

Referendum | *Frequently Asked Questions & Answers*

Question

Will the Community have access to Ebben Field?

Answer

The District is **committed to making Ebben Field facilities available for community use**, while ensuring that District assets are safeguarded and protected in a responsible manner.

The District **understands and embraces the importance of community engagement**, as well as the benefits of physical activity. The enhancements to Ebben Field are **an opportunity to further expand adult and youth community use**, while providing high quality facilities for our children.

The District will take the following actions in Spring/Summer 2021:

- a) **Assess and understand user demand** for Ebben Field facilities. This will entail community input, as well as input from the School and Recreation Department.
- b) **Create and execute a plan to expand and promote community use** based upon input received from the community, School and Recreation Department.
- c) **Collaborate with the Recreation Department** on each facet of the plan.

The District's intentions for access to Ebben Field are as follows:

- a) **Facilities inside the secured fenced area** will be open based on input from stakeholders and supervised schedules (synthetic turf field, track, new baseball field).
- b) **Facilities outside the secured fenced area** will remain open for community use (grass fields on the east side of the complex, new tennis courts, baseball diamond on north side).



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Question

Will the School's equalized property tax mill rate increase if the referendum passes?

Answer

The **portion** of the School's **equalized property tax mill rate used to pay back debt will not increase** if one or both of the April 2021 referendum questions pass.

Specifically, the School's 2020-21 equalized mill rate of \$7.86 includes **\$1.55 for repayment of debt** related to the 2003 referendum. If one or both referendum questions pass, the **portion of the School's equalized mill rate used to repay debt** (e.g., the \$1.55) **will not increase in subsequent years** related to this referendum.

Will the School's equalized property tax mill rate decrease if the referendum does not pass?

The **portion** of the School's **equalized property tax mill rate used to pay back debt will decrease** if the April 2021 referendum does not pass (e.g., if Question #1 does not pass).

Specifically, the School's 2020-21 equalized mill rate of \$7.86 includes **\$1.55 for repayment of debt** related to the 2003 referendum. If the April 2021 referendum does not pass, the **portion of the School's equalized mill rate used to repay debt** (e.g., the \$1.55) **will decrease starting in 2021-22 and for the next 2 years**, until the full \$1.55 falls off. This **assumes** none of the outstanding 2003 referendum debt is paid early and that a new referendum is not presented to voters in April 2022.



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Question

Do both referendum questions need to pass in order for the District to move ahead?

Has the District comprehended price increases for construction materials and services?

Answer

The referendum is **not** an “all-or-nothing” vote. **Both questions** (e.g., Q1 and Q2) **do not need to pass** in order for the District to move ahead.

Following are the potential scenarios:

- a) Q1 pass + Q2 pass: District will **move ahead** with projects related to **both questions**
- b) Q1 pass + Q2 fail: District will **move ahead** with projects related to **Q1**
- c) Q1 fail + Q2 pass: District will **not move ahead** with projects related to **Q2** (will do nothing)
- d) Q1 fail + Q2 fail: District will **not move ahead** with **any projects** (will do nothing)

The referendum project budgets prepared by Bray Architects and Rettler Corporation include **contingencies to comprehend potential unforeseen costs and inflationary price increases**.

It’s important to remember that the referendum questions on the ballot **establish a maximum limit the District can borrow**. If the referendum is approved, the District will work within these limits and will not come back to voters for additional funds to cover unforeseen costs or price increases.



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Question

Will drop-off and pick-up of students still be allowed on School Street and Orchard Court if the referendum is approved?

What will the new shared Library for the School and Village look like?

Does the referendum increase school capacity for potential resident growth?

Will the underground tunnel walkway between the School parking lot and Ebben Field remain closed?

Answer

If the referendum is approved, the **design phase** will include a **full review** of all drop-off and pick-up procedures to ensure the highest level of safety for students and residents.

The **District is committed to constructing a new School and Public Library that meets the needs of all stakeholders**. Currently a “conceptual” drawing exists and following an approved referendum the “design” phase will engage all stakeholders in a needs assessment which will guide the final design.

Constructing a new shared School and Public Library is a once in a lifetime opportunity and the District is extremely excited for the possibilities and opportunities that new construction offers.

The **referendum does not include incremental brick and mortar capacity** to specifically comprehend resident growth above current levels. The long-term goal for District enrollment is approximately 740-760 students and any future increases beyond this resulting from resident growth would be accompanied by a corresponding decrease in the number of new open enrollment seats opened in future years in order to keep overall District enrollment in the range of 740-760.

The tunnel has been out of service since approximately 2014 and will remain closed. To increase safety and access to Ebben Field, the **referendum proposes new parking directly at Ebben Field on the north side of Greenfield Drive.**

