

## NESHAMINY

## Tawanka headed to high school

*The board voted 8-0 to OK the alternative school's new home after the Intermediate Unit rented Tawanka's current facility.*

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Tawanka students and teachers can start packing their book bags and boxing up their classrooms — they're headed to the high school.

The Neshaminy school board Tuesday night voted 8-0 to relocate the alternative school program from a building on Brownsville Road in Lower Southampton to a portion of the high school that otherwise would've been demolished.

Board member William O'Connor was not present for the meeting.

Since the board recently had approved the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 to rent the Tawanka Learning Center's current facility, officials had to find a new home for the pupils and educators.

Although administrators previously have offered options at the district's middle schools, officials recently have 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 would've required \$116,000.

Parents, students, teachers and even board members 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.

While board members Joseph Blasch, William Spitz and Susan Cummings echoed those concerns again, they also voted for the relocation to the high school because of budget constraints and so that the program would still have a place to go.

But board member Frank Koziol said he believes being so close to the high school will help the Tawanka teens aspire to return there.

Even though she's still worried about having enough space, Tawanka Principal Joann Holland said she was willing to work with the district's financial difficulties.

Spitz said he hoped administrators would make sure the teachers and teens had what they needed.

Acting Superintendent Lou Muenker and business administrator Joseph Paradise assured people that they would address Tawanka's needs.

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