

## **Red Lake Falls School District sets goals for 2015-16 and beyond.**

- 1) Student Achievement as identified in World's Best Workforce Report (as this is reviewed & refined by the school staff).
- 2) Financial stability to include referendum and facility improvements.
- 3) Retention of current staff and continue to hire high quality staff.

At this time I would like to explain goal number 2- Financial stability to include referendum and facility improvements, since we are asking for approval of an increased Operating Referendum on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. In review of that I would like to remind you that an operating referendum is money generated to help pay for the general operating expenses of a school district- from books to buses and everything in between. This also includes paying the staff that do a wide range of duties to educate students and support those efforts from safely delivering students to and from school, to cleaning buildings to reporting to the State and Federal education offices on how and what we are doing.

In the goal "Financial stability to include referendum and facility improvements" you can see there are two parts; the operating referendum and facility improvements. Right now we are working on the operating referendum, so we have the funding to run the schools. But we have also been gathering information and putting together plans for facility improvements. The board has meet many times, and there have been two meetings for the public, and the staff. And yes there are facility needs, with many of those being at the Elementary School, but the High School has needs also. As we continue to develop facility plans for the future of the schools there will continue to be opportunities for your involvement. The funding for school improvements will need to be addressed as well. However for now the plan is to make the last payment on the Lafayette High School which is due in February of 2016, that money has been collected through local property taxes since the new high school was built in 1997. The plan is to generate dollars for facility repairs and improvements from the same tax base that is done paying for the high school, so as not to increase the taxes for facilities.

School property taxes are spread on two different classifications of property. The RMV Referendum Market Value is all property except for agricultural land (does include the house, garage and one acre) and seasonal recreation land, this is the operating referendum. The second is on NTC Net Tax Capacity which is all the property, this is where the the High School was paid for and what any new facility improvements would be. These are quite different, and so is how the tax money collected from these two classifications can be used by the school.

So in summary, the General Operating referendum increase that is up for public vote on Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> is for the general operating expenses to run the school. It is a property tax but does not include agricultural land (does include the house, garage and 1 acre) or seasonal recreation property.

The School district will be making the final bond payment for the High School in February and the community should be very proud of the support they have provided in building and paying

for that new facility. With the final payment completed the school along with staff and the community have begun making plans to make other facility improvements, with the intention of not increasing those taxes.

These taxes are on two different property classifications, and the money must be used for different expenses.

There will be a public meeting on Wednesday October 7, 2015, 7:30 PM at the J.A. Hughes Elementary School to go over this operating referendum information and to answer questions. However, if you have a question please contact me at the school to get accurate information.

Sincerely,

Jim Guetter  
Superintendent