

**Linn Joint 6 School District
W4094 South Lakeshore Drive
Lake Geneva, WI 53147**

September 2020

Dear Voters,

We are reaching out to you to let you know that Reek School will be going to referendum on November 3, 2020. We would like to explain the need for this. The short explanation is that our operating expenses continue to increase and the revenue we receive from state and taxpayer dollars are not sufficient.

Revenue limits and the Wisconsin school funding formula do not provide adequate revenue for school districts. A local referendum provides districts and their school boards the means to ask local taxpayers for additional funding.

Reek School is a very “bare bones” operation. In our three-year-old kindergarten through grade eight structure, we have just one teacher per grade. Our “specials” teachers (art, music, library, band, computers, physical education) for the most part are part-time employees. Our special education staff and business manager are also part-time employees. We have very little to trim!

Taxpayers indicate an understanding of the financial dilemma facing schools. Over the past six years in Wisconsin, school referenda have passed at historically high rates. The April 2019 election showed that the school referendum for operating expenses passed at an 85% approval rating. In the recent April 2020 election voters demonstrated their commitment to schools by approving 90% of the 57 referendum questions.

On November 3, 2020 we will ask voters to approve a recurring referendum of \$200,000 per year. This means that we are asking you to approve an increase of \$200,000 to our tax base.

The financial impact on taxpayers will be \$3.00 per \$100,000 assessed home value.

Please see the projected ONE TIME increase which would be seen on the 2020 tax bills:

\$ 7.50 - one-time tax increase for a home valued at \$250,000

\$ 9.00 - one-time tax increase for a home valued at \$300,000

\$ 10.50 - one-time tax increase for a home valued at \$350,000

\$ 12.00 - one-time tax increase for a home valued at \$400,000

We will hold several information meetings regarding the referendum and our needs. All meetings will be held at Reek School in the gym; for everyone's safety, we will be attentive to social distancing. The dates and times for these meetings are:

Thursday, September 17 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 PM

Thursday, October 1 at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:00 PM

We hope you can attend one of the information meetings so we can answer any questions you might have. We also are hopeful that we can count on you to help us communicate this information.

Reek School is a very special place. It has a long history with deep connections to the community. Reek has a very fine reputation with academics, technology, athletics and the arts. We have received the award of High Achieving School from the Department of Public Instruction for academic success four times in recent years. Passing the referendum for operating expenses will allow us to continue our excellence.

Please call any of us or the school if you have questions (262-248-4120). You can also check our website for more information as well as an informative video - www.linn6.k12.wi.us

.Sincerely,

Reek School Board Members

Amy Langelund, Alex Palmer, Bill Pearce, Jake Pollock, Ryan Southwick