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East Troy School Board Adopts Process for Referendum *Board process to focus on community engagement*

EAST TROY, Wis. — At its February 3 meeting, the East Troy School Board voted to approve a process that focuses on community engagement in finding a sustainable solution to address the district's various facility needs.

The process will include a high degree of community involvement, allowing local residents and staff to review the district's needs, consider the possible solutions and contribute their thoughts and feedback.

"The board and district have a sound process toward finding a solution that will move the district forward, while balancing the needs of our schools and students with the needs of our taxpayers," said Dawn Buchholtz, School Board President. "The process the board has adopted will do exactly that."

The East Troy Community School District has numerous urgent facility needs that it must address now. Although the district has been able to keep up with maintenance, the age of its facilities means that they must undergo significant renovations for the district to function well from both an efficiency and effectiveness perspective.

In 2012, the school board assembled an Ad Hoc Facilities Committee charged with assessing the district's needs and creating a master facilities plan. In total, the master facilities plan calls for approximately \$41 million in needs. The board felt that this amount was too much to ask for at once, and instead intends to break the plan into phases. However, board and district leaders feel that ignoring these issues is irresponsible to students, current learning environments, professional staff, taxpayers and the future of the community.

The solution developed through this process will be presented to community members in the form of a November referendum. Before then, community and staff members will have the ability to provide their input in a number of ways, including through a community survey.

"The board is committed to finding a solution that will meet the needs of our students, move our district forward and, most of all, have the support of our stakeholders," said Dr. Chris Hibner, Superintendent. "The board is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders have a voice in this effort toward shaping the referendum solution."

Please visit <http://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us/district/referendum.cfm> for more information pertaining to the process and updates regarding the referendum. Finally, please "like us" on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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