

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
July 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
Forum Room, Secondary Building
Crosby, MN

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Special meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Forum Room, at 5:00 p.m. on July 1, 2024 with Chair Mike Domin presiding.

Members Present: Kim Coughlin, Mike Domin, Beth Hautala, Laura Lee, Tommy Sablan and Superintendent Jamie Skjeveland. Barb Neprud was absent.

Chair Domin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda-Motion by Lee, second by Coughlin to approve the agenda. All voting aye, and the motion carried.

Discussion –

Community Survey – Daren Sievers from School Perceptions was available by Zoom to present the preliminary results of a community survey that closed on June 24, 2024. There were 732 respondents to the survey out of over 6,400 surveys distributed to the community and there is a margin of error of +/- 3.7% in reviewing survey results. A review of demographics of respondents indicated 38% were from people who were 65 years old or older, followed by 21% being from people who are ages 35-44. Information was provided in terms of respondents who are residents of the school district, which municipality (city or township) that they lived in, whether they were a school employee, whether they had children who were attending school at Crosby-Ironton and whether they were a resident who had children who were not attending a school in the Crosby-Ironton School District. There was also information about parents and non-parents/staff preferred to receive School District information. Three tax levy options were included in the survey: option 1 at \$1.2 million in operating referendum revenue; option 2 at \$1.5 million in operating referendum revenue; and option 3 at \$1.7 million in operating referendum revenue. The tax impact estimates, as calculated by Ehlers, were included in the survey. Referendum support by three demographic groups was considered, including parents/non-staff, parents and staff. Based on the responses and weighted based on parent versus non-parent, the \$1.7 million showed a 36.75% response for definitely and probably yes; the \$1.5 million showed a 54.75% favorable probability; and the \$1.2 million showed a 66.75% favorable probability. Again noting a +/- margin of error of 3.7%, with the results showing likely favorable outcomes from both the \$1.2 million and the \$1.5 million amounts. The survey also questioned respondents on what they would favor in terms of cost cutting measures and asked about community priorities expected from the School District.

Operating Referendum Tax Impact – Aaron Bushberger and Jodie Zesbaugh from Ehlers were available by Zoom to provide information about the property tax impact of the three options that were outlined in the community survey. Each of the three options lists total anticipated revenue based on the current enrollment projection for 2025-2026. The total anticipated revenue has to be divided by the estimated pupil units to get an amount of additional operating referendum per pupil unit. The amount per pupil unit is the dollar

amount that is included on the ballot question. Two other factors also need to be included: the term or length of the operating referendum revenue, which is up to ten years and limited at that by statute; and whether in ballot question includes an adjustment for inflation or not.

The School Board discussed issues relating to the three items that will have to be addressed in the resolution calling for an operating referendum – amount per pupil unit, term in years, and inflationary adjustment or not. Noting the impact of ongoing and projected declining enrollment on overall revenue and that the \$1.2 million question is likely not enough, the discussion coalesced around asking for \$1.5 million for a period of ten (10) years and including an inflationary adjustment as part of the question.

Approve Preparing Election Resolutions for Operating Referendum- Motion by Sablan, second by Lee to approve preparing the election resolution and other necessary materials at the \$1.5 million anticipated revenue for a term of ten (10) years and with an inflationary adjustment factor as determined by the Minnesota Department of Education process. This is advisory only and the call to have an operating referendum and the exact details will not be final until the School Board approves the election resolution at the July 22, 2024 regular School Board meeting. All voting aye, and the motion carried.

The next regular Board meeting will be July 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Forum Room.

Adjourn-Motion by Coughlin, second by Lee to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. All voting aye, and the motion carried

Recorded by Wm Tollefson

Barbara Neprud, Clerk