



Save the Date...December 8 **BTSD Bond Referendum Newsletter**

November 2015

***Improved Buildings...Successful Students...
Strong Community***

We take pride in our schools!

Message from...

The Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dear Burlington Township Families:

"Save the Date...December 8!" Our families have heard the call and in true Falcon fashion are seeking more information so they are able to make an informed decision. This newsletter includes important details to help our families make an informed voting decision on December 8th.

The Board and Administration have been diligent stewards of our community's assets. Our buildings are well maintained, secure and welcoming. Over the last 7 years, there have been improvements utilizing savings and grant funds from the state, federal and other sources. By matching those grants, the district was able to accomplish the many projects listed in the Completed Projects Document. Some of these projects include security cameras, window replacements, and HVAC installation.

The District does not anticipate the availability of more grants, however, we know that we will need to continue to renovate our schools to ensure the improvement of our buildings to help students be successful and to maintain our strong community. If successful, this referendum would fund several projects over the next few years. These funds cannot be used to lower class size or for any other instructional needs. We can only use these funds for capital improvements.

The question is, what does a \$10M bond proposal mean to my taxes? Of the \$10,114,107, the district is eligible for debt service aid in the amount of \$4,523,329. This means that the district would sell \$10M of bonds and as the principle and interest came due, the state would provide a portion of the debt to reduce the overall tax burden of Burlington Township families. New Jersey law requires that voters actively agree with the sale of debt. The district was careful in the timing of this referendum. We are asking now because current debt will begin to expire soon and the new debt from the 2015 referendum will not increase the debt service tax levy more than \$5 a year on the average assessed home.

We hope that you will take the information provided into consideration when you vote on December 8.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Ann Bell".

Mrs. Mary Ann Bell
Interim Superintendent of Schools



Make a decision about your child's learning environment. Please don't allow others to make the choice for you!

Vote December 8!



What will this cost me?

The largest increase will be less than

\$5

**a year for the average
assessed home.**

Schools and Community...Partners in Learning



Community Assets

Our facilities are constantly in use by our community. Our schools are used by all of our Boy and Girl Scout Troops, the BT Foundation, Family Associations and BT Recreation Teams, just to name a few. We host a variety of evening community events, and the Family Learning Series. Our PAC features Broadway caliber plays, exciting musicals, and outstanding concerts. Our fields are used to host various sporting events and it is important that we keep every athlete safe on our fields. It is important that we maintain our facilities so we can continue to host these events safely and with pride.

Hopkins Building

- Renovation of two sets of toilet rooms to provide compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements
- Parking lot repaving and drainage
- Irrigation of the fields used for sub-varsity soccer, baseball and football
- Replacement of the gym wood flooring and replacement of the bleachers



High School

- Partial roof replacement over M, A, B, C, E Wings
- Renovation of kitchen and cafeteria
- Replacement of the track and high jump
- Correct drainage at the football field
- Replacement of flooring and equipment in the weight room to protect students from potential athletic injuries
- Replacement of the main gym wood flooring and replacement of the bleachers
- Refurbishments in the Performing Arts Center, the PAC has served the district for 15 years. In another couple of years the age will begin to show and we will already be behind. This has long been the pride of the community, and these renovations are needed to ensure it will remain that way for another 15 years.



Middle School @ SS

- Irrigation of the fields which are used by the Recreation Department and our physical education classes
- Proper maintenance of fields reduces the risk of injuries to users of the fields
- Irrigation would be provided by on-site wells.





Fountain Woods School

- Restoration of canopy in the front of the building
- The canopy is showing signs of rust and deterioration, maintaining the canopy under this restoration will allow the district to avoid future more costly repairs or demolition.
- Measures would be taken to encase the upper support structure to reduce the deterioration in the future.

B. Bernice Young School

- Partial roof replacement over B, C, and E Wings
- Parking lot repaving and drainage
- Gym floor and bleachers



Top 10 Things to Know About the Referendum!

- 10 The Burlington Township School District has an important Bond Referendum vote on Tuesday, December 8th from 4-9 P.M. at the Young School, Hopkins Building, Middle School, and Beverly Road Firehouse.
- 9 An approved referendum will finance necessary improvements to all the buildings in the Burlington Township School District.
- 8 These improvements/maintenance are needed in order to bring the school up to appropriate standards and current codes.
- 7 The school district is expected to receive \$4.52 million in state debt service aid funds, which will cover MORE THAN HALF of the eligible cost.
- 6 The three biggest factors of home values besides location is police, safety and your schools.
- 5 Assuming a 10 year bond repayment and 3% interest rate, the largest increase will be less than \$5 a year on the average assessed home.
- 4 You can also submit your questions electronically and get your questions answered. Answers will be posted in our upcoming newsletters and also on our website. A special referendum website is currently under construction.
- 3 November 17th is the VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE for this election. If you are voting by mail, this is the deadline to register and request a mail in ballot. Vote by Mail Application
- 2 Your vote counts. Cast an informed Vote on December 8th.
- 1 These improvements are a commitment to our children and an investment in our community.

What Will the Referendum Cost?

Assuming a 10 year bond repayment and 3% interest rate, the largest increase will be **less than \$5 a year** on the average assessed home.

Fiscal Year End	Existing Debt	TAX on Avg Assessed Home - Debt only	Proposed Net New Debt	Total NET Debt including Proposed New Debt	TAX on Avg Assessed Home - Debt Old and New	Change in YOUR TAXES FOR DEBT SERVICE (average assessed home) as compared to 2016 year
6/30/2016	4,511,025.00	467.23		3,488,805.00	467.23	NO CHANGE
6/30/2017	4,474,050.00	463.38	49,573.00	3,509,781.71	468.51	1.28
6/30/2018	4,411,650.00	456.93	138,716.00	3,550,664.85	471.30	4.07
6/30/2019	4,087,900.00	423.40	443,390.00	3,604,953.16	469.33	2.10
6/30/2020	3,324,200.00	344.31	727,443.00	3,298,363.26	419.65	-47.58
6/30/2021	1,694,225.00	175.47	709,596.00	2,019,901.45	248.96	-218.27

What Happens if the Referendum Doesn't Pass?

It is inevitable that this work will have to be completed. The needed repairs will not go away, **and the cost to the taxpayers will go up.** If the referendum fails, we will not get the 50% matching funds from the state and the cost will have to go into the general budget which will compete for educational dollars. This would be the equivalent to losing 4.5 million dollars.

We have worked hard to maintain quality programs, competitive sports teams, and diverse activities on which we pride our schools. It is important that we maintain our facilities and the level of pride that our community enjoys.

BOND REFERENDUM

You have the opportunity to help shape the future of our children. You are being asked to meet the responsibility of continuing to provide a quality education for all Burlington Township students through improved facilities. In an effort to strive for excellence, an investment in our children's "home away from home" will help shape the future of Burlington Township.

We urge you to make an informed decision when casting your ballot regarding the Bond Referendum.



Please Vote!

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Have a Voice in the **FUTURE** of our **CHILDREN**.

Please don't allow others to make the choice for you!

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!



Burlington Township Board of Education

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