Monday, October 28, 2024

Strong Schools = Strong Communities

Thank you for your continued support of the public and private schools in Lake Mills! Strong schools in Lake Mills lead to stronger economic development, community relationships, and civic engagement. In other words, it makes Lake Mills a great place to live!

The LMASD School Board and administration have been communicating for the past 17 months about our Collaborative Advisory Team's (CAT) work regarding facility needs. This group of community members researched the District's facility needs, explored possible options, and collaborated to develop a plan to address solutions to the District's immediate and long-term facility needs. The CAT group made their final recommendation to the school board on June 17, and the Board adopted the two resolutions for referendum on July 15. The two referendum questions on the November 5 ballot address the following projects:

Question 1: District-wide Facility Improvements — $36.9M
No tax increase ($0) *above the current tax rate for debt*

- Address high-priority safety, security, site, and capital maintenance needs at all schools
- Reconfigure outdated learning spaces and special education areas at the high school
- Renovate space for STEM programming, site safety, and health services at the middle school
- Provide classroom space for early learning programming at the elementary school

If approved by voters, the district can accomplish the projects in ballot question #1 without raising the current mill rate for referendum debt because debt associated with previous facility projects has been prepaid and is continuing to drop off. This provides capacity within the current mill rate to address these needs without an increase to taxpayers.

Question 2: Lower High School Gym Replacement/Expansion — $14.3M
Maximum $2/year tax increase per $100,000 of property value

- Replace the small lower-level gym at the high school with a new, larger gym for school and community use

If approved by voters, the district can accomplish the projects in ballot question #2 with an estimated tax increase (over the current mill rate for referendum debt payments) of $0.02 per $1,000 of fair market property value or $2 per year for every $100,000 of property value for approximately 20-21 years.

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If you would like to see these spaces for yourself, please contact Tonya Olson, District Administrator, at 920-648-2215. I'd be happy to provide a tour! Please make an informed decision when voting on the proposed referendum questions by Nov. 5th.

Property Value	Question #1 **$36.9 million** NO TAX INCREASE* above the current tax rate	Question #2 **$14.3 million** $0.02 per $1,000 of property value starting in Dec. 2024
	Per Year	**Per Year**
$100,000	$0	$2
$200,000	$0	$4
$300,000	$0	$6

Financial estimates provided by Robert W. Baird & Co. are planning estimates only. Visit our website for more details about the financing plan and assumptions.