

WAUSAUKEE SCHOOL REFERENDUM - August 19th 2008

Question & Answer Sheet

1) Why does this referendum ask for an additional \$675,000 for 10 years when the previous referendums asked for less money?

Voters have defeated two referendums that were designed to be short term fixes. During town informational meetings voters indicated that they were concerned that the school district would have to keep coming back to the voters for more and more funds. This referendum is designed so that will not happen.

2) What would this do to my real estate taxes?

If your property is assessed for \$100,000 your tax bill would go up \$102 per year.

3) The 'new' school building will be paid off in three years, will my taxes go down to where they are now?

Yes, our current payments on the school building are \$675,000 per year. So if all things remain the same, your tax bill should return to its 2008 level. That assumes the state, county, town or village remain the same.

4) If the referendum fails, will my taxes go down?

No. We believe they will go higher than the proposed amount. The district would dissolve, students would be shifted to other districts that would assume our debt and our building (that would no longer be used) and they would increase their tax levy to offset the costs involved of absorbing our district.

5) What has been done to reduce the districts costs?

Support staff has been reduced. Recently, the teachers union agreed to a 2 year wage freeze. The existing teaching staff agreed to pay 10% of their health insurance costs. Newly hired teachers would pay 20% of their insurance. Other districts have never seen anything like this. These concessions are very uncommon in the State of Wisconsin. Both the Board of Education and the Administration feel they cannot cut anything further without jeopardizing educational quality.

6) What if this referendum fails?

The school board recently voted to begin the process of dissolving the district. It is our understanding that this process is now out of the boards hands. The state will appoint its own board and will begin to study the situation in our school district. If the referendum fails this process would continue. If it passes, the state board would likely vote to keep the Wausaukee School District intact.

7) If I have other questions or comments, who can help me?

The Wausaukee School Board has agreed to answer any questions that the public may have. There are two groups that have been formed that have researched many of the questions that have come up so far. One group supports the referendum, the other opposes it.

Both groups have agreed to meet at the Athelstane Town Hall on Thursday, July 10th at 6 PM.
Everyone is invited.

It Is Very Important That The Community Is Involved In This Process!