

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Mrs. Kari McGann



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Dear Parents and Community Members,

Presenting the two-question bond referendum to our community was a decision based on many factors, all that revolved around doing what is best for students, staff, faculty, and the community's investment in the school district's facilities. The unofficial results reflect that voters passed both bond referendum questions.

Unofficially, question number one voting resulted in 3,882 "yes" votes to 3,176 "no" votes with a difference of 706 votes between the "yes" votes and the "no" votes. Question number two voting resulted in 3,657 "yes" votes to 3,396 "no" votes with a difference of 261 votes between the "yes" and "no" votes. The ballots mailed to the county clerk's office are still being tabulated with results expected at the end of the month.

I am so very grateful for the community members that came out in support of the two-question bond referendum. The passing of the bond referendum authorizes the selling of bonds to raise funds for the school projects outlined explicitly in the referendum projects. The bond debt is paid off by the taxpayers over 20 years. You can find online news reports about the referendum passing here and here.

Question 1: Safety, Security, and Structure Upgrades

Question 1 included upgrades for all schools, including the following:

- Additional security cameras;
- Security equipment;
- A 21st-Century communication system (telephone and security system);
- Door/alarm upgrades including door ajar notifications systems;
- Roof replacements at all schools with the exception of J.P. Case Middle School (its roof is in good shape);
- Window replacements primarily at RFIS;
- Parking lot repairs; and
- Sidewalk repairs.

Question 2: Indoor Air Quality (HVAC and dehumidification systems)

Question 2 included heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), and humidity control measures for five schools. (J.P. Case already has these measures in place.)

The successful passage of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District referendum has involved many members of the community coming together to support the measure, including school board members,

Strategic Goals:

Goal Area #1: Academics/Curriculum "The district will implement a data driven, multi-year curriculum and professional development plan that increases teachers' instructional skills and ensure that every child has access to materials and a curriculum that is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards." (Monitor and adjust the multi-year plan; Conduct data driven needs assessments and evaluations to ensure the efficacy of the implementation process for new curriculum materials & professional development; continue to utilize a classroom based professional development program focused on collaboration, demonstration lessons, & reflective dialogue.)

Goal Area #2: <u>Special Services</u> "Review the assessment of the structure, procedure, and processes completed by the Superintendent to develop an action plan to address areas of deficit." (Align staffing ad programs based on student needs; Improve and enhance early intervention & transitional programs; Identify student/faculty mental health issues & implement a systematic approach of support; Utilize both functional & discrepancy student information when determining eligibility)

Goal Area #3: Resource Management "Ensure that fiscal, facility & human resources are allocated to meet district needs." (Identify & analyze community demographics; Assess impact of demographic trends on district operations; Identify district priorities; Plan & implement consistent & effective processes; review department procedures & modify practices for efficiencies.)

Goal Area #4: <u>Communications and Leadership</u> "Cultivate relationships that build trust & respect with all stakeholders." (Engage others with inclusivity & hear all perspectives; Communicate with transparency to ensure understanding through humility; Provide consistent leadership to maintain civility to move the district forward.)



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administrators, teachers, advisory council members, business leaders, parents, and students. It takes a lot of dedication, time, and hard work to pass a bond issue. I am grateful for the driving forces behind our school bond referendum. Many people were out into the community, building relationships and keeping people informed about what was happening in the district.

As your superintendent, our schools are the focal point of my conversations with our community. I am working hard to continue to forge positive relationships with the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District community. My communication with the district continues to be honest. Prior to the referendum passing I shared with property owners how much taxes would increase if the bond issue passed. You can find that information here. I will be keeping all of you and our community informed through additional updates, pictures, written communication, and drone aerial footage of the projects during completion.

Next Steps:

In consultation with bond counselors, we expect to have the Board adopt the authorizing bond resolution at its November 25, 2019 meeting, and schedule the sale of the bond the week of December 9. We are working towards the bonds sold and closed before the end of the calendar year to ensure the District receives its debt service aid quickly.

We will begin a timeline of activities and keep the community informed through the monthly newsletters available here and the Superintendent's Roundtable Discussions here. The referendum link on the District homepage will remain active with updates posted on the link here. As I have more information I will share with the community.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kari McGann Superintendent of Schools Flemington-Raritan Regional School District

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