



1903 Bartlett Avenue
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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALTOONA

PRESS RELEASE

Altoona School Board Revisits Scope of Spring Referendum

Altoona, November 22, 2011. On November 7, 2011, the Altoona School Board took action to proceed with an April 3 referendum to exceed the revenue limit in the amount of \$1,500,000 for each year of a four-year period, 2012/13 through 2015/16.

Shortly after that action, district officials became aware that under lower-than projected state aid estimates across the state, the \$1,500,000 referendum would result in an increase in the mill rate to nearly \$3.00 per \$1,000 of equalized value or approximately \$300 per year on a \$100,000 home in 2012/13. Even though this new calculation represents a worst-case scenario, the administration felt this would be too much of a burden on taxpayers. On November 21, 2011, they recommended that the school board reconsider the referendum amount. “We really have had an eye on the bottom line cost to our taxpayers. When the Educational Finance Advisory Committee recommended the referendum amount of \$1,500,000 to the board earlier this month, the highest priority was to keep the increase to under \$2.00 per thousand. The new projection of nearly \$3.00 per thousand was just not in the ballpark,” said Kathy Dahl, business manager.

On November 21, 2011, the Altoona school board took action to reduce the total four-year referendum amount from \$6,000,000 to \$3,600,000 – a decrease of 40%.

Last night, the school board reviewed several scenarios and after much consideration unanimously voted to adjust the referendum dollar amount to \$900,000 for each of the 2012/13 through 2015/16 school years, an estimated increase of \$1.73 per thousand or approximately \$173 per year on a \$100,000 home.

Superintendent Fahrman, said, “Much is at stake. Over the past two years, we have made significant and deep staff reductions that have impacted our quality programming for our students. At the same time, we have great empathy for our taxpayers. I believe that reducing the annual referendum amount from \$1,500,000 to \$900,000 represents a realistic “middle ground” for the Altoona school district community.”

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