

Meeting: ECASD Referendum Committee

Date: November 20, 2023

Time: 2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.

Location: Administration Building Room 101

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marquell Johnson*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Bica	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erica Zerr	<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

The regular meeting of the Referendum Committee was called to order by Erica Zerr at 2:35p.m. on November 20, 2023. Quorum was met.

Notes: Marisa Pomplun

- **Public Comment**
 - Mark goings spoke regarding upcoming referendums.
 - Chris Hambuch-Boyle spoke sharing support from Support Eau Claire Public Schools Committee.
- **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - The minutes from November 15th were reviewed.

Lori Bica made a motion to approve the November 15, 2023 Referendum Committee minutes. The motion was seconded by Erica Zerr. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- **Referendum Work**
 - Abby reviewed the budget projections for the 2024-25 school year as well as a tax levy change if the District decides to go forward with a referendum in 2024.
 - Mike shared an activity that the System Leaders did together last week to see what budget gathering data they could collect for ideas to help the budget moving forward. There was transparency during the whole process so that all leaders could feel confident in the process.
 - The committee looked at the FTE changes for administrators to see changes over the last 5 years. They also reviewed the positions that are ESSER funded to show the increase for student needs.
 - Abby shared the 3rd Friday counts for the elementary level to show current class sizes.
 - Baird put together referenda history to see April vs. November. The data does show that there is a higher turnout for November voters.
 - The community doesn't know what the true picture of the District budget financial situation reflects/entails. The District has tough decisions to make and it is difficult because the District needs everything that is currently in the budget.
 - The committee feels the need to gain a better understanding of what a deficit means and is looking for a framework and talking points for the needs of the district.

Action Items

- Show ESSER positions pre-2021-22 (funding) – tell the story of the value add
- What would be lost if we didn't pass an April referendum – can we articulate this for the community?
- Clearly articulate what needs to happen for April, what does the calendar of events look like?
- Likely voters in both elections and does the District need to lower the amounts if failed
- Condensed version of the calendar for April referendum

- **Wrap-up Meeting**
 - Next meeting December 7, 2023

Marquell Johnson recommended that with information the committee has, the School Board should attempt an April referendum. The motion was seconded by Erica Zerr. Motion passed 2 to 1 in favor.

Erica Zerr moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lori Bica. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:02p.m.