



Shakopee School Board Unanimously Approves Two-Question Referendum for May 5, 2015

At its February 9 meeting, the Shakopee School Board unanimously approved placing two school funding questions before voters on a May 5, 2015 election: one question asking for funds to build an addition to the existing high school and a second question for technology funding. The referendum is designed to address the district's continued enrollment growth and provide Shakopee students with a technology-rich learning environment.

Question 1: \$102.5M building bond

- Add to existing Shakopee High School for total capacity of up to 3,200 students (\$86M)
- Improve and expand outdoor facilities for student and community use (\$8.5M)
- Improve and expand indoor high school facilities for student and community use (\$6M)
- Upgrade safety and security in all buildings (\$2M)

Question 2: \$2.5M per year 10-year technology levy

- Provide increased access to classroom technology
- Offer staff training and support
- Support curriculum and academic design
- Provide a stable source of technology funding

If approved, the tax impact on a \$200,000 home for Q1 would be less than \$15/month and for Q2 would be less than \$9/month.

Last March, Shakopee voters rejected a request for funds to build a second high school, and subsequent community surveys and community-based teams all reinforced the community's desire to maintain unity through one larger high school, while ensuring students still have opportunities to participate in arts, academics and athletics.

"After spending nearly a year listening to our community, we believe this is a plan that works for students and that the community will support," said Board Chair Reggie Bowerman. "Huge thanks goes to every staff and community member who helped shape this plan."

If question one is approved, 9th graders would move into the high school (grades 9-12), 6th graders would move to the middle schools (grades 6-8) and Pearson 6th Grade Center would convert back to an elementary school (grades K-5) – all moves which would help relieve enrollment pressures on buildings district-wide. Outdoor fields and facilities at Vaughan Field, the existing Shakopee high school site and district-owned land at the intersection of County Roads 78 and 79 would be improved and expanded, as would indoor facilities at the existing high school.

"This plan delivers unity through one high school and opportunity for students through expanded facilities," said Superintendent Dr. Rod Thompson. "We can personalize education in a larger high school by offering students small learning communities and areas of interest, and we can maintain opportunities by increasing both outdoor and indoor facilities for academics, arts and athletics."

More details about the referendum are available on the district's website. The website will be updated regularly as informational materials are developed.

Contact: Crystal McNally, 952.496.5036, cmcnally@shakopee.k12.mn.us