

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **September 5, 2014**



East Troy Community School District: Referendum Update

EAST TROY, Wis.— In mid-August, after considerable deliberation, the East Troy School Board voted to place a referendum question on the November 4th ballot. The decision process included reviewing feedback from an ad-hoc facilities committee that explored key areas of priority, seeking to understand the last two unsuccessful referendum efforts, and reviewing data from a recent community-wide survey.

The focus of the referendum will be to address the district's most highly prioritized facility needs. That being said, because of good decision-making of past board members, administration and current board members related to payment of expiring debt, the referendum will not raise any taxes.

Following what has been learned from the last two unsuccessful referendums, feedback, and community-wide survey, the following items will be included in the referendum solution:

- At the high school, improvements will include relocating the main office to enhance security, adding on four new classrooms, establishing a robotics and technology education addition, creating a new band rehearsal room and new fitness room, enlarging some current classrooms, and renovating the technology education area, choir room, lecture hall, locker rooms, and main bathrooms.
- At the middle school, a new energy management system will be installed to improve operating efficiency.
- At Prairie View School, a new bus loop will be created to improve traffic flow and student and parent safety, as well as to help alleviate congestion.
- At Doubek School, an addition and major renovations will be made to the school. As a result of the addition and renovations, the school will be able to house early childhood, four-year-old kindergarten, kindergarten, and first-grade students.
- In recognition of the results of the community member survey, no referendum dollars will be spent to improve the Chester Byrnes School. Under the plan approved by the board, Chester Byrnes will be demolished and administrative offices will be moved to Doubek School.
- Once again, the referendum will not raise taxes because the district's debt will soon be resolved.

Based on the results of the community-wide survey and on discussions about the schools with community members, the board understands that the community wants to be presented with a referendum solution that it can support, provides great value, has no additional tax impact, and addresses the most highly prioritized needs.

- Among survey respondents, 75.5% agreed or strongly agreed that facility needs should be addressed now.
- Eighty-four percent agreed or strongly agreed that facilities are important for student

learning and quality teaching.

- Eighty percent agreed or strongly agreed that they would support a no tax increase referendum if the correct solution were proposed.
- Among the respondents, 4.5% preferred an investment in Byrnes, 59.3% preferred Doubek, and 12.3% preferred both.

In the coming weeks, more information will be provided by the board about the solution that will appear on the November 4th ballot. For now, if you would like more information about the referendum, please feel free to read through our frequently asked questions document on the district's website, <http://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us>.