GLEN RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION SETS REFERENDUM DATE

Infrastructure and Expansion Projects Included in “Referendum 17”

On Friday, January 27, 2017, the Glen Ridge Board of Education approved a resolution to hold a special school district election (“Referendum 17”) on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 with the voting to take place from 7:00 AM through 8:00 PM. In addition, voters will be able to participate by absentee ballot as in any other election. If Referendum 17 is approved by the voters, the single ballot question will authorize the Board to sell bonds to finance capital improvements to all four existing District schools and to acquire and refurbish the former Central School building.

Costs

The total cost of the project is not to exceed $23,758,854. The District has been awarded funding by the State of New Jersey in the amount of 18.20% of the debt service, which will reduce the taxpayers’ share of the total cost to 81.80% or an amount not to exceed $19,434,743. The State debt service relief will only be available if Referendum 17 passes. The Board anticipates bonding the project over a 20 to 25 year period.

Background

Referendum 17 is the culmination of several years of preparatory work by the Board, including an energy audit, comprehensive facilities and facilities use studies and an updated demographic study. To facilitate the District’s goal of achieving educational excellence, these studies have indicated the District’s need to upgrade critical building infrastructure and secure additional space to reduce class size. For further background information on the District’s proposed projects, please go to the Referendum 17 website at http://www.glenridge.org/Page/8372.

Public Meeting

The Board will host its third public presentation on Referendum 17 on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Forest Avenue School Multi-Purpose Room. Superintendent Dirk Phillips will provide an overview of Referendum 17 and the proposed facilities projects including the budgeted cost break-downs for the various project components. Mr. Phillips will be assisted by several of the outside professionals retained by the Board for this initiative to provide information concerning the District’s proposed projects which are the subject of Referendum 17. Ample time will be provided for questions from the public. In addition, the presentation will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube for the convenience of those unable to attend.

Voting Information

All registered Glen Ridge voters can participate in Referendum 17. Those who are not registered to vote in Glen Ridge must do so before February 21, 2017 in order to be eligible to vote on March 14, 2017. For links to voting and registration information, please go to http://www.glenridge.org/Page/8486.

“This is an exciting juncture in the life of the District,” said Mr. Phillips. We hope as many community members as possible will join us on February 8th to hear more about the project and the referendum.”

For Further information on Referendum 17, please e-mail Referendum@glenridge.org.