

Blog – Operational Referendum 2025

On Monday, January 13, 2025, the Parkview Board of Education approved the following referendum question to be placed on the April 1, 2025:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Parkview School District, Rock County, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$750,000 per year for the 2025-2026 school year and the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including for staff compensation and educational programming.

What does this mean? This means that on April 1, 2025, the Board of Education is asking the electorate to approve a two-year non-recurring operational referendum in the amount of \$750,000 per year for the following purposes:

- 1) To provide wage increases to our staff, so that we can offer a salary, which is competitive with our neighboring school districts;
- 2) To move four (4) of our twenty (20) paraprofessionals from part-time to full-time status. This will allow us to use these four (4) professionals more hours each day to take care of some of our student needs. It will allow us to provide health and dental insurance benefits to these four (4) paraprofessionals.
- 3) To increase the co/extra-curricular stipends. This will allow us to provide wage increases to our coaches, advisors and individuals who do tasks, such as running the score clock, keeping the book, supervising the crowd, etc.
- 4) To restore the following staff positions that have been cut because of the past three (3) failed operational referendums:
 - a) Elementary School Counselor
 - b) Elementary Interventionist – Last year the Elementary School had two interventionists: one that worked in the area of math and the other that worked in the area of reading/language arts. We are asking to bring one of these interventionists back to assist our staff and students.
 - c) Junior/Senior High School math teacher
 - d) Junior/Senior High School interventionist. Last year, the Junior/Senior High School had a math interventionist and a reading/English language arts interventions. We are asking to bring one of these interventionists back to assist our staff and students.
- 5) Increase the secretarial hours of the District Office secretary. Currently, the superintendent's/District Office secretary is part-time. With the District hiring a new superintendent, we would like to make this a full-time position.

Why is this amount lower than what was asked for in the prior operational referendum questions? The Board of Education understands that the public has voted down the last three (3) operational referendums and that the District needs to ask for additional funding to make our staff wages more competitive and restore some of the staff members that were cut because of necessary budget cuts. The Administrative Team was charged with bringing back a detailed plan to the Board of Education that contained what the Administrative Team felt were the extremely crucial areas of need that should be addressed. The Board agreed with our recommendations. The Board also decided to go for a two-year non-recurring referendum, so that we could

demonstrate to the public that the money asked for would be used exactly as stated. The Board is fully aware that if this referendum passes, they will need to go back to the electorate in two years in order to maintain the positions that were restored and also to reduce the number of positions that might have to cut from the District due to the lack of State funding.

In the near future, we will start putting together a plan to discuss these needs with the staff, parents and community members. Until that time, feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you might have about the referendum question or the referendum in general. The best way to contact me is through my email address at wanderson@email.parkview.k12.wi.us.