

From the Desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen

In the past month Deerfield district residents have been learning more about the September 9th school referendum through informational postcards, visiting the referendum page on the district website and through articles in the Independent. I appreciate the feedback that I have been receiving and thought it would be useful to feature some questions and answers.

Is the tax impact cumulative each year? No, the tax impact or mill rate impact is not cumulative. Each year the district mill rate is calculated using a three-prong formula: 1.) equalized property value, 2.) state aid to the district, 3.) district revenue limit set by the state. The mill rate is recalculated each year based on these three factors in the formula. You will notice a projected decrease in the mill rate beginning the second year of the referendum because the state aid to the district will increase after the first year and continue throughout the remaining years of the referendum.

How will the referendum money be spent? The referendum has four focus areas of need: Instruction, Technology, Facilities and Operations. Each of these areas has been assessed for our most critical needs. The community survey has also provided feedback on how the community would like to see referendum money used. Critical instruction needs include purchasing up-to-date textbooks and curriculum materials for all classes and subjects. Critical technology needs include purchasing up-to-date computer hardware and software for student use throughout the district. Critical facility needs at the middle/high school include repairing/replacing outdated electrical and plumbing fixtures, upgrading equipment to safety and code compliance, roof replacement/repair and reconstruction of a 30 year old track. Critical operations needs include meeting the rising costs of utilities, fuel, transportation and purchased services. The district will continue to prioritize the four focus areas based on critical need and the revenue we have available.

Please feel free to contact me via phone at 764-5431 or email jensenm@deerfield.k12.wi.us if you have further questions about the referendum.