Little Chute Area School District
325 Meulemans Street, Suite A
Little Chute, WI 54140-3300
(920) 788-7605
www.littlechute.k12.wi.us

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Contact; David Botz, District Administrator
email: dbotz@littlechute.k12.wi.us
phone number: (920)788-7605

Little Chute Board of Education Hears Results of Recent Community Survey

Little Chute, WI - The Little Chute Area School District Board of Education had the opportunity to review the results of a recent community survey at the December 19th Board meeting. The survey, conducted by School Perceptions, LLC, was designed to gather citizen input on the renewal of the District's operational referendum as well as a variety of potential facility projects. The survey follows a months-long effort by the Little Chute Facilities Task Force, made up of nearly 20 volunteer parents, business leaders, and community members to study potential facilities improvements at the intermediate/middle/high school complex.

The report stated that the District had a 24% response rate with 837 residents completing the survey; a rate the survey consultant stated was "excellent." In addition, the survey reported that the community is highly satisfied with the school system as a whole. "Eighty-six percent (86%) of survey respondents reported that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the school district," shared School Perceptions founder and President, Bill Foster. "That ranks among the highest community satisfaction that we have seen across the state and is truly something to celebrate."

"The Board thanks everyone for their participation," said School Board President Jerry Verhagen. "The survey feedback will help us understand and respond to the priorities of District residents and help us best meet the needs of our current and future students."

Respondents reported that they are highly supportive of the District renewing a five year $275,000 operational referendum for technology. Seventy-four percent (74%) of all survey respondents said that they were supportive, including 90% of staff respondents and 79% of parent respondents. A renewal referendum is estimated to cost taxpayers an additional $5 for each $100,000 of property value.

The survey also asked residents to prioritize potential facility projects at the intermediate/middle/high school. Updates for safety and security received the highest ranking. Also receiving high priority was renovating space to create Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) classrooms at the middle/high school, building

infrastructure, combining the schools' library media centers, renovating classrooms and creating collaboration spaces. The three remaining projects -- renovating the cafeteria, moving the Flex Academy to the

intermediate/middle/high school campus and updating the weight room and fitness center--also received support from the community.

The survey asked respondents to state their support for a plan that addresses the infrastructure, safety and educational needs of the school. The total cost for this project is estimated at $19.4 million. Fifty-five percent (55%) of all respondents answered yes or probably yes to this question, while 23% were not likely to support it, and 22% were undecided.

Within the next few weeks, the Facilities Task Force will use the feedback from the community to formulate a recommendation to the Board of Education. This recommendation will determine whether to include a facilities referendum question, along with a five-year operational technology referendum of $275,000, on the April 4, 2017 Spring General Election ballot. The Task Force will present their recommendation to the Board on January 9, 2017 beginning at 5:30 pm in the Little Chute Area School District Board Room.

To read the complete survey report, visit the District's website at www.littlechute.k12.wi.us. For additional information, please contact District Administrator Dave Botz at (920) 788-7605.

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