

# REFERENDUM INFORMATION SHEET #4

## *“Why we can't keep Hewitt in service”*

Prepared by Erskine School PTO president Debbie Sienko

EG Hewitt was built during the administration of Franklin Roosevelt. It is a historical and charming building, with major issues. Hewitt needs someone who can take care of it for us while we move forward.

### **Fact:**

Hewitt will NOT be sold, demolished or left empty. It will be rented out to someone who can afford to repair and maintain it. **IT WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE RINGWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION.** There are not now nor have there ever been plans to sell it.

### **Fact:**

Repairing Hewitt will cost many millions of dollars that could be spent on modern technological, safety, and educational upgrades at Robert Erskine School, Peter Cooper School, and Ryerson School.

### **Fact:**

As we move forward with our facilities we need to keep the burden of the taxpayer in mind and repairing Hewitt will put an enormous burden on the taxpayer

## ***“IF HEWITT IS SO BAD, WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO RENT IT?”***

Although we do not have the money to repair it, there are others who do. Unlike a board of education, they are not bound by the restriction of the amount of money they can retain or the amount they can spend on repairing a building.

Also, to find an empty building in Ringwood that is in a location that is easy to get to is almost impossible, therefore it is very valuable and its value will increase as time goes by and land becomes more scarce and building more problematic.

## ***“WHAT IF WE NEED THE BUILDING AGAIN?”***

It belongs to us so we can take it over again.

EG Hewitt has served the Ringwood School District well. The education that has taken place within its walls has produced many smart, happy and well adjusted children. But it's time to move forward and to give the children of Ringwood what they deserve: a technologically-advanced, safe, secure, and updated school.

**See you at the Polls on April 21, 2009.**

**“We're moving forward. Climb aboard!”**

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