Announcing …

~ WTS SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM ~

Just the FACTS!

ANTICIPATED TAX IMPACT = $0 !!!

Washington Township Schools ~ School Bond Referendum Information Bulletin

In order to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment and provide for facilities infrastructure needs, the Board of Education has unanimously approved a plan to complete four priority school building capital projects. By using State grant monies and existing dollars from the District’s Capital Reserve Account it is anticipated that NO NEW TAX DOLLARS will be raised to pay for the projects … That’s an anticipated TAX IMPACT of $0 … Read on for more details!

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Board of Education will be submitting a ballot question to the community during a Special School District Election on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. This School Bond Referendum is being proposed for the purpose of completing four (4) priority school building infrastructure projects at a cost not to exceed $4,174,248. The bond (a short-term bond/note) would enable the District to complete heating, ventilation improvements including air-conditioning and humidity control measures, electrical service upgrades, and partial roof replacement at Old Farmers Road Elementary School; and partial roof replacement at Long Valley Middle School.

HOW WILL WTS FUND THE PROJECTS?

The Washington Township Schools will receive a State grant of approximately 1.67 million dollars ($1,670,000) to offset approximately 40% of the project costs. The Board will use monies in its existing Capital Reserve Account to fund the remainder of the project. As a result, it is anticipated that NO NEW TAX DOLLARS will be raised to pay for the projects!

WHY A BOND REFERENDUM?

The Board of Education, based on input from the Superintendent’s Environmental Task Force, decided to hold a school bond referendum election since the State offers financial aid in the form of grants to school districts that enter into debt service (even short-term debt service which is the District’s course of action). WTS’ grant amount would be approximately 1.67 million dollars!

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

In order to address the District’s priority capital projects in a timely and cost-effective manner, the Board of Education has set a school bond referendum special election date of Tuesday, January 28, 2020. This date would enable the District to secure bids early on and complete a majority, if not all, of the work during the summer season when school is not in session.

WHAT IF THE VOTE DOESN’T PASS?

If for some reason the vote does not pass on January 28th, the Board would lose the State grant of approximately $1.67 million dollars and would need to decide what projects it is able to complete absent the grant monies.

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS?

The Board of Education is fully committed to ensuring that all school facilities continue to be well-maintained and in sound repair. As it looks to the future, the Board is currently undertaking a comprehensive examination of all schools for the purpose of identifying future capital projects at ALL schools.

Jeffrey S. Mohre, Superintendent of Schools
November 14, 2019