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SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES CAC RECOMMENDATION

The Deerfield School Board approved the referendum recommendation made by the Citizens Advisory Committee with the plan to go forward with a fall referendum. After seven months of assessing the district needs and gathering feedback from the community survey, the CAC presented the Board with a referendum proposal at the May Board meeting outlining a five year non-recurring referendum to start at \$275,000 and increase \$50,000 each of the remaining four years. Ehlers and Associates, financial advisors to the district, have projected a mill rate increase of 70 cents the first year with a drop to the mid-40 cents range for the final four years.

The CAC also recommended holding the vote on September 9, 2008, during the primary election, so that the Board could address pressing budget needs at the beginning of the school year prior to setting the 2008-09 budget. Holding the referendum during the primary election places no additional costs on the district and allows the Board to plan the budget prior to the November 1st mandatory state deadline.

The Deerfield School Board held a special meeting to consider the CAC's recommendation and voted to approve the conceptual plan presented. The Board will vote on the actual referendum wording at the June 16th board meeting. Board President Tom Bush stated that "while the financial needs of the district are great, the proposed referendum plan gives us a good start to focus on updating old textbooks and curriculum and upgrading technology used by our students." Bush went on to say that other areas addressed through the referendum would include much needed facility repairs and maintenance at the middle/high school building and grounds and daily operational expenses.

"The feedback from Deerfield residents in the community survey was very beneficial to the CAC and Board," commented Superintendent Michelle Jensen. "Our community cares a great deal about our schools and providing the best education we can for our children, but they also want the Board to continue to be fiscally responsible as we move forward. This referendum plan allows us to do both."