



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



### **1. WHY ARE THERE 2 QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT AND HOW ARE THEY GOING TO AFFECT MY TAXES?**

- a. The first referendum is for a \$50 million dollar building project. This money will be used to build 4 kindergarten centers and add classrooms to several elementary school buildings. The 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum is to add \$3 million dollars to the existing operating budget for transportation costs as well as staffing.
- b. For the average homeowner (\$122,700), it will mean a tax increase of \$9.81 per month to maintain the budgets needed for good schools and meet the student capacity for years to come. This is less than the cost of 1 pizza per month.

### **2. WHAT ABOUT THE REFERENDUM THAT PASSED IN 2011?**

- a. In 2011, voters approved 2 referendums. The building fund was used to create secure entry ways in all schools and to expand the high schools. The operating budget referendum made up for lost state and federal funds and saved a large list of programs and positions.
- b. Every 7 years the operating fund referendum must be renewed by voters – this vote will renew that early and should meet the building and operating budget needs until 2022.

### **3. IF THE REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS, WHAT HAPPENS?**

- a. Due to continued student growth failure to pass the building referendum will result in:
  - Adding 20 more classroom trailers to the existing 26 already on site
  - Art and Music elementary classrooms will be taken over as classrooms and those teachers will go to mobile carts.
  - Elementary gyms will be converted to classrooms
  - Elementary media centers will be converted to classrooms
  - Average class sizes will increase in all elementary grade levels
- b. The property tax cap has caused many schools districts to lose millions of dollars from their transportation budget and other funds. Perry Township is not alone in facing this situation. If the operation budget referendum fails to pass, then more money will have to be taken away from teaching positions and used for transportation and other funds and class sizes will need to be increased. OR.... Perry Township would need to begin exploring reducing bus transportation options similar to other school districts.

### **4. WHERE IS THE GROWTH COMING FROM?**

Perry Township Schools is facing student growth due to a number of factors that have a created a “perfect storm”. The School Board is trying to address this in an open, pro-active manner. Regardless of the cause of the growth, Perry Township Schools is required to educate every student in the township. Schools that exceed their capacity affect every student.

- a. As an A rated school system Perry Township Schools has a very positive reputation in Central Indiana. Because of this, families from around the area have chosen to move to Perry Township. This is a very positive thing – it helps maintain property values and keeps homes from sitting vacant, as is the case in other townships.
- b. Many refugees have also been placed in the township by the federal government and service agencies. Although this has contributed to the growth for the schools, the refugees have also brought many positives to the township – opening businesses, buying homes and supporting the local economy.
- c. The district is also becoming younger. As the older residents sell their homes, many young families are buying them and moving into the area.

### **5. WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS AND DANGERS OF HAVING CLASSROOM TRAILERS?**

- a. They are supposed to be temporary, not permanent.
- b. Alienates students since they are not in the main school building.
- c. Loss of instructional time for restroom breaks and moving to and from the building.
- d. De-values homes due to the appearance.
- e. Safety and Security – these trailers are not connected to the secure school building – in case of a lock down or severe weather.

### **6. AS A PERRY TOWNSHIP RESIDENT WHO HAS NO CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN IN THE PERRY SCHOOLS, WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?**

- a. It is well documented that the quality of the local school system significantly impacts the property values of a community. Real Estate agents say these are the first questions they receive...how good are the schools and how much crime is in the area.
- b. Perry Township residents have always enjoyed the benefits of an excellent school system, which has been a reason many people buy homes in the district.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.voteyesforperryschools.com](http://www.voteyesforperryschools.com)**