Media Release - Operational Referendum Fails to Pass 4/12/24

Despite a concerted effort to secure necessary funding for essential educational resources, the operational referendum, which was on the ballot in the recent election, failed to garner enough support to pass.

The referendum aimed to provide critical funding to sustain and enhance various aspects of the educational experience within the district. These funds were earmarked for a variety of initiatives, including:

- Maintaining current educational programs
- Retaining and recruiting high quality teachers
- Increasing mental health supports
- Improving safety and security
- Maintaining current extracurricular activities
- Supporting technology
- Maintaining facilities and repairs

While we are disappointed at the outcome, the District remains committed to continuing its mission of providing quality education to its students. We respect the democratic process and the will of the community. Nevertheless, our dedication to our students' success remains unwavering. We will continue to explore alternative avenues to address the challenges facing our District.

The failure of the referendum poses significant challenges for the District, as it now faces tough decisions regarding budget allocations and resource prioritization. District Administration and the School Board will work diligently to mitigate any adverse effects on students and maintain the high standard of education for which the District is known.

The School District of Mellen extends its gratitude to all community members who participated in the referendum process, whether through voting or engaging in discussions about its implications. The District remains committed to transparency and collaboration as it navigates the path forward.

For further inquiries, please contact Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth at 715-274-3601.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth Superintendent School District of Mellen