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Minnetonka School Board Calls for Capital Projects Levy Referendum in November

For immediate release

(MINNETONKA, Minnesota, August 18, 2023): The Minnetonka School Board has approved a resolution to put the renewal of the District's current capital projects levy referendum before voters in November.

"This is an extension, not an increase. It is basically a renewal, not a new tax," said Lisa Wagner, Minnetonka School Board Chair. "The Board's approval of this resolution is asking our voters to consider something that would not have a tax increase for them. It would stay at the same 6.569% rate that it has been at since 2002."

The District's capital projects levy, also often referred to as a "tech levy," was previously approved by Minnetonka School District residents in 2015 and 2007. The current levy is set to expire in 2026. An approval by voters in November would mean the current capital projects levy will be revoked, and it would then be replaced by a new one at the same rate, which would then be in place through 2034.

"One of our District goals set by the School Board includes ensuring long-term financial stability," said Minnetonka Schools Superintendent David Law. "The revenue from the current capital projects levy contributes to the success and safety of all students and the operations of the District."

The following is paid for by the current capital projects levy: All instructional technology equipment, software and traditional textbooks; all instructional technology support personnel; all administrative software such as student accounting and grading software, financial software and internet firewall software; all network hardware and software, such as network data storage devices and network fiber optic cable; all technology network security; all administrative technology support personnel; classroom equipment; security barriers of all types, electronic security barriers and security monitoring equipment.

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois, who presented to the School Board regarding the history of referendums in Minnetonka, said, "The District's citizens have supported technology referendums for over 30 years now, since 1992. Technology is constantly evolving and improving, and to utilize the latest instructional techniques and programs, the District must continue to improve in this area, as well."

About Minnetonka Public Schools

Minnetonka School District is a high-performing public school district serving approximately 11,100 students in early childhood and preschool through grade 12, with six elementary schools, two middle schools, a high school, Tonka Online (a fully online K-12 school) and SAIL (a program for students with special needs ages 18-21 who are transitioning to independent life).

Nestled on the southern shores of Lake Minnetonka and including all or parts of 10 communities, this suburban community is a district of choice, attracting more than 4,100 students from more than 60 school districts in Minnesota. www.minnetonkaschools.org

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