

NESHAMINY

## Board to make decision on Tawanka

*The alternative school's space is being rented to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit.*

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Stay tuned Tawanka Learning Center students — you'll find out where your new home is in less than a week.

During a continued conversation about where to house the alternative program during the strategic action committee meeting at Neshaminy High School on Monday night, board members agreed to vote on the issue during a work session next week.

The board recently approved a lease agreement with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 to rent the Lower Southampton facility on Brownsville Road, which means Tawanka will need a new place come June.

Although administrators have previously offered options at the district's middle schools, officials have recently been deciding between an unused portion of the high school that's scheduled to be demolished or the former Eisenhower Middle School building.

The high school relocation could cost \$62,000, while Eisenhower renovations could require \$116,000.

Parents, students, teachers and board members like William Spitz and William O'Connor have expressed concerns over moving the program onto the high school campus, including having enough space, a kitchen and gym area, a permanent home, maintaining the anonymity and confidentiality of the teens, and avoiding temptation and anxiety.

Relocating Tawanka to the high school, and not Eisenhower, "compromises the integrity of the program," said counselor Grant Passman.

Board members Frank Koziol and Susan Cummings, though, pointed out a few positives of moving to the high school, like kids being able to take arts and taking the opportunity of being at the high school to try to do better to return to mainstream.

From a building perspective, the high school facility is the easiest choice, according to business manager Joseph Paradise. He also said that worries like space could be quickly resolved.

Either way, administrators said they need to know within the next week or so.

"We have so many financial problems that are mounting by the day, so we need to put this to bed as quickly as possible," said Paradise.

The board also continued talking about options and cost surrounding implementing a fullday kindergarten program in district.