

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL 2, 2024, REFERENDUM

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Q: So, if you close the school in Plain, where do those kids go?

A: As we transition to a single campus in Spring Green, students from Plain would move to the current elementary school building. That would create a “domino effect” of other grades moving to different school buildings in Spring Green as follows:

3K-1st Grade = current Elementary School would become an Early Learning Center

2nd-6th Grade = current Middle School would become an Intermediate School

7th-12th Grade = current High School would become a Junior/Senior High School

Q: Aren't you concerned about 7th-8th grade students sharing the same building with 9th-12th grade students?

A: The current high school building is built with many wings which would allow us to position classrooms and lockers for 7th-8th grade students in a separate wing of the existing building. We would also schedule lunches and courses for these junior high students separate from upperclassmen. By transitioning all courses (and students) for 7th-12th to one building, it would allow students to remain in one building for all of their courses. (Currently, middle school students walk to the high school for some courses—such as agriculture education—and high school students walk to the middle school for some courses—such as woodworking class.)

Q: If I vote “yes” to Question 1, what are we actually getting for \$19,500,000?

- A:**
- New safe and secure entrances/offices at the current elementary and middle schools
 - ADA compliant restrooms in all three of our elementary, middle, and high school buildings
 - ADA compliant locker rooms
 - A renovated tech ed lab to include a new engineering/woods shop
 - A renovated tech ed lab to include a renovated welding/metals shop
 - Renovated and flexible classrooms for the following: 4K and Kindergarten at the current elementary school and 12 classrooms at the current middle school
 - Additional gymnasium space at the current middle school
 - Additional infrastructure changes – think pipes, wires, HVAC, doors, etc.
 - Acquisition of furnishings, fixtures, and equipment
 - Playground adjustments
 - Improved traffic patterns

Q: If I vote “yes” to Question 2, what are we actually getting for \$14,500,000?

- A:**
- New safe and secure entrance/office at the current high school
 - New ADA compliant restrooms at the front of the current high school
 - Renovated choir and band spaces at the current high school
 - Additional infrastructure changes – think pipes, wires, HVAC, doors, etc.
 - Acquisition of furnishings, fixtures, and equipment
 - A performing arts center at the current high school

Q: How long will this referendum affect my taxes?

A: The financing for the referendum is for a 20 year note.

Q: If we have declining enrollment, why do we need to revamp our current space?

A: No matter the size of our district, updating classrooms into 21st century spaces enhances the educational experience of all students. By transitioning to a single campus, we are most effectively using the buildings, spaces, and staff we already have and will have the flexibility to adjust for generations to come.

Q: What is a mill rate?

A: (From Erik Kass, PMA) The mill rate is the expression of taxes payable by a property owner per dollar of assessed value. The mill rate is based upon “mills,” which is a figure that represents the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed value of the property.

Q: What is the difference between assessed value and fair market value?

A: (From Erik Kass, PMA) In Wisconsin, the assessed value is the value assigned to a property by the local assessor. It’s based on factors such as property size, location, and condition. The fair market value, on the other hand, is the price a property would sell for under normal market conditions. It’s determined by factors like recent sales of similar properties and the overall real estate market.

When a School District certifies their levy annually in early November, each municipality receives a portion of the levy to collect. This apportionment across multiple municipalities is done using the fair market values of properties within the municipality. Once the levy amounts are apportioned across the multiple municipalities, each individual municipality recalculates the local mill rate necessary to collect the apportioned taxes. This calculation is completed on the assessed value of each property. By going through this two step process, it equalizes the tax collections across all municipalities and within each municipality.

Q: If Question 2 doesn’t pass, how much would it cost to renovate the high school band and choir spaces?

A: If Question 2 doesn’t pass, there are no allocated dollars for renovating the existing stage, choir or band spaces. However, the district will analyze the needs and work with the construction company to plan improvements within the maintenance budget using district funds. We would work carefully with the builder to assess improvements at the same time as other work is being completed.

Q: Are there renewable energy sources in the design?

A: If we are replacing electrical and HVAC related systems, they will be more energy efficient than current systems.

For more information, please contact Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator, at (608) 588-2551 or lglasbrenner@rvschools.org