

REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

Listed below are the District responses to questions/rumors submitted through the [“Rumor Has It” Google Form](#). Please continue to check back to learn the facts about the upcoming Referendum.

FACT: Due to the failure of the 2021 Referendum we were forced to place two (2) teachers on Unrequested Leave of Absence and One (1) probationary teacher’s contract was non-renewed. Other teaching staff leaving the District were either resignations or retirements and these positions were not refilled. The burden was not carried solely by teachers, as the District also cut or reduced positions in support staff. Other budgetary cuts came through programming and non-personnel related items.

FACT: The School Board of ISD 690 set the Mission and Vision in 2017 to create a **“future of excellence”** by providing a learning community that is personalized, innovative, and secure for all learners. In order to see this come to fruition, ISD 690 began to focus on training teachers on current practices of a 21st century school. This includes training in educational technology, investigating best practice methods, providing professional development opportunities, troubleshooting educational technology, and coordinating and organizing curriculum with teachers to keep current with MN academic standards.

FACT: While school is in session for students 9 months of the year, a large amount of work needs to be completed after the end of a school year and prepped for the following school year. This includes and is not limited to scheduling, State and Federal reporting, summer school, extended school year, Community Education activities throughout the summer, enrollments of new students, communication with other schools regarding transfer students, Committee and School Board meetings, offboarding of current staff and onboarding of new, election duties when applicable, trainings, and ordering.

FACT: We value all our employees at ISD 690 and recognize the fact that a significant amount of time, energy, and effort was expended educating our students during a global pandemic therefore all district bargaining units received well deserved raises. Here at ISD 690 we feel that to retain and attract high quality staff, we must pay competitive salaries.

FACT: The District has been operating on zero additional dollars for almost 10 years. What the COVID money did was to stay afloat an additional year without having to make cuts during a global pandemic. The school district is audited to the penny by an outside agency annually, and the District has received a clean audit. Audits are

public records and can be viewed at any time in the District Office and also available on our website.

FACT: In the event of an unsuccessful passage of the Operating Levy in November, additional cuts will need to be made. Out of respect to our current employees, we choose not to personally identify names and/or positions at this time. Should individuals and positions need to be cut, those will be made public at a School Board meeting in the spring. The District has identified areas that would be seriously considered on the document linked [here](#).

FACT: in the event of a successful passage of the Operating Levy in November, the current dollar amount will significantly reduce the need for additional cuts. Staffing numbers are reviewed annually based on enrollment numbers. Providing opportunities for our students is our number one priority.

FACT: ISD 690 has not had a voter approved operating levy in nearly 10 years. Any elected school board can approve asking the public for additional funds.

FACT: A building bond is different from an operating levy. The community agreed in 2016 that additional space was needed for our earliest learners. These monies do not pay for the operating costs of the additional footage. The building is a one time cost while operating costs are ongoing. While we receive State funding for our K-12 learners, our early learners are tuition based, dependent upon family income.

FACT: We believe in equitable access to education for **all** learners. Having all early learners in one location allows us to better utilize and share services and programming.