

November 30, 2023

Blog – Operational Referendum Survey Results

As I look out my window, I see that winter has left a thin blanket of white on the ground and the temperature has certainly gotten a little colder. November is coming to an end and the month of December will soon be here. As we go into the month of December, the Board of Education will be reviewing the results of the operational referendum survey and starting to work on putting together an operational referendum question for the April election based on your feedback. I would like to thank the over 400 individuals who responded to the survey your thoughts and opinions truly matter. Your responses are extremely helpful in guiding the Board of Education on this very important decision.

In this week’s blog, I will be sharing the overall results of the operational referendum survey. If you have not yet filled out the survey and would like to fill it out, please click on the following link and it will take you to the survey. The survey will still be open for a couple more weeks, so I encourage you to take the survey. Here is the link:

https://parkviewsd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e4dXP4gAssnGWAm?Source=Blog

Here is a list of items that received at least 50% support from respondents. The majority of respondents felt these items should either be put back into the budget because of cuts made to the 2023-2024 budget and those items which should be added to the budget to provide our students with more services and educational choices:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>% of Support</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Adding Back Two Bus Routes	50	\$106,000
1.5 Maintenance/Custodial Positions	57	\$ 80,000
Elementary Counselor	60	\$ 75,000
Two Teaching Positions	69	\$150,000
Restoring Curriculum Budget	62	\$ 8,000
Restoring Technology Budget	69	\$145,000
Restoring Stipends	60	\$ 40,000
Additional School Psychologist	56	\$ 80,000
Increasing Technology Budget	64	\$350,000
Adding Benefits to Non-Classified Staff	61	\$510,000
Increase Salary/Benefits by 10%	67	\$630,000
Increase Buildings and Grounds Budget by \$100,000	67	\$100,000
Family & Consumer Science Teacher	70	\$ 75,000
Technology Teacher	72	\$ 75,000
Foreign Language Teacher	55	\$ 75,000
½ Ag. Teacher	60	\$ 40,000
½ Business Education Teacher	65	\$ 40,000
½ Junior/Senior High School Counselor	53	\$ 40,000
Total		\$2,619,000

On Monday, December 4, the Finance Committee will be reviewing and discussing each of these items. The Board of Education will also be discussing the updated results of this survey at their

December 18 Board of Education meeting. When I review the numbers, I see some areas that can probably be reduced, such as the technology budget. When the referendum failed in April, the Board of Education needed to reduce the technology budget by \$145,000. This item got a great deal of support from the survey respondents. Another survey item asked individuals whether or not they would support increasing the technology budget by \$350,000. This also got a great deal of support from the respondents. I believe these two items show a great deal of support for increasing our technology budget, but we probably don't need to have \$495,000 in our technology budget, so this number can probably be reduced.

Over the next month, each of the Board committees and the full Board will review each item and eventually make a determination on which ones they will ask the community to support. One thing that I learned from the survey results is that I need to provide a fuller explanation to each of the items, so that people know what the dollar figure represents and why the item is important for the progress of the District. So over the next several weeks, I will be going into greater detail about many of the survey items. I will also be further breaking down the survey to discuss how different groups felt about different items.

I want to again thank everyone who has already completed the operational referendum survey and to encourage those who have not yet taken the survey to do so. I believe that in working together we can arrive at the best decisions for our District.