

Media Release - Resolution for Operation Referendum 12/22/23

Dear Mellen Families and Community,

At its Wednesday meeting, the School District of Mellen School Board approved a three year, non-recurring operational referendum question that will appear on the ballot Tuesday, April 2, 2024. If voters approve the referendum, our district would be allowed to exceed its state-imposed revenue limit to ensure continued funding our our top priorities, including:

- Retaining high-quality teachers and staff
- Providing a range of academic programs to students
- Offering reading and math interventions to support student learning
- Maintaining current extracurricular activities
- Funding our annual facility maintenance plan
- Maintaining technology and infrastructure for 21st century learning

This referendum comes at a time when we are facing challenges related to Wisconsin's inequitable school funding system, reduced state aid to public schools, and rising operational costs. We want you to know that we are not alone in these challenges; 82% of Wisconsin school districts have already taken similar steps, successfully exceeding their revenue limits with the support of their communities.

If approved this April, the estimated property tax impact for the would be approximately \$2.46 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, equating to an annual cost of about \$246 for a home valued at \$100,000.

The School District of Mellen remains committed to the responsible stewardship of every dollar with strict accountability measures. Investing in our schools is not just a financial decision—it is a commitment to ongoing transparency and efficiency that benefits all community members and taxpayers.

More information will soon be available on the School District Website. Community listening sessions to be held in the School Library are scheduled at 6:30 pm on the following dates (subject to change):

- January 10, 2024 Focus - Finance/Grants
- January 31, 2024 Focus - Finance/Grants
- February 7, 2024 Focus - Operations
- February 28, 2024 Focus - Operations
- March 13, 2024 Focus - Facilities
- March 27, 2024 Focus - Facilities

Administration will also be available for Coffee and Chat on the following dates (location subject to change):

- January 15, 2024 Morse Town Hall
- January 25, 2024 Mellen Legion Library
- February 5, 2024 Highbridge Town Hall
- February 19, 2024 Mellen School
- March 11, 2024 Morse Town Hall
- March 25, 2024 Highbridge Town Hall
- April 1, 2024 Mellen Legion Library

We encourage you to share this information with your fellow parents, neighbors, and community members who may be interested in supporting our schools.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your engagement and inquiries are of utmost importance to us.

As always, thank you for your support of the School District of Mellen and the children we serve.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth
Superintendent