

# Referendum Highlights

GROWING WITH OUR CHILDREN

## Capital (Bricks & Mortar) Referendum Proposal

- We are experiencing explosive gains –766+ students in 2 years!
- High School classes are overcrowded – 35/class in some cases.
- Two Middle Schools and one Elementary School have already added trailers. This number is expected to grow.
- The hardest hit locations, including Cedar Lane Elementary and Appoquinimink High, have repurposed space as classrooms, moved to “on a cart” instruction (AHS), and share rooms.
- Funding for trailers is not sustainable. This temporary solution is costly (nearly \$1 million to date and leasing fees are ongoing). There is no matching state support. Local operating funds are being drawn down quickly.
- Appoquinimink was one of only two school districts to be approved for capital support from the State. (Although five districts applied, only those who represented critical enrollment issues earned an endorsement to move forward.)
- New schools – **funded by a 75% state/25% local partnership** – are essential to maintain academic excellence, ensure safety & security, and promote a positive school climate.



**December 20, 2016  
REFERENDUM**

## We propose to build three *new* schools and rebuild, renovate/expand two more schools

- A new 840-student Elementary School in the Town of Whitehall (donated land) to alleviate overcrowding.
- A new High School and Middle School at the Fairview Campus, land we already own. The project will optimize taxpayer dollars by developing shared spaces including an innovative Performing Arts Center to complete the State’s first K-12 campus.
- We will rebuild Everett Meredith Middle where extensive issues (roof, windows, HVAC, electrical systems, ADA access, security system...) made it more cost-efficient to rebuild the school from the ground up, at the same time improving the size of classrooms as determined by the Delaware Department of Education.
- We will overhaul Silver Lake Elementary with a renovation/expansion to address the number/size of classrooms, classroom storage, ADA access, and expand capacity to alleviate overcrowding.

## When will the schools open?

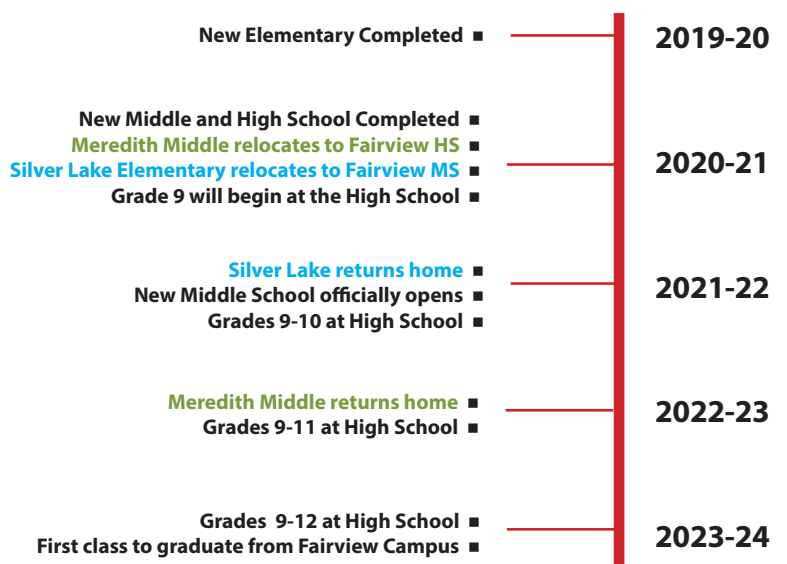
We’ll begin with the new construction. When completed, Meredith Middle and Silver Lake Elementary will temporarily occupy space in the new buildings on the Fairview Campus while their schools are renovated, a concept called “swing space”.

## Capital Funding: 75% State / 25% Local Partnership

*Funded with 20-year bond obligation*

New Elementary	State: \$24,319,386
	Local: 8,106,456
	<b>Total: \$32,425,824</b>
New High + New Middle	State: \$111,412,271
	Local: 37,137,424
	<b>Total: \$148,549,695</b>
Raze/Rebuild Meredith	State: \$43,121,249
	Local: 14,373,750
	<b>Total: \$57,494,999</b>
Renovate/Expand Silver Lake	State: 22,389,896
	Local: 7,463,299
	<b>Total: \$29,853,195</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING:</b>	<b>\$268,323,712</b>

## Construction Timeline:



## Operational Referendum Proposal

A second ballot item will ask for your support of the following:

- **Staff recruitment and retention.** We are in a competitive environment and recognize that great outcomes require great teachers and support staff.
- **Enhancement and replacement of instructional technology.** This item includes support to provide a 1:1 technology environment in high school, expand wireless networks and replace outdated technology.
- **Operating expenses associated with enrollment growth.** To cover the local costs (i.e. staff, materials, textbooks, transportation, etc.) associated with growth.

## How will taxes be affected?

### Part I: Operational Request

- Local Share (100%) = \$3,086,415

### Part II: Capital Construction Request

- State and Local Partnership \$268,323,712
- Local Share (25%) = 3,086,415
- State Share (75%) = 67,080,928

### Tax Impact of Referendum

Part I: Operational	15¢ / \$100 assessed
Part II: Capital	8.54¢ / \$100 assessed
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.54¢ / \$100</b>



The most accurate way to determine the cost of the referendum in relation to your school taxes is to look up your property tax assessment on the County website, <http://www3.nccde.org/parcel/search>. **Homes are assessed for taxes at around 1/3rd their market value.** We'll have a Referendum Calculator on the District website (available after Nov. 6) that will help you accurately determine the projected increase for your household.

### For those who prefer a quick snapshot:

- \$150,000 Market Value Assessed for taxes at \$46,500 = \$9.12/month
- \$250,000 Market Value Assessed for taxes at \$77,500 = \$15.20/month
- \$350,000 Market Value Assessed for taxes at \$108,500 = \$21.28/month
- \$450,000 Market Value Assessed for taxes at \$139,500 = \$27.36/month

### I don't have children in the district. Why should I vote for this referendum?

Good schools benefit everyone, even senior citizens. Good schools make for safer communities and help to increase the value of real estate –something we've seen here in the ASD. They attract new businesses, which bring income to the community and help keep residential taxes low. They prepare students for good jobs so that these young people can one day support us through their Social Security contributions. Nearly everyone is a product of a school system that was paid for by a previous generation. In addition, County residents, aged 65 or older, may apply for a School Tax credit of 50% of the school tax line item, not to exceed \$500. (Source: New Castle County)

### Is there relief for Seniors?

**YES!** Senior citizens, aged 65 and older, are entitled to a credit of 50% of their Appoquinimink School District taxes up to \$500, provided they provided they meet the state's 3-year residency requirement. To qualify, complete a School Tax Credit Application and return it to the New Castle County Assessment Office by April 30. Seniors may also qualify for additional reductions in sewer and county property tax based on income. For more information about these programs, call the County at 395-5520.

### When was our last referendum?

Our last capital construction (bricks and mortar) referendum was in 2009 and did not require us to raise taxes. A 2013 referendum addressed operating expenses necessitated by deep funding cuts from the state.

### What are the advantages of having so many schools on the Fairview Campus?

We are poised to realize true economies of scale at the Fairview Campus. The middle and high school will share a wonderful performing arts center, a kitchen, and possibly library and nurse's suite. It's an environmentally responsible approach as well. Instead of creating three different access roads, three separate sewer systems, and separate parking – we develop one, comprehensive "footprint" that dramatically reduces our impact on the environment and other resources in our community. From an educational standpoint, there are tremendous advantages as well. Schools are able to work collaboratively with each other instead of in isolation. Students can interact more readily – older students can mentor and tutor younger students, and younger students will have role models to emulate.

### Referendum Guide

**Date:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016

**Time:** Polls are open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

#### You can vote in the election if you:

- Live in the Appoquinimink School District
- Are at least 18-years old
- Are a USA and Delaware Citizen
- Show proof of identity and address–Driver's license or State I.D.
- If you are unable to go to the polls, you can request an absentee ballot.

*This is a 2-part process. It requires a signed affidavit before a ballot is mailed. For information or to request forms, call the Department of Elections, 577-3464 or visit their website.*

### Polling Places on Every Campus - You can vote at any one of these locations

Alfred G. Waters Middle  
Appoquinimink Activity Center  
Brick Mill Elementary  
Bunker Hill Elementary  
Carvel State Office Building  
Everett Meredith Middle

Louis L. Redding Middle  
Marion E. Proffitt Training Center  
Middletown High  
New Castle County Conservation Center  
Old State Elementary  
Olive B. Loss Elementary

Silver Lake Elementary  
Townsend Early Childhood Center  
Townsend Fire Hall