

Stillwater Area School District

2019 Residential Study

The Morris Leatherman Company

Key Positive Findings

2019 Stillwater Area School District Study

- ❑ Strong endorsement of teachers, curriculum, programming and classroom education.
- ❑ The BOLD plan and closing schools are no longer the most serious issue facing the School District.
- ❑ Growing concern the District is not adequately funded.
- ❑ Perception that housing and student enrollment growth has increased and will continue to; at the same time the perception is the District does not have enough space in areas experiencing growth.
- ❑ Trust in the accuracy of demographic reports.
- ❑ Support for a property tax increase for all operating and bond items tested, except the construction of a new school.

Key Negative Findings

2019 Stillwater Area School District Study

- ❑ The overall School District atmospherics, such as quality of education and financial spending, are stagnant, if not declining.
- ❑ Continued concern and growing uncertainty about the School Board and District Administration.
- ❑ Increasing property tax hostility.
- ❑ Lack of parent enthusiasm towards the District as a whole.
- ❑ North/South divide on support levels for bond referendum components tested, especially construction of a new elementary school.

2020 Election Year

2019 Stillwater Area School District Study

- ❑ Communication with residents about the referendum request will be difficult and cluttered:
 - ❑ A spring referendum will need to be communicated during the March Presidential Primary.
 - ❑ A fall referendum will need to be communicated during the Presidential General Election.
 - ❑ “An uninformed voter is a no voter.”
- ❑ Turnout is completely dependent on the current national political headwinds.
- ❑ The ability to recruit volunteers for a campaign will be limited due to the other campaign volunteer opportunities.
- ❑ A local election can easily become nationalized by political events outside the control of the School District.

2021 Election Year

2019 Stillwater Area School District Study

- Communication with residents about the referendum request will be much simpler due to the lack of ballot issues.
 - Residents will have more information to make the cost-benefit assessment about the referendum request.
 - During the interim, the District can focus on favorably reacquainting itself with voters.
- Turnout is completely based on the referendum request.
- The ability to recruit volunteers for campaign will be not be limited due to the other campaign volunteer opportunities.



Current Needs for School Board Consideration

9.18.19

Need	Cost Estimate	Type	Investment
Curriculum	\$500,000 - \$1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials and training (Math, Sci, SS, ELA) 	One time and/or staggered
English Learners	\$372,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase staffing to cover increasing needs (both teacher and paraprofessional needs) Potential transportation for Newcomer Center/cluster program Support for compliance, reporting, and scheduling 	Ongoing
Pathways Programming	\$1-2.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending upon programming and scheduling decision 	Ongoing
Professional Development	\$500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplement training cost for curriculum. New and ongoing training for Responsive Classroom, Developmental Design, BARR, Middle School Model, Trauma-informed instruction, SEL, etc. 	Ongoing
Social/Emotional Learning (SEL), Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Intervention	\$963,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.0 FTE math and reading intervention at each secondary building Additional 1.0 FTE of SEL support at each secondary building Support for program alignment 	Ongoing
Special Education	\$284,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add support, above allocation, for increased areas of need Support for compliance, reporting and scheduling 	Ongoing
Technology	\$2.2 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement cycle for staff and student laptops, interactive boards, and infrastructure 	Ongoing

**The numbers provided are general estimates for discussion purposes only, and are based on programming assumptions at this time. They DO NOT include all potential costs which may be a part of final programming decisions.

Referendum Timing Options and Considerations

	Feb 2020	April 2020	May 2020	Aug 2020	Nov 2020
Operating Levy	Resolution adopted 90 days prior to first election. Notice of election given 74 days in advance of election	Special Election: MAIL BALLOT ONLY			General Election (Align with general election = \$0)
Bond	Resolution adopted 74 days in advance of election	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000+)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Aligns with state primary election = \$0)	General Election (Aligns with general election = \$0)
Capital Projects Referendum	Required to submit review and comment 86 days in advance of election if not for technology. Technology only does not require review and comment	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000+)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Aligns with primary election = \$0)	General Election (Align with general election = \$0)

NOTE: Per Washington County, Feb. and April 2020 elections may have additional costs beyond \$74,000 due to overlap with March primaries resulting in more equipment rental

	Feb 2021	April 2021	May 2021	Aug 2021	Nov 2021
Operating Levy	Special Election: MAIL BALLOT ONLY				General Election (Estimated cost = \$74,000) <i>Last chance to renew</i>
Bond	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	General Election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)
Capital Projects Referendum	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	Special election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)	General Election (Estimated cost = \$74,000)

Note: Per Washington County, election costs in 2021 may be reduced from estimate if coordinated with city/township/county elections

DRAFT --- Based on Operating Referendum/Bond November 2020: Month By Month Timeline

Special election in Feb, April, May or August would require different timeline

Month	Date	Meeting/Event	Activity	Assigned To:
Sept 2019	9/19/19	School Board work session	School board priorities discussion	
	9/26/19	School Board Meeting	Community Survey Results presented	
Oct 2019	10/10/19	School Board Meeting		
	10/24/19	School Board Meeting		
	10/29/19	School Board work session	Worksession to discuss survey results, operating levy considerations <i>Goal: review survey data and priorities, consider what this means for levy (renew or increase and timing)</i>	
Nov 2019	TBD	Budget Committee	Budget Committee assumptions developed	
	11/7/19	School Board work session	Worksession to discuss budget/levy considerations <i>Goal: Consider operating levy parameters (how much, what for, when)</i>	
	11/14/19	School Board Meeting		
	11/21/19	School Board Meeting		
Dec 2019	12/12/19	School Board Meeting	Revised budget and budget committee assumptions	
	TBD	School Board work session	Worksession to discuss budget/levy considerations <i>Goal: Develop operating levy parameters (how much, what for, when)</i>	
	TBD	School Board work session	Worksession update on long-range plan development with Cuningham	
	12/19/19	School Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School board decision on operating levy parameters (how much, what for, when) If needed, approve new/different polling places (Last day available to designate new or different polling places is 12/31/19) 	

Updated 10/28/19

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Jan 2020	1/14/20	Community Design Team (CDT)	CDT Workshop #7: Long-range facilities plan finalized by CDT	
	TBD	School Board Meeting or Worksession	Review long-range facilities plan recommendation	
	TBD	Community feedback	Community engagement: Gather feedback on long-range facilities plan Online feedback (Survey??)	
	TBD	School Board Meeting	School board decision on long-range facilities plan recommendation	
Feb 2020	TBD	School board meeting		
	TBD	School board meeting		
Mar 2020	Week of 3/2/20 TBD	School Board work session	Work session (4 hours AM) with Cuningham, Baird <i>Goal: Discuss bond considerations, financial implications of bond and levy</i>	
	TBD	School board meeting		
	TBD	School Board work session	Work session to discuss <i>Goal: Develop levy/bond question</i>	
	3/26/20	School Board Meeting	School board decision on levy/bond question and direction to create ballot questions	
	3/27/20		Launch Levy/Bond website, social media campaign, blog	
April - Nov <i>Push April/May; Sept-Nov</i>	LEVY/BOND INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN <i>(more detailed tasks to be added ie. community, staff and parent presentations; print materials, etc.)</i>			
April 2020	4/9/20	School Board Meeting		

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Special election in Feb, April, May or August would require different timeline

	4/23/20	School Board Meeting		
May 2020	5/14/20	School Board Meeting		
	5/28/20	School Board Meeting		
June 2020	6/11/20	School Board Meeting		
	6/25/20	School Board Meeting		
July 2020	7/9/20	School Board Meeting	Board decision on review and comment	
	7/16/20		Preferred date to submit review and comment request to Commissioner of Education (last possible date to submit review and comment is 8/9/20)	
Aug 2020	8/13/20	School Board Meeting	Board decision on ballot language (8/21/20 is last day to adopt resolution calling the referendum election; Last day to provide written notice to the Commissioner of Education and county auditors which must include the date of election and title and language for each ballot question)	
	8/27/20	School Board Meeting		
Sept 2020	9/4-10/14		Window to publish summary of the commissioner's review and comment	
	9/10/20	School Board Meeting		
	9/18/20		First day to apply for absentee ballots; window for absentee voting is 9/18-11/2	
	9/24/20	School Board Meeting		
Oct 2020	10/4-10/19		Window to deliver by first class mail to each taxpayer a notice of the referendum and the proposed revenue increase	
Oct 2020	10/8/20	School Board Meeting	Board to adopt resolution to appoint election judges (last day to appoint judges is 10/9/20)	
	10/19/20		Last day to deliver a copy of the taxpayer notice to the Commissioner of Education and the County Auditor	

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Special election in Feb, April, May or August would require different timeline

	10/20/20		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Publish first Notice of Special Election in official newspaper● Last day to send prepared notice to those voting in a combined polling place	
	10/22/20	School Board Meeting		
	10/24/20		Post notice of election in administrative office of the district	
	10/27/20		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Publish second Notice of Special Election in official newspaper● Publish notice where ballots will be counted	
	10/30/20		Last day to post sample ballot in administrative offices	
Nov 2020	11/2/20		Last day to apply for absentee ballot	
	11/3/20	Election Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Post "VOTE TODAY" signs or banners</u> at all precincts / polling places.● No public meetings or school events may be held between 6 and 8 p.m. on Election Day.● Don't forget to vote!	