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Courier News

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Old York School considered for new police HQ

Mike Deak

MyCentralJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

BRANCHBURG - The Township Committee has taken the first steps toward a new police headquarters.

Without discussion of projects that could potentially cost millions of dollars, the Township Committee on April

13 approved hiring an architectural firm to develop a conceptual design for a new police headquarters, along with \$60,000 for studies to determine whether the former Old York School could be repurposed as a possible headquarters.

The studies will explore whether the former school building at 580 Old York Road, adjacent to the municipal com-

plex at the intersection of Route 202 and Old York Road, could house the township's police operations.

Though the Township Committee resolution listed only the address of the property, Mayor James Schworn said in his April "Notes from the Dais" update on the township's website that the studies are intended to determine whether the school could be renovated because

the current police headquarters "no longer meets modern standards."

"It is functionally outdated, no longer fully ADA compliant and falls short of current Department of Justice guidelines," Schworn wrote.

Those concerns have led the Township Committee to explore options as

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NJ Transit unveils new double-decker trains



President and CEO of NJ Transit, Kris Kolluri and Gov. Mikie Sherrill are shown before a press conference on Monday in Kearny. Sherrill has directed NJ Transit to replace the entire rail and bus fleets by 2031.

1970s-era railcars are being replaced in major upgrade

Colleen Wilson

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

A new era of train cars has arrived at NJ Transit's Meadowlands maintenance complex to replace 1970s-era equipment and, ideally, kick-start more reliable commuting for the agency's weary and frustrated commuters.

Before the end of the year, 40 new Alstom-manufactured railcars will arrive here to be tested, and the first of them will go into service in late summer or fall.

"We know how important commuting is here in New Jersey. We know that it's not just a huge economic issue, it is also a huge quality-of-life issue," said Gov. Mikie Sherrill.

Sherrill wore a fuchsia-colored suit for the event, matching one of NJ Transit's three brand colors, which were on display on one of the shiny new multi-level railcars featured behind her as she spoke.

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New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill, speaks at a press conference in front of a new Multilevel III rail car, Monday, April 13, in Kearny.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN R. WEXLER/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Hillsborough school board rethinks budget amid rising taxes

Mike Deak

MyCentralJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HILLSBOROUGH - With little more than two weeks before a final vote on the proposed 2026-27 school budget, Board of Education members are still searching for ways to ease residents' PTSD - property tax stress disorder.

The central question before the board is whether to keep the gross school property tax levy increase at 2%, scale it back to 1%, or hold it flat. State law caps school tax levy increases at 2%.

By a narrow 5-4 vote on March 23, the board introduced a proposed \$182.7 million budget for the coming school year, setting the stage for school tax increases in both Hillsborough and Millstone.

But at the board's April 13 meeting, Board President Joe Davis said he regretted his vote in favor of the budget.

See **BUDGET**, Page 2A

Here's how many teachers lose their licenses per year in NJ

Kaitlyn Kanzler

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

With over 116,000 classroom teachers in New Jersey, there is a comparatively small number who have their certificates revoked.

Michael Yapple, a spokesman for the Department of Education, said there are state regulations that establish grounds for a certificate revocation.

The forfeiture of public office, position or employment is a statute under New Jersey law that says if a person is convicted of an "offense involving dishonesty or of a crime of the third-degree or above or under the laws of another state," they must forfeit the office, position or employment. It adds that a person is "forever disqualified from holding any office or position of

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