

**Meeting:** ECASD Referendum Committee

**Date:** July 25, 2022

**Time:** 3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m.

**Location:** Administration Building 123B

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marquell Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Bica	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Lyons*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abby Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Kay Marks	<input type="checkbox"/> Kaying Xiong	<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Koller	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandy Van Vleet	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Committee Chair

**Guests:** Mike Clark, Baird

The regular meeting of the Referendum Committee was called to order by Phil Lyons at 3:07 p.m. on July 25, 2022.

Quorum was met.

**Notes:** Marisa Pomplun

- **Public Comment**
  - Mark Goings spoke about some ideas for public comment.
- **Approval of Previous Minutes**
  - The minutes from July 20<sup>th</sup> were reviewed.

Marquell Johnson made a motion to approve the July 20, 2022 Referendum Committee minutes. The motion was seconded by Lori Bica. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Phil Lyons made a motion to suspend the rules of the meeting for the duration of the comment today regarding referendum topics. The motion was seconded by Lori Bica. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- **Referendum Next Steps**
  - Abby showed some follow up slides from the previous meetings about the referendum. The group discussed the significance of having a November or an April referendum question. If the District goes to referendum in November, it can impact the current school year, if we go in April, we will impact the following school year.
  - Abby shared some data from Baird on how the District could utilize 2 questions on the ballot and what the impacts could be.
  - There were some sample questions shared that could cover the needs of ECASD. She also included some ideas of things that could be included in the ask part of the question. The tax impact of each question was also shared with the group.
  - There was a question asked if we could ask for a smaller amount now knowing that we will continue to ask every so often, it was noted that it would be risky to not have the revenue guaranteed when previous referendums fall off. It would also limit what the District could do on the debt side.
  - The larger jump in the ask accounts for Wisconsin's underfunding and saying that we have local support to combat all the other things that are working against schools.
  - The District needs to be specific in telling their story on how we currently have large needs, and this is part of our ask for right now, but there is more to come.
  - There were sample questions shared for capital to help bridge the gap on work that needs to be done and the dollars that need to be spent.
  - Discussion about what would happen if question 1 fails and question 2 passes? It seems like Question 1 is very important, but it seems like Question 2 isn't an option. They are things that our buildings need and what impact could they have for people.

- The District should ask for what we need and tell our community how we grow for now and the future. We should ask for the full amount up front. The data from the survey spoke to basic needs and mental health. The facility study spoke to four buildings that have must haves.
- If the District looked at the full amount up front it would be well above the survey threshold.
- People need to understand this is not the last time that the District will come back for a referendum. All future asks are for where ECASD aspires to where it can be!
- How do we factor this in to essential, not the extra and more and how do we make it more equitable?
  - How do we say more than nice to have extras?
  - Doing something with equity that is not just words ECASD lives values and ECASD supports it
  - Funding models are very confusing to understand, the easiest way we can explain it the better.

### **Action Items**

- Graph of overlapping timelines
- **Wrap-up Meeting**
  - A future agenda item could be
    - Continuing the referendum work
    - Budget for 5 years flat and 5/10 years for where we anticipate salary and benefits to go
    - Budget with and without ESSER funds so the community can see the deficit of funds

Phil Lyons made a motion to reinstate the rules of the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Lori Bica. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Phil Lyons moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lori Bica. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.