

# Delano Public Schools #879

Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Further information: John Sweet

We continue to receive good questions about the upcoming November 6 election and we appreciate the opportunity to respond. I will address several questions that have recently arisen.

The first is “what happens if question one passes and the others fail?” The passage of any of the questions on the ballot authorizes the school board to either levy for the dollars (as is the case in question one), or authorizes the issuance of bonds (as is the case in questions two and three). The board is not required to establish the levy or issue the bonds. Should question one pass and the others fail the board would have the authority to hold off on setting the levy as called for in question one until such a time that a bond passes for the building and related improvements. The purpose of question one is to provide the dollars needed to operate the new building.

Another good question that has been raised is “why is the tax impact on question one, which is estimated to raise approximately \$700,000 yearly, so much more than the tax impact on question three, which raises \$810,000?” The \$700,000 raised in question one is an annual amount. The \$810,000 raised in question three is a one time amount that is paid off through the issuance of General Obligation Bonds over a 20 year period similar to a home mortgage. Therefore the yearly tax impact is much less on question three.

A third question we have heard is “why aren’t the tax impacts on the bonds called for in question two and three included in the election notice that was mailed out last week?” The election notice that was mailed out by first class mail last week is a legally required notice. It is required that the tax impact relating to the operating levy is included in that notice. It is not a legal requirement to publish the tax impacts of the bond referendums in that notice. The first informational brochure that was sent to every household in the district provided information on the tax impacts of each of the three questions. More detailed information regarding tax impacts can be found on my website [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) under “Election Information.”

A question has also been raised about how growth projections were made and “is our community really growing enough to support added facilities?” At the first meeting of the Facility Advisory Committee last January this topic was discussed. What we found was that the Metropolitan Council estimated that between 2000 and 2025 the metro area will add 1,000,000 people. In 2002 the City of Delano developed a Comprehensive Plan that defined an acceptable growth rate of 166 new housing units a year over the next 20 years, which could bring the population of Delano to 15,000 by 2025. The city has made infrastructure improvements to accommodate this growth plan.

The enrollment growth trend that the Facility Advisory Committee and school board used in coming to a decision in terms of what kind of facility to build and how big was based on the past five year average of 62 additional students a year. We anticipated that this school year the enrollment growth might not

meet that trend, but it did as we grew by 78 students. There are always variables in making these educated estimates, such as highway construction and the softening of the real estate market. However all buildings currently exceed their enrollment capacity.

Please feel free to call me at 763.972.3365 ext 2115 if you have questions. And don't forget to vote on November 6!