

For Immediate Release

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Ripon Area School District Referendum Results

RIPON, Wis. — Ripon area taxpayers voted in favor of the November 3, 2020, operational referendum question. The Ripon Area School District released the following message after the announcement of the referendum results:

We offer our thanks to Ripon residents for their consideration of the solution presented to voters on November 3. Following community engagement sessions held during the 2020-21 school year, the Board of Education carefully considered the district's needs and analyzed the results of a community-wide survey. In that survey, about 80 percent of district residents indicated they would support an operational referendum for technology, curriculum materials, and facilities maintenance with no tax increase.

The solution presented to voters authorized the district to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$500,000 for six years beginning with the 2021-2022 school year to update curriculum, update technology, and maintain facilities. These non-recurring referendum funds will be used for a variety of purposes. Each year, \$160,000 will be designated toward the purchase of new student laptops, teacher workstations, wireless routers, computer servers, and interactive smart screens.

Additionally, RASD will use \$225,000 for the curriculum department to continue its replacement timeline for each K-12 curricular area. Funds will be used to replace textbooks, workbooks, and educational software, as well as to purchase specific types of equipment for science labs, music programs, and physical education classes.

The district will also designate funds for the replacement of a failing roof at Ripon Middle School and flooring at Murray Park/Quest Elementary School. In subsequent years, with referendum dollars used to maintain buildings, equipment and school sites.

Superintendent Mary Whitrock shared, "I am very pleased that the board was able to find a solution that meets the needs of the district and that the community supports. Over the course of the last year, we have spoken to many community members. I appreciate the consideration they have provided, including their questions and, ultimately, their support of the solutions the board put forward."

School Board President Gary Rodman commented, "The board thanks the community members who took the time to learn about the realities of operating a high-quality school district and to share their views on how best to move our district forward. We are so grateful to the voters who put their trust in the Board's solution to meet the needs of our schools. The board will continue its commitment to the educational priorities of the district and to making the most of every single dollar invested by the taxpayers into their public schools."

Since the 2009-10 school year, district taxpayers have supported Ripon schools with an additional \$500,000 above the state's revenue limits.

Any comments or questions, please contact Dr. Mary Whitrock at (920) 748-4600.

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