

December 5, 2005

School Board to decide on 2006 bond referendum election at Tuesday, December 6 meeting

At a special school board meeting on Tuesday, December 6, the School Board will decide whether or not to have a bond referendum election in 2006. The meeting, scheduled at 8:00 pm in the Board of Education Building, will follow the 7:00 pm annual Truth in Taxation Hearing.

A community-staff Facilities Task Force presented its findings and recommendations on district facilities to the Board on November 8. The Board discussed the Task Force report at a special meeting and work session on November 22 and is now prepared to make its decision about a bond referendum.

The task force plan addresses long-term needs, including substantial enrollment growth, aging facilities, deferred maintenance and renovation, land-locked and under-sized sites, new construction, and a new K-3 elementary school.

The Board is expected to endorse the task force plan as well as to approve additional construction at Woodcrest Elementary School, a concept that was previously discussed, but not a viable option at the time of the Task Force study. The plan now includes adding early childhood programs to the Woodcrest site, following a verbal purchase agreement with the owner of the house in the middle of the Woodcrest playground. The Department of Education facilities specialist has given the District tentative permission to add a wing to Woodcrest, connecting the two wings at the south end of the building.

The November 8 report to the School Board identified school district needs totaling approximately \$93.5 million. With the Woodcrest additions, the proposal stands at \$95.9 million. If approved at a future election, a referendum based upon this plan would mean a net tax increase of less than \$16/month for the average district homeowner.

A summary of the Task Force report can be found at:

<http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/District/News/Insider/EducationTodayUpdate2Nov.8TaskForceFinalReporttoBoard2.pdf>

The Facilities Study/2006 Bond Referendum section of the district's web site, on the home page of www.springlakeparkschools.org, contains numerous facilities study updates and will continue to provide updates on a bond referendum if the School Board approves an election in 2006.