


OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Livonia Public Schools

Memorandum

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Randy A. Liepa 
DATE: July 15, 2015
SUBJECT: Schoolcraft College Millage Proposal

Under state law, community colleges that wish to call an election to ask for a local property tax millage must have their local school district constituents file for the election with the county clerk.

This is in no way a recommendation or position on the millage proposal, it is merely a statutory requirement for procedurally how a community college would get such a proposal on the ballot.

We reviewed this with our legal counsel at Thrun and they concur that this is a requirement for local school districts.

We will have a representative from Schoolcraft College at our July 20 meeting to explain this requirement and provide information about the proposal. Please include this on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of July 20.

Attached is the resolution that has been reviewed by our legal counsel.

jw
Attachment

Livonia Public Schools, Wayne County, Michigan (the "School District")

A _____ meeting of the board of education of the Issuer (the "Board") was held in the _____, within the boundaries of the Issuer, on the _____ day of _____, 2015, at _____ o'clock in the ____m.

The meeting was called to order by _____, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS:

1. This School District is a component local school district of the Schoolcraft Community College District; and
2. This School District has received a copy of the resolution of the Board of the Schoolcraft Community College District requesting the call of a special election; and
3. This Board has a statutory duty to request that the School District's filing official call a special election on the election date specified in the resolution of the Board of Trustees of Schoolcraft Community College District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Board of Education formally requests that the Wayne County Clerk, as School District filing official, call a special election of the Schoolcraft Community College District on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, as specified in the resolution of the Board of Trustees of Schoolcraft Community College District, and directs its Superintendent of Schools to timely deliver a copy of this resolution to both the Wayne County Clerk and Schoolcraft Community College District for that purpose.
2. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Livonia Public Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a _____ meeting held on _____, 2015, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Secretary, Board of Education

Questions

Why does the school district have to do anything?

We are required to have a public resolution by each of the districts that we serve that we have a millage option on the ballot on November 3, 2015.

Are we supporting your millage with this vote?

No, you are only acknowledging as a board that we have informed you of this event.

Does the board have to take a vote on this?

Yes, your vote only means you have acknowledged that the college is placing a millage question on the ballot in November 3, 2015.

Why are you asking for a millage?

First, we are asking for .6 mills for a 10 year period. The college has three revenue sources, tuition, property tax and state funding. Over the past 7 years, we have lost over \$29 million dollars in property tax revenues due to the recession as well as had state funding cut from 32% in the late 80's to 17% in 2014. We try to keep tuition increases to CPI +1%, so the millage will be a fix for the next 10 years to supplement the core financial issues of lost property tax and state funding due to the recession of 2009.

What are you going to do with the money?

The millage will go into operations. The college is focused on creating technician education programs (In the science, technology, engineering, math) to address the issue of 70,000 well-paying jobs in Michigan not being filled due to a lack of trained individuals. The college will also bolster the financial aid process to increase institutional scholarships to continue to decrease student loan debt.

Here are the talking points

1. This resolution is just a formality. Voting for it is not an indication of support.
2. The resolution is an acknowledgement that Schoolcraft College will have an issue on the Nov. 3, 2015, ballot.
3. Unlike most community colleges, Schoolcraft College doesn't represent an entire county.
 - a. The Schoolcraft Community College District represents five school districts (P-CCS, Northville, Clarenceville, Livonia and Garden City).
 - b. "Intermediate school district" means the ISDs to which your component districts belong. Clarenceville is in Oakland Schools.
4. Because you are one of the schools in our district, the law requires the College to notify your School Board (and the other four school district boards, and both ISDs) and ask for a resolution. This resolution acknowledges that you have been notified and are passing the issue on to be placed on the ballot.