

# Media School renovations OK'd

By MARION LOGUE

Times Correspondent

UPPER PROVIDENCE — The Rose Tree Media School Board ended more than a dozen years of study, discussion, and controversy that gave rise to three community "Save Our Schools" campaigns, when it voted last night to start planning for renovations to Media Elementary School.

Applause greeted board votes which approved the renovation of Media as the district's fourth elementary school and hired Heery International as construc-

tion manager and Einhorn Yaffee & Prescott as architect.

"This is an historic decision," said Superintendent Henry Nacrelli. "It seems Hollywood should have an interest in this story line," said finance chairman Bob Donze. "Coming up with this architect was a stroke of genius," said former president Bill Campbell.

In the past year, the board has considered the merits of renovating Media versus building an entirely new school. The feasibility study which compared the costs of renovating Media School with building a new school on the grounds of Springton Lake in Upper

Providence put the renovation cost at approximately \$1 million less, and Heery, which conducted the study, recommended renovation.

Heery will oversee design and construction documents for \$67,095 and the bidding and construction for \$265,155. Einhorn Yaffee & Prescott will provide architectural engineering design services at a cost not to exceed \$65,500.

Only Ruth Bretz opposed the decision, which she explained in a statement which said "the investment of \$9 million is not justified at that site." She cited lack of play space, busy and noisy streets surrounding the school, the wage

tax the district pays for teachers at Media, relatively little cost difference with a new building if the windows in Media School are replaced as they should be and no state reimbursement.

"The preferences of 200 local families should not drive the district," she concluded.

Media mayor Bob McMahon thanked the board for seven months of working with residents of Media and achieving a result "in the best interests of the school district."

Other residents followed him to the mike to echo their praise for the in-depth consideration the board gave to the decision.

12—DC

Sunday, Oct. 25, 1992

The Philadelphia Inquirer

## EDUCATION

# Board finally decides to renovate, and not replace, Media Elementary

By Mary Anne Janco  
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

After months of wrestling with its options, the Rose Tree Media school board voted, 8-1, to renovate Media Elementary School rather than build a new school.

The board's decision Thursday night drew loud cheers from Media residents who have fought to keep their community school.

An estimate compiled by Heery Program Management this summer showed that the renovation would cost about \$6.88 million, not includ-

## Rose Tree Media

"On behalf of all the children ... thank you very much," said Media parent Suzanne Manness.

Board member Ruth Bretz cast the dissenting vote, citing concerns about the finances and site of the Media school. The school is bordered by very busy and noisy roadways, she said, adding that the district would be better served by a new building.

the district would receive reimbursement.

To get the project moving, the board voted, 8-1, to hire Heery as the construction manager. Heery's services are not to exceed \$333,250.

Einhorn, Yaffee & Prescott architectural firm will be paid up to \$65,500 for its services.

In other business:

- Resident Susan Lenahan asked the board to consider improvements at the Rose Tree Elementary School because of overcrowding.
- Bonnie Bellino, the president of