

# REFERENDUM INFORMATION SHEET #3

## *“Why full-day kindergarten is not part of the April 21, 2009 referendum”*

### **First, the move to full-day kindergarten is very expensive.**

The establishment of full-day kindergarten in the Ringwood elementary schools would entail the construction and furnishing of 4 additional kindergarten classrooms. The price tag for this construction would be \$2,535,000.

The salaries (approximately \$40,000) and benefits (approximately \$18,000) of 4 additional kindergarten teachers (at a 4% annual cost of living increase) over the course of the 30 years of the bond would be \$13,000,523.

The total cost of adding classrooms and faculty to support full-day kindergarten would be \$15,535,523. If this was added to the total referendum figure, the new referendum total would be \$44,335,523.

The addition of full-day kindergarten could cost the average taxpayer in Ringwood as much as **\$100.00 per year more** than the planned project. Adding full day kindergarten to the project would increase the average cost to the average taxpayer to **more than \$188.00 per year**.

Also, the *lasting* educational impact of full-day kindergarten compared to half-day kindergarten is widely debated.

Several research studies have concluded that the measurable difference in educational achievement between full-day kindergarten students and half-day kindergarten students disappears by grade 3.

An in-house survey conducted by the Ringwood Public School administration in 2005 indicated that, of the state's top 14 high-performing school districts in Ringwood's socioeconomic group, 7 had full-day kindergarten programs and 7 had half-day kindergarten programs. In other words, the results of state standardized tests proved to be similar for districts with full-day kindergarten and districts with half-day kindergarten.

Without a quantifiable educational imperative, it is difficult to justify the additional tax burden inherent with a move to full-day kindergarten.