

CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*One Lincoln Drive
Cresskill, NJ 07626
(201) 227-7791, Fax: (201) 567-7976*

Mr. Michael Burke
Superintendent

September 19, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Thank you to all that attended last night's Referendum Fair at Cresskill Middle/High School. It was a great night that provided information to the public on next Tuesday's Referendum Vote. I wanted to share some of the most frequently asked questions from last night to provide clarification for your informed decision.

Question: How much will the referendum cost?

Answer: The cost is even lower than originally projected. After the final numbers have been received by the State of New Jersey, the cost per average assessed household (\$606,000) in Cresskill is now \$13.75 per month.

Cresskill Board of Education			
Proposed Project Cost			
30 Year Bond Issue			
Proposed Project Cost	Debt Service Aid Amount		
\$12,466,400			\$2,906,540
	Assessed Value of Home	Annual Cost to Taxpayer	Monthly Cost to Taxpayer
	\$ 200,000	\$ 54.00	\$ 4.50
	300,000	82.00	6.83
	400,000	109.00	9.08
	500,000	136.00	11.33
<i>Average Home Assessment</i>	<i>606,000</i>	<i>165.00</i>	<i>13.75</i>
	700,000	190.00	15.83
	800,000	218.00	18.17

Assumes an interest rate of 3.00% for 30 Years. Rates are estimates and subject to market fluctuations.

Debt Service Aid is calculated at 40% of eligible costs of \$7,266,350.

Based on a 2017 Borough Assessed Valuation of \$1,792,319,500.

The Cresskill Schools will utilize the student learning standards to promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be life-long learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.

Question: What is the benefit of passing the referendum for the Middle School and High School?

Answer: Cresskill Middle and High School has experienced incredible growth over the last nine years as well. There are many classes with over 30 students, which is a very challenging educational environment for 11 to 14 year old children. If the referendum is approved, the two preschool classes will be moved out of the Middle/High School building, freeing up 16 extra classes (two rooms times 8 periods per day). This would allow the largest classes in the high school and middle school to be reduced to reasonable sizes. Without the passage of a referendum, the preschool classes must stay in the high/middle school.

Question: Why can't an addition be built onto the Middle/High School?

Answer: Due to Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, we are not permitted to add any additional structures or buildings to the existing Middle/High School property. We are fortunate that this project would be connected to the Edward H. Bryan School which allows us to share services (administrative, custodial, etc.). A new stand-alone building would be significantly more expensive.

Question: Why are the roofs and windows of both elementary schools included in the referendum?

Answer: The Cresskill School District is eligible to receive 40% of the cost for replacing the roofs and windows upon the successful passage of a referendum. This translates to a \$1.2 million reduction of the \$3.0 million cost of these projects. If we tried to address the projects without a referendum, the roofs and windows would cost a full \$3 million, and would need to be addressed over several years with cuts to our annual budget.

Thank you to all who attended last night. Please remember to vote next **Tuesday, September 26th**! Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Kind Regards,
Michael Burke
Superintendent of Schools

The Cresskill Schools will utilize the student learning standards to promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be life-long learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.