

RBCS 135 Monmouth St. Frequently Asked Questions July 2024

1 - Q. Why are you considering the sale of the building at this time?

- A. Being sensitive to values of real estate and the precarious position of school funding, now is the time to capitalize on the investment.

2 - Q. What do you intend on doing with the funds from the sale?

- A. Part of the RBCS charter is to continuously embrace education innovation. Doing that requires investments in new technologies, curriculum, teacher training, etc. Additionally, there are upgrades we need to make to the existing school building and campus to maintain a safe and productive environment for both faculty and students. Proceeds of the sale will be used for these and other initiatives outlined in our Strategic Plan.

3 - Q. But what about the gym?

- A. One of the unique aspects of the Charter School is that we are a school enmeshed in the fabric of Red Bank. This was part of the vision of the founders of the school. We believe it is important to maintain that vision and continue to utilize our Community Partners to help teach our children the vast majority of skills rich in developing the whole child. We will look to continue our community partnerships that allow us to support the physical, mental and academic health of our student population.

4 - Q. What implications/affect will the loss of classroom space have on the students and staff?

- A. While we have enjoyed the additional space, it is not necessary to our success. In fact, RBCS operated for over 20 years without that extra space and provided a first rate experience for our students. The middle school Science and STEM classes will be relocated to their original location on the second floor of 58 Oakland Street. All music classes will be conducted in the existing music room at 58 Oakland Street.

5 - Q. Why was 135 Monmouth originally purchased by RBCS?

- A. The previous school leadership and Board of Trustees had the foresight to invest in the property when the opportunity arose in the event Red Bank Charter School had been granted permission to expand enrollment. When that expansion was not granted, we continued to hold on to the building, planning to develop the space into a state of the art gymnasium and physical education center. Given the current needs of the school and the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, we've made the decision to leverage our investment to support student needs.

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6 - Q. Will the school ever look to expand its enrollment?

- A. Our current charter with the New Jersey Department of Education is for a maximum enrollment of 200 students. Increasing enrollment would require us to amend our current charter and we do not have plans to do that in the near future.

7 - Q. When will the building be listed for sale?

- A. The building will be listed as soon as a realtor is selected.

8 - Q. Has the board considered the impact the inevitable development of 135 Monmouth St. would have toward the overall school environment?

- A. One of the unique aspects of RBCS is that we are a school enmeshed in the fabric of our town. There are existing laws and regulations governing real estate developments in school zones. The Board of Trustees believes in the town of Red Bank and trusts Mayor Portman and council members will ensure development of the location fits the needs of the community.

9 - Q. Does the Charter school have the right to do this? Shouldn't the proceeds of the school go back to taxpayers or be shared with the Borough schools?

- A. Yes, RBCS has the right to sell the building. Charter schools in New Jersey do not receive facility funding from the State of NJ. The building was purchased by the previous administration and Board of Trustees and the current administration and Board of Trustees can sell it and let RBCS children benefit from the proceeds.

10 - Q. What does this sale communicate about the financial health of the school?

- A. We are vigilant regarding our fiscal responsibilities. We want to continually improve our students' experiences and stay true to our mission of educating the whole child.

11 - Q. Why were the parents/families not included in the discussion and ultimate decision to sell 135 Monmouth St?

- A. Our parents entrust our Board of Trustees, several of whom are elected by RBCS parents, to make decisions regarding investments in facilities, infrastructure, technology and more. This decision falls into that category. It's why the Board of Trustees exists.

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