

# Media residents: It's wa

## Borough plans fight to save its last remaining public sch

By HELEN PASSARO  
Times Correspondent

**MEDIA** — Borough residents are preparing for their biggest fight — a fight to save their community, they say.

They packed borough hall Thursday night to chart strategy for the battle which they have named "Save Our School Three." Twice before in a short span of years they fought the same fight to save Media School, the borough's only remaining public school. The connected buildings also served for many years as Media Junior High and Media High School and occupy two square blocks on the main street in the town's business sector.

Rose Tree Media School Board is considering closing the school and building a new one adjacent to Springton Lake Middle School in Upper Providence. Renovating Media School, the board's architect maintains, will cost more than building the new school.

The architect's figures are inflated and need to be re-examined, say the members of SOS3. Information which was distributed by fliers in Upper Providence last week by parties opposed to renovating Media School contained incorrect data, some people said.

New Borough Mayor Bob McMahon ran Thursday night's



MAYOR BOB McMAHON

meeting, assisted by Borough Treasurer Bob Gioggia, a former borough councilman who led the two previous fights to save the school.

"What the school board does regarding the fate of Media School goes beyond financial and demographic considerations, what is at stake here is the preservation of Media as a community," said McMahon. "We have a town we are proud of, we work here, we live here. What happens to the school affects us all at a very personal level."

Gioggia told the crowd, "This is our last fight, if we don't save Media School now they are going to close it." He said the

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architect for the school district estimated the cost of renovating Media School will be \$77 per square foot. Later, the same architect reduced the overall cost from \$16 to \$11 million.

"I informed the school district their figure totaling 123,000

square feet was too high was three weeks ago and still have not been able to get the accurate square footage," Gioggia said.

If the school is closed and fast deteriorate, many residents said. If it is razed another office building will go up and town does not need more, some said. Many expressed anger because "the school district let Media School down."

The other municipalities which make up the school district — Middletown, Providence and Edgmont have less to lose, they agreed. Two townships have schools and Edgmont has many open spaces.

Building a new school at Springton Lake will also require sewage disposal provisions, Upper Providence, some members said.

### Media School Meeting Tonight

A public meeting will be held 7:30 tonight (Wednesday, March 18) at Media Borough Hall to discuss the Media School situation.

Mayor Robert McMahon said consideration would be given to reactivating the "Save Our School Committee" which has intervened successfully in the past when the school's future was in jeopardy.

McMahon and other elected borough officials were scheduled to have met with Rose Tree Media School Board representatives earlier this week to discuss options for the only public school located in the borough.

- Bob Bodine