

CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

15 Brookside Avenue Cresskill, NJ 07626

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Mr. Michael Burke
Superintendent

January 24, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am reaching out to urge you to make your opinions known during **this Tuesday**'s bond referendum, which requests a funding path to restore our middle and high school. The Board of Education has worked tirelessly toward consulting experts and providing information to the community about the importance of this bond referendum.

Based on questions that came in during our community forum and other conversations with community members, I believe that there is a misconstrued idea that state officials can push this project forward and community members are 'taking a stand' until that happens. But when all is said and done, we believe the quickest way to get our students back into their school is this bond referendum. There is so much at stake. This bond referendum puts Cresskill's future in the hands of Cresskill voters, not state officials.

Polls will be open to registered voters from **6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25**. An in-person voter can only cast a ballot at the specific poll assigned for his or her home address.

Poll locations are:

Districts #1, #2 - Cresskill Community Center

Districts #3, #4 - Senior Citizen Center

Districts #5, #6 - Borough Hall

If you're not sure which District you are in, search the internet for "NJ my polling place" to get to the state's Polling Place Search tool.

Vote By Mail ballots must be postmarked by January 25, the same date as in-person polling; they cannot be brought to a polling place. A registered voter also can ask for a provisional ballot at the in-person poll if he did not receive a ballot in the mail, did not send it in, or are told for any other reason that he is not eligible to vote. This allows a voter's opinion to be counted after their eligibility is verified and the mailed-in ballots are processed.

What we learned by talking to state and local officials is that there's no other way for us to get or borrow the money we need as a public school or to move forward. We have exhausted all other resources, and this is it. After state and federal funding, the costs to Restore Cresskill Schools would add \$83 per year to the

property tax bill of a home assessed at Cresskill's average (\$708,860). Estimates are based on a 20-year payback.

If voters approve the referendum on Tuesday, work contracts could be awarded by the end of February and renovations could begin in March. Our targeted goal is to get students back into school by Fall 2022. If voters reject the referendum, the district would not have up-front funding to begin the process of getting students back into their building and away from their current remote/hybrid learning situation.

Again, I urge you to educate yourself and prepare to voice your opinion in Tuesday's bond referendum. To learn more, please visit RestoreCresskillSchools.com.

Sincerely,
Michael Burke
Superintendent of Schools