

**Grove PTO Meeting**  
**1-10-08**  
*School Referendum Discussion*

**Welcome** – Mike Trask, President

- Next meeting is Thursday, 2-07-08

**Announcements:**

- Haley Carter is still being treated for cancer. Blogs are out there for everyone to visit & read. Let's keep her in our prayers.

**Treasurer's Report by Amy Davis & Mike Trask:**

- Culver's Night did very well! We made \$254.
- Sprit Wear, did well.
- Un-Raiser made \$82.90, could do better here.
- Market Day we are working on better promotion.
- Family Fun Night is 2/29/08. Donations for baskets should be coming & room parents are asking for donations.
- Hospitality: Christmas breakfast went well. Teacher's say thank you & had a wonderful time.

**Guest Speaker: Superintendent Dr. Niehaus – School Referendum Discussion**

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Referendum: We have endorsement by city council & chamber of government affairs, economic development endorsement & voter's endorsement. He asked the parents/teachers to think about our future & how the community will look in the future. We need to reinvest in the schools & neighborhoods. We believe the referendum can make that difference.

**Questions from the parents/teachers:**

1) *Fairview School, how would you improve this school?* Mainly by use of replacements. Improve the looks of the existing school, more interior improvements. Our biggest concern is safety & security. Separate cars & buses when entering & exiting the school. Provide better security inside the building by locking down our buildings differently. Use scan cards, possibly, when entering the school. Provide safe school routes.

2) *What happens if the referendum does not pass?* We'll come back in November to discuss.

3) *There will be changes to the older schools in the meantime but we have new neighborhoods being belt with new schools, what happens to the old schools?* When we

redistrict & boundary, we'll have to push more people to the inner center & fill up the existing schools.

4) *At what point do we know where our children will attend which school?* Probably in 2010.

**Guest Speaker: CAC Steve Watts**

- Provided a rundown on the referendum.
- Informing voters of Unit 5 with referendum.
- There will be two question's on the ballot:
  - 1) Building bonds for new schools
  - 2) Payment of those new schools.

Why Now?

- Increase Student population, average growth rate is 3000 students per year.
- Maintenance
- Security & technology issues

Results of last referendum:

- new high school
- remodel of schools
- new additions to existing schools

Projected Needs:

- 2 new elementary schools
- Expansion of Sugar Creek
- 1 new middle school

New School priorities:

- Maximize learning
- Inclusive practices
- Technology
- Safety & security

Sugar Creek:

- includes additions, renovations

Renovations to existing elementary schools:

- 8 schools

Where will the money actually go if referendum passes?

*See project budget, provided by Steve Watts*

Tax Impact to you:

Total of \$86 per year (\$100,000 home)  
Total of \$285 per year (\$300,000 home)

If it doesn't pass:

- It will be on November ballot
- We'll see more re-districting of schools
- Larger classroom sizes

*Steve asked the parent's & teacher's how they can assist with informing voters about referendum:*

1. Canvassing: Commit to 10 homes to go door to door. Need 21 more volunteers. 1/19, 1/26 & 2/2 from 9-1 to canvas homes.
2. Signs: place yard signs in front yard, provide campaign button, handout material or hang on door.
3. Vote: go vote.

**Questions from parent's & teachers for Steve Watts:**

- 1) Can we take extra signs? Yes.
- 2) Who will be eligible to vote? Registered voters in the Unit 5 district.

For more information on the referendum, go to:  
**expand&excel.org or contact Steve Watts h# 664-6619**

**Drawing Winner & Closing:** President, Mike Trask gave away two gift certificates to parents for attending the meeting.