

REFERENDUM INFORMATION SHEET #1

“What is the general idea behind the referendum?”

The 4 Ringwood Schools are in need of repair. The Ringwood Board of Education views **not** addressing these repairs as “not an option”.

- A state-required 5-year facility plan in 2005 indicated that all Ringwood district school buildings need, among other items, updated **security systems**, updated **technology wiring**, updated **electrical systems**, **fire-rated doors**, new **windows**, new **boilers**, and new **air-exchange systems**. Ryerson School and Erskine School require **new roofs**.
- If the 4 schools are kept in operation, the total cost of these repairs will be \$24,900,000. The school district does not have the funds to pay out of general operating expenses.

To repair all 4 schools, the district would need to ask taxpayers for a bond for \$24,900,000 (an additional **\$208** per year for the average Ringwood home).

The Board of Education feels this is too high a burden on the taxpayer.

- The proposed April 21, 2009 referendum, Schools Improvement Project (SIP), will have the Hewitt School retired from service in the Ringwood School District. Hewitt will be leased to an organization that has the financial resources to maintain and care for it. **Hewitt will remain the property of the Ringwood School District. Hewitt fields will continue to be used by Ringwood residents.**

Grade 5 will move to the Ryerson School. 5 classrooms that are currently leased to a county program will be reclaimed and 5 newly constructed classrooms will provide a special location for the 5th graders to learn and mature.

Grade 4 students will remain in their elementary schools (Cooper School and Erskine School).

Several special education programs will move from Cooper School to Erskine School (because wetland regulations prohibit construction onto Cooper).

9 new, state-of-the-art classrooms and a new full-sized gymnasium will be constructed at Erskine.

- The price tag of the proposed project is \$28,800,000 (**an additional \$77 per year for the average Ringwood home**). *The reason why the proposed project ends up costing the average taxpayer less is the savings from the decreased personnel costs (resulting from reducing one of the schools) and the revenues that will be realized from leasing the Hewitt building.*