

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING

ACTIVITY 1: THE STRATEGY (20 minutes)

Looking ahead to a possible November 2025 referendum, the school board has four choices for how to approach the issues the task force has been discussing:

- A. Do nothing in 2025, and wait to see what the Legislature does about funding and what happens with the economy before deciding whether to move ahead in 2026 or 2027.*
- B. Move ahead with a building bond in 2025, and address the operating fund in a future year.*
- C. Move ahead with an operating levy in 2025, and address the building issues in a future year.*
- D. Offer separate questions addressing a building bond and the operating fund this year, and follow up in a 2026 or 2027 if both don't pass.*

Questions:

1. Which is your preferred strategy, and why should the board pick that strategy over the others?
2. Which would be your second preference, and what are the reasons you feel this

ACTIVITY 2: THE CHOICES (10-15 minutes)

Based on the survey data, the tax tolerance of the school district is around \$5-6 per month for one question and \$10 per month if two questions are offered. However, the strongest supporters of a referendum would be willing to pay at least \$10 per month for a bond and even more for an operating levy, depending on how the funds are invested.

Questions:

1. Beyond the survey results, how should the school board approach the decision on determining the overall tax impact of the referendum question(s)?
2. [If you selected a strategy that includes an operating levy] Asking for a capital projects levy limits the uses and amount of any new revenue but spreads the tax burden more widely, lowering the impact on homeowners. Should the school board propose a capital projects levy rather than a simpler-to-explain operating levy?
3. [If you recommended D, meaning questions that address both the bond and the operating levy this year] Should the board try to equalize the tax impact of the two questions, or should one of the two areas result in a higher tax than the other?