

2.22.2016

Midland CMUSD #7 Referendum March 15, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are list of FAQ's from the Community Information Session held Saturday February 20,2016

1. The referendum on Tuesday, March 15th is in the amount of \$9.8-million dollars. The referendum includes a new PreK – grade 3 elementary school located on the site of the existing elementary school in Lacon, Illinois. The existing elementary school will be removed from the site.
2. If the referendum is not successful, the Midland School District is considering the option to remodel and build an elementary school addition at the existing Middle School located in Sparland, Illinois. The potential cost for this is \$4.1-million dollars. The State of Illinois provides for the school district to bond without going to referendum for this taxable amount. The \$4.1-million-dollar amount is determined with a formula based on an approved list of Health and Life safety projects identified at the current Elementary School.

The State if Illinois still must provide a full review and final approval of the \$4.1-million dollar amount if the referendum is not successful. It is possible this amount will be determined not to be adequate to build and remodel the space necessary to provide the number of comparable spaces equal to the existing elementary school spaces. In that event, the district will need to find an as yet undetermined additional amount of money, to satisfy the state requirements. This money could possibly come from District reserve funds, another public referendum, or trying to have the state approve additional Health and Life Safety dollars if other qualifying projects can be identified.

3. The costs to demolish and remove the existing elementary school in Lacon are not included in the referendum amount or in any other budget amount at this time. These costs will need to be paid for with funds from outside of the public referendum amount. The School Board has authorized the District Architects to draw up plans and take public bids to demo the existing elementary school.
4. It has been preliminarily determined that the water pressure available at the existing Middle School is adequate to handle the potential \$4.1 million dollar, 9-classroom addition. The existing water pressure is not adequate to handle the code required fire sprinkler system needed at the new classroom addition. Money has been included in the budget for a water storage tank and pumps to accommodate this fire protection system.
5. Whether the referendum is successful or not, the time frame to complete the design, approvals, and construction of either option is essentially the same. The new facilities are currently scheduled to be open for the fall semester of 2017.