

# Morrison Public Schools

RE: Bond Issue to be held on February 14, 2017

Community Members,

Getting straight to the point, we need your help. We are asking you to vote February 14, 2017 for a bond issue that will provide our school \$500,000. We plan to use this money to improve our classroom instructional tools for our students and teachers, replace multiple HVAC units throughout the district, fix several roofs as well as other facility improvements. This may become the future for funding today's educational needs until state funding levels improve.

Our District has grown and funding from the State and Local revenue sources have not kept up with our needs. This has been a huge burden to the district and a bond is the only way to begin to replace books and computers and fix HVAC systems and other issues. Our technology needs have greatly increased over the past nine years and what we have purchased during this time period is barely operable. Revenue decreases have made it impossible to upgrade and meet our technology needs.

We want to provide our students all possible tools necessary to be successful in the classroom and after they graduate. We have always appreciated the tremendous support that our community has provided that has given our school district endless benefits. We ask for your continued support to help us provide these tools.

Keeping our bonding millage at 25 has always been of utmost importance so we don't put a higher tax burden on our community members and the tax burden stays at an unchanging level. Our district valuation has continually increased causing you to experience increases and decreases on your taxes. Last year we were at 24 mills and we are currently at 20 mills this year, this drop in mills show the increase in our district's valuation and is a good thing but this is where the changes in tax burdens are noticed. We have a plan to stay at 25 mills over the duration of the Elementary Bond issue but it can change as the valuation changes (valuation goes up, mills and tax burden goes down). Tax base will not increase so you will not see an increase in millage with this bond issue.

The most important thing to keep in mind is these things that we are asking for are not new to our district but what we have been using and that now have become imperative to be replaced. Cuts to our budget have forced us to make many changes and we are now in the position that we must pay for improvements through bond issues. I wish that I could say to you that the state funding issues will improve but I can't be confident in saying that with my experience with state funding in the past several years.

Please help us maintain the quality that our kids deserve by supporting our school.

Thank you,

Jay Vernon  
Superintendent  
Morrison Public School