

Media Release Operational Referendum and Facilities 2/2/24

Dear Community Members,

The School District of Mellen held its second community forum on Wednesday January 31, 2024. There was a good turnout of community members and a lot of thoughtful discussion took place. I did want to provide some clarification on why the operational referendum is needed and how that is separate from the Capital Improvement Plan and facility needs.

The operational referendum is asking the community members for authority to exceed the revenue cap by \$500,000 for three years. These funds are needed to continue providing current educational programming: staffing, food service, academic programs, extra curricular programs, transportation, technology, annual maintenance, safety and security, utilities, curriculum, staff development and library services. More detailed information on school operations will be provided at the next community forum to be held on February 7, 2024 at 6:30pm in the small gym.

The budget projections that the School District has presented at board meetings, community forums and on the School District website do not include any capital improvement projects. The School Board has completed a facilities needs assessment and are discussing how to best tackle these needs. The current discussion has been addressing the restoration needs of the 1910 building. This is separate from the operational referendum but will be discussed in further detail at the community meetings in March.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at 715-274-3601.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth
Superintendent