

(1-30-19 District Administrator's Corner article)

At the River Valley School Board meeting on Thursday, January 10, the Board approved a resolution authorizing an upcoming referendum vote. On Tuesday, April 2, 2019, the following question will be submitted to a vote of River Valley citizens:

*Shall the following Resolution be approved? Yes or No?*

***RESOLUTION TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT IN THE 2019-2020 THROUGH 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEARS***

*BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the River Valley School District, Sauk, Richland, Iowa and Dane Counties, Wisconsin, that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by up to \$883,000 for the 2019-2020 school year, up to \$2,454,000 for the 2020-2021 school year, up to \$3,213,000 for the 2021-2022 school year (for a total of \$6,550,000) for nonrecurring purposes consisting of maintaining the educational programs and current level of district operations.*

This referendum is designed to maintain the current educational programming and offerings in the River Valley School District for the next three years. This is not a building/capital referendum.

For many rural school districts across Wisconsin, an operational referendum is the only financial vehicle a district can access to continue educating students. At the February 2016 River Valley School Board meeting, administration outlined a five-year plan and timeline that projected we would be asking for an operational referendum as early as the 2017-2018 school year. Later that year, at the December 2016 School Board meeting—after the decision to close two of our four elementary schools over a two-year period, saving approximately \$950,000 per year annually thereafter—administration presented an updated five-year plan and timeline that projected we would be asking for an operational referendum for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 school years.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Wermuth, District Administrator  
River Valley School District