



# Robbinsdale Area Schools School Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 14, 2014 at 5:30 PM

Work Session

Education Service Center Boardroom, 4148 Winnetka Avenue North,  
New Hope, Minnesota

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|--|---|
| 1. Possible Shared Facility with the City of New Hope<br>Presenter: Jeff Priess  | 2 |
| 2. Unified District Vision<br>Presenter: Michael Favor, Al Ickler, Aldo Sicoli, Lori Simon, Dr. Cheryl Videen<br>A. Incorporate World's Best Workforce areas in the Unified District Vision<br>B. Action Plans and SMART Goals<br>C. Monitoring Calendar | 3 |
| 3. Levy Presentation<br>Presenter: Dennis Beekman and Jeff Priess  | 8 |
| 4. Other   |   |

DATE: July 14, 2014

TO: Members of the School Board  
Dr. Aldo Sicoli, Superintendent

FROM: Jeff Priess, Executive Director of Business Services

RE: Possible Shared Facility with the City of New Hope

**Discussion:**

School Board will be apprised of the on-going discussions with City of New Hope staff regarding the potential of a shared facility. Considered options and financing arrangements will also be presented.

**QUESTIONS:**

For questions please contact Jeff Priess at 763-504-8037 or [jeff\\_priess@rdale.org](mailto:jeff_priess@rdale.org).

DATE: July 14, 2014

TO: Members of the School Board

FROM: Aldo Sicoli, Superintendent

RE: Unified District Vision

**DISCUSSION:**

Michael Favor, Al Ickler, Lori Simon, Dr. Cheryl Videen and I will facilitate a discussion regarding the Unified District Vision, which will focus on the following areas:

- a. A recommendation to revise the Unified District Vision to explicitly incorporate language related to the five areas of the World's Best Workforce statute
- b. A review of action plans, which are designed to evolve over time, and sample SMART goals to monitor the district's progress towards achievement of the World's Best Workforce requirements
- c. Discussion of a proposed monitoring calendar that is aligned to the areas of the World's Best Workforce

If time does not allow for completion of this discussion, we will continue to address these issues at future School Board work sessions. The plan is to have a public meeting in September regarding our school district's World's Best Workforce plan and to submit the required summary of that plan to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) by the October 1, 2014 deadline.

# Unified District Vision: A Strategic Plan for High Intellectual Performance Through Equity

*Every Student Graduates Career and College Ready*

June 10, 2014



# Unified District Vision: High Intellectual Performance Through Equity

## Our Mission

The mission of Robbinsdale Area Schools is to inspire and educate all learners to develop their unique potential and positively contribute to their community.

## Unified District Vision

Robbinsdale Area Schools is committed to ensuring every student graduates career and college ready. We believe each student has limitless possibilities and we strive to ignite the potential in every student. We expect high intellectual performance from all our students. We are committed to ensuring an equitable and respectful educational experience for every student, family and staff member, focusing on strengths related to:

- Race
- Culture
- Ethnicity
- Home or First Language
- National Origin
- Socioeconomic Status
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Ability
- Religion
- Physical Appearance

## The Unified District Vision consists of four key goals:

- Implement policies and practices that open pathways to academic excellence for all students
- Utilize culturally relevant teaching and personalized learning for all students
- Engage family and community members as partners
- Engage and empower students by amplifying student voice

## Goal 1:

### ***Implement Policies and Practices that Open Pathways to Academic Excellence for All Students***

We are committed to focusing on each individual student's potential for academic excellence. We will strengthen our policies and practices to ensure our programs and services provide equitable access for all students, especially with regard to areas which currently have high racial and economic predictability or disproportionality among groups of students.

#### **Strategies**

- Implement policies, practices and admissions criteria that ensure all students participate in rigorous coursework.
- Implement policies and practices that ensure that behavioral referrals and suspensions for inappropriate behavior are not disproportionate to particular student groups.
- Eliminate policies and practices that lead to overrepresentation of specific student groups in Special Education programs.
- Implement policies and practices that ensure participation in co-curricular activities and fine arts is representative of the student body.
- Hire and retain staff members who reflect the diversity of our students.
- Hire and retain staff members who are proficient in culturally relevant educational practices.

## Goal 2:

### ***Utilize Culturally Relevant Teaching and Personalized Learning for All Students***

We are committed to deliver teaching that inspires all students to experience the highest levels of critical thinking and achievement. We will implement research-based best educational practices to engage our students in learning. Equity is raising the achievement of all students; student success will not be predictable based on race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

#### **Strategies**

- Utilize curriculum and learning environments that reflect the culture and history of racial groups that reside not only in our own community, but in the rest of the world.
- Engage all staff and the School Board in professional learning focused on high expectations, identification and development of student strengths, and culturally relevant teaching practices.
- Provide high-quality early learning programs to ensure all students are kindergarten ready.
- Provide enriched learning experiences to meet the individual needs of students.
- Provide differentiated and enriched learning experiences to close identified achievement gaps.
- Provide differentiated learning experiences to ensure all third grade students achieve grade level literacy.
- Enhance programs and differentiated learning experiences to ensure every student graduates from high school and is career and college ready.
- Enhance all academic programs through the implementation of research-based best practices.

## Goal 3:

### *Engage Family and Community Members as Partners*

**We are committed to providing opportunities for meaningful engagement to support the learning of every student. Family and community collaboration is vital to success in educating our students.**

#### Strategies

- Develop a community engagement plan that increases the involvement of family and community members through focused marketing, effective communication, and intentional outreach.
- Utilize parent engagement practices that connect with families in places and in ways that are most familiar to them.
- Partner with individuals and community organizations to support student success and social-emotional well-being.

## Goal 4:

### *Engage and Empower Students by Amplifying Student Voice*

**We are committed to intentionally engaging student voice in important decisions. We believe that students are our most important stakeholders. Their input is invaluable to the growth and success of our district and the larger community.**

#### Strategies

- Amplify student voice within classrooms to engage students, inform instruction, enhance cultural relevance, and strengthen student sense of belonging.
- Increase student leadership opportunities.
- Expand service learning opportunities.
- Provide appropriate opportunities for student voice regarding school and district decisions.

## Measurements of Success

**We will measure our progress in multiple ways that will meet and go beyond the requirements of Minnesota's World's Best Workforce statute. This will include disaggregation of the following data by racial groups, economic status, special education status, and grade levels:**

- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)
- Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA's MAP assessments)
- Graduation Rates
- EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT Results
- Kindergarten Readiness, Literacy, and Math Assessments
- Third Grade Literacy Assessments
- Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Exam Results and Participation Rates
- Participation in the Arts and Rigorous Courses
- Out-of-School Suspensions and Administrative Hearings for Possible Expulsions
- Referrals for Special Education Services and Student Participation in Special Education Programs
- National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Exams
- Percentage of students who receive remedial services in MNSCU colleges

DATE: July 14, 2014

TO: Members of the School Board  
Dr. Aldo Sicoli, Superintendent

FROM: Dennis Beekman, Executive Director of Technology  
Jeff Priess, Executive Director of Business Services

RE: Levy Presentation

**Discussion:**

School Board will receive an informational presentation about the referendum that has been prepared by our Communications Department.

**QUESTIONS:**

For questions please contact Jeff Priess at 763-504-8037 or [jeff\\_priess@rdale.org](mailto:jeff_priess@rdale.org), Dennis Beekman at 763-504-8055 or [dennis\\_beekman@rdale.org](mailto:dennis_beekman@rdale.org).

# REFERENDUM OVERVIEW



ROBBINSDALE  
Area Schools

Individual focus. Infinite potential.

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# Snapshot of Robbinsdale Area Schools

- 12,000 students, grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12
- 10 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 2 high schools, 1 alternative high school
- Serving all or part of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale
- Mission: Inspire and educate all learners to develop their unique potential and positively contribute to their community.

**Every student graduates career and college ready.**



# Referendum: November 4, 2014

Two school funding requests:

- **Question 1:** No tax increase renewal of existing operating levy
- **Question 2:** Add a new technology levy (also called “capital project” levy)

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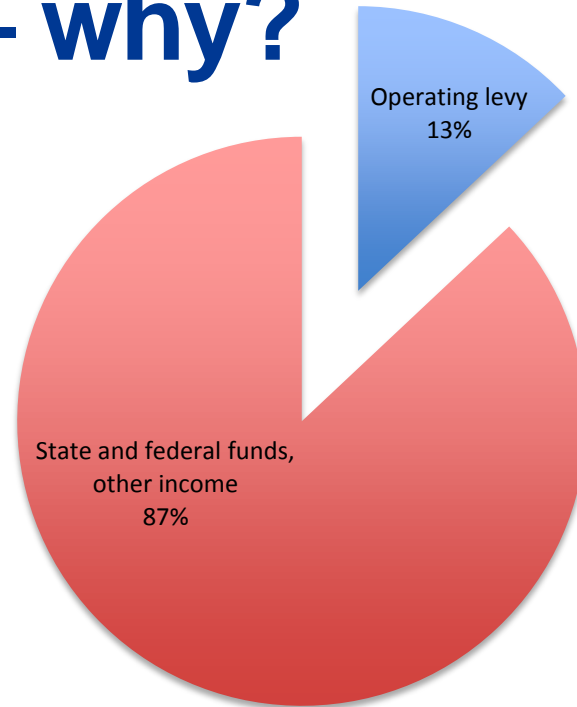
# Question 1 Facts

## Q1: Renew existing operating levy

- No tax increase if approved by voters
- Helps maintain lower than average class sizes
- Funds daily school and district operations such as classroom supplies, staff salaries, building maintenance and transportation
- Provides \$20 million per year, which is 13% of district's operating budget



# Question 1 – why?



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The current operating levy, which expires at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, provides 13% of the district's total operating budget, which pays for basic school and district operating expenses.

**\$20 million per year is the equivalent of 225 teachers or the entire staffing costs of five elementary schools.**



# Question 1 – if approved

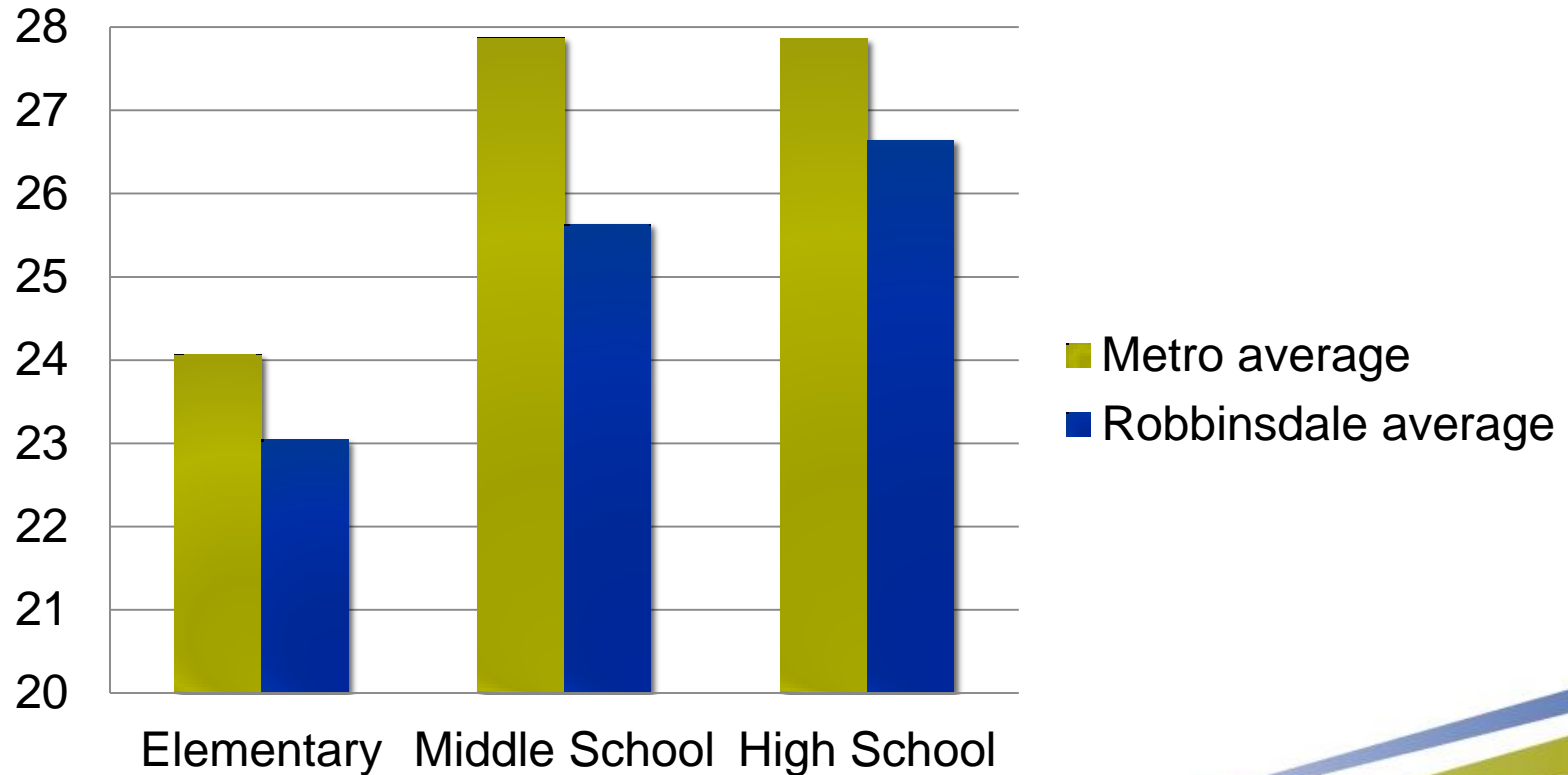
## If APPROVED by voters:

- Continue lower than average class sizes at all grade levels
- Sustain range of quality educational programs
- Maintain balanced budget
- No tax increase



# Question 1 – class size

## Average Class Sizes\*



**Operating levy funds help Robbinsdale Area Schools maintain lower than average class sizes at all grade levels compared to the metro area**

\* Class sizes are based on the 2013-2014 Metro ECSU Class Size Study



# Question 1 – if not approved

## If NOT APPROVED by voters:

- Lose 13% of operating budget (2016-17)
- Begin planning for \$20 million in budget reductions for the 2016-17 school year
- \$20 million is the equivalent of:
  - 225 teachers
  - The entire staff costs of five elementary schools



# Question 2 Facts

## Q2: Add a technology levy

- Robbinsdale Area Schools is one of the few Hennepin County school districts **WITHOUT** a voter-approved capital project levy to provide funds for technology
- Creates a stable funding source to implement technology plan district-wide
- Helps prepare students to thrive in our digital world and join a highly skilled 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce
- Increases technology access for students and staff, supports personalized learning, keeps schools on par with neighbors
- Tax increase on median value home\* = \$7/month

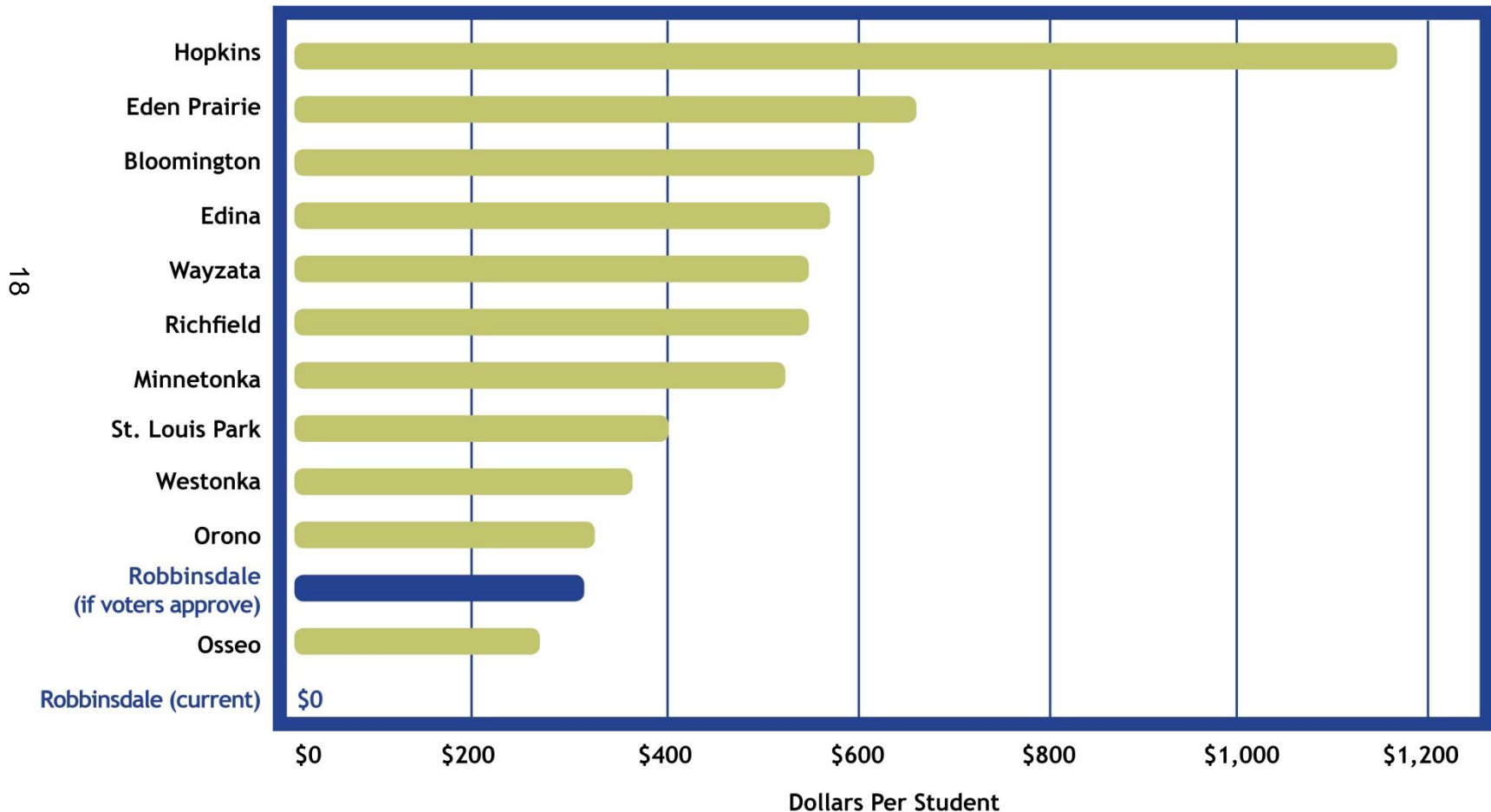


\* Tax increases are based on the \$195,000 median home value in the district



# Question 2 Facts – How Robbinsdale Compares

## Voter-Approved Capital Project/Technology Levies



# Question 2 Facts – Technology for Learning

Need	Year One Budget *
<p><b>Technology for schools, classrooms and students</b> – Add and maintain interactive whiteboards, digital projectors, classroom sound systems, classroom assessment tools, computer labs, mobile technologies, teacher workstations and audio/video equipment to improve the classroom learning environment. Provide and maintain a personal learning device (Chromebook or comparable device) for all students in grades 5-12 to ensure anytime, anywhere access to classroom learning resources and communication tools.</p>	\$2,520,000
<p><b>Technology Systems, Support &amp; Training</b> - Provide instructional technology systems, support and training to deliver and sustain more efficient and effective teaching and learning practices.</p>	\$720,000
<p><b>Network Infrastructure</b> – Maintain and replace access points, routers, servers and other network equipment to ensure a secure and robust network environment.</p>	\$260,000
<p><b>Total Year One Budget</b></p>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

\* The school board reviews its educational priorities and expenses annually and will adjust these expenditures as necessary for changes in technology and priorities over the ten years of the levy.

# Question 2 – if approved

## If APPROVED by voters:

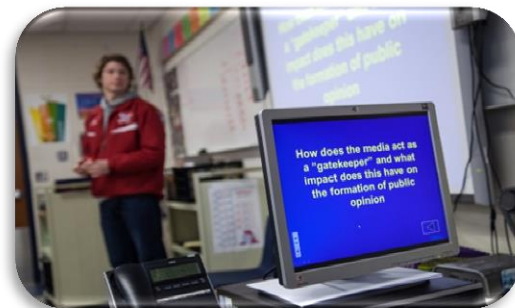
- Increased access to up-to-date technology
- 21st century classrooms
- More efficient and effective ways of teaching:
  - **Help teachers manage student learning**
  - **Instant feedback on assessments**
  - **Help students learn according to their learning style**
  - **Give students more learning options**
  - **Provide access to information from anywhere, anytime**

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# Question 2 – if approved

Examples of what you might see in Robbinsdale Area Schools classrooms with a fully-funded technology plan



# Question 2 – if not approved

## If NOT APPROVED by voters:

- Widened technology gap between Robbinsdale Area Schools students and neighboring districts
- Barriers to online classroom learning, limiting student experiences
- Unusable, outdated technology equipment
- Delayed and less personalized feedback for students
- Reduced staff productivity
- Less efficient and effective instructional time
- Reductions made to the district's budget in order to maintain basic levels of technology

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# Tax Impact

Voter Request	Monthly Tax Increase*
Q1: Renew existing operating levy	\$0
Q2: Add a technology levy	\$7

*\*Tax increases are based on the \$195,000 median value home in the district.*



# Financial background

- The School Board has made more than \$18 million in budget reductions since 2000-01 to maintain a balanced budget
- School districts throughout Minnesota rely on operating levies for daily school operations
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century classrooms require up-to-date technology equipment, support and infrastructure
- The two levy requests are based on a thoughtful, deliberative process
  - Reviewed: district finances, technology needs, community surveys and funding options before unanimously deciding to put both levy requests on the ballot
- Operating levy is a renewal, not an increase
- Capital project levy that provides funds for technology is lower than most neighboring districts

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# Questions?



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Individual focus. Infinite potential.

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