for one more year.

So, when board members vote on whether or not to close Neshaminy Middle School during its next meeting June 16, they're being asked not to vote to close Tawanka so that the program can stay where it is.

Several school board members, though, were confused by the administration's suggestion since they've been talking about closing the facility and a decision hasn't been made as to where it will be housed the following year. The district would have to go through the same process, including a public hearing, to close the structure next year, officials said.

Tawanka students, teachers and parents previously said the program needs to remain separate, especially from the high school.

Although representatives of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22, which currently shares space there, have expressed interest in renting the whole building after next year, board members said they want to know where Tawanka would go before agreeing to not vote to close it.

Officials previously said the ideal location would be the district's Eisenhower building, a former elementary school that houses facilities and a nonprofit. But board members said it'd be too expensive to renovate that structure for the program.

Meanwhile, the board is still scheduled to vote on whether or not to close Neshaminy Middle School and administrators are continuing with plans just in case that happens.

A redistricting plan that would send a majority of students to Maple Point Middle School, and the rest to Poquessing and Sandburg, is ready to go. Officials are informing families through letters. Guidance counselors are being asked to reach out to students and administrators are trying to come up with social activities.

Neshaminy Middle was scheduled to close in 2009 after the high school renovations are completed and ninth grade shifts there, but the board is considering doing so this year due to declining enrollment, budget issues and underutilized school space.