



White Pigeon Community Schools

“Every Student—Every Day”

May 22, 2013

Friends of White Pigeon Community Schools;

In May of 2012, the voters of White Pigeon Community Schools approved the renewal of a 3 mill sinking fund for five years. The proposal was supported by 69% of the voters in the district. The school district is appreciative of the community support.

The original proposal that was presented to the voters was developed in the fall of 2011 prior to the hiring of our construction manager firm Owen-Ames-Kimball (OAK). The original proposal listed a five-year timeline for construction with work occurring in five consecutive summers from 2013 to 2017. The proposal was presented as a “pay as you go master plan approach” that eliminates borrowing and interest costs.

On May 8, 2013, OAK presented a “Potential Savings from Reallocation of Sinking Fund” proposal to the Board of Education that would result in potential savings of \$186,000. The savings can be realized by combining the remaining four summers of work into two. However, the proposal will require the district to borrow twice for one year periods costing the district approximately \$30,000 in interest. The net savings are estimated be \$156,000 that will be rolled back into the project. If approved, the timeline will be adjusted but the detailed list of projects will not change.

A second benefit to an adjusted timeline is less disruption to the operations of the district. Two summers of construction instead of four reduces the time our schools and grounds will be unavailable. That will make it much easier on the school staff. Also, students will benefit because the improvements will occur one year ahead of schedule. The drawback is the change of plans after the proposal was presented to the voters prior to the election in May of 2012. We want to remain transparent to maintain the trust of the voters.

The Board of Education is committed to being good stewards of the sinking fund dollars the voters approved. That is why your opinion is important. Please attend the **Public Forum on Wednesday, June 5th, at 7 pm, in the high school library**. If you can't make it, please call or email us with your comments, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ronald Drzewicki, Superintendent

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