



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

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Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Secondary School

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Elementary School

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Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Our Mission

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Our Vision

To be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities.

Operational Referendum November 3, 2020

Dale Carlson, Superintendent
October 2020

Our vision as a school community is to *be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities*. We strive to do this every day by *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

NRHEG Public Schools is proud of who we are, the people we serve, and the people who provide services to students, families and our communities. We also believe strongly in offering a wide range of opportunities within the classroom and beyond the classroom to help our young people learn, grow, and have the most options and the best options available to them in the future.

The NRHEG Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved asking voters for local financial support through an operating levy request on the November 3, 2020 ballot. A voter approved operational referendum gives voters local control to invest in their school district through a property tax increase. The ballot question asks voters whether to approve a levy increase that would increase school funding by \$560 per pupil annually over a ten-year period. If voters approve the additional revenue, the tax impact on a \$125,000 home is projected to be about \$11.25/month. The increase in revenue, per student, to the school district would be about \$47/month.

The operating levy funding from a successful referendum would be used to:

- Maintain quality programming and learning opportunities for students
- Attract, retain, and fairly compensate high-quality staff
- Build a path to long-term financial stability

WHY NOW?

The BOE made the decision to ask voters for more revenue based on several factors including but not limited to:

- Increase in state aid over the past five years has not kept pace with the District's operational expenses, mandated purchases, and employee wages/benefits.
- Additional revenue is needed in order to maintain current programs and operational services.
- Schools throughout our region are investing more in their students than we are at NRHEG.
- As part of community surveys in 2018 and 2016, respondents identified priorities including:
 - Maintaining current class sizes and course offerings
 - Recruiting and retaining high-quality staff
 - Updating Career and Technical Education curriculum, equipment, and facilities
 - Sustaining curriculum replacement cycle
 - Utilizing latest technology in classroom

- Expanding mental health services
- Preparing students for life after high school including college and/or career
- Increasing student achievement in literacy

The BOE has determined the increased revenue is needed in order to maintain and address the priorities listed above.

WHAT IT WILL COST?

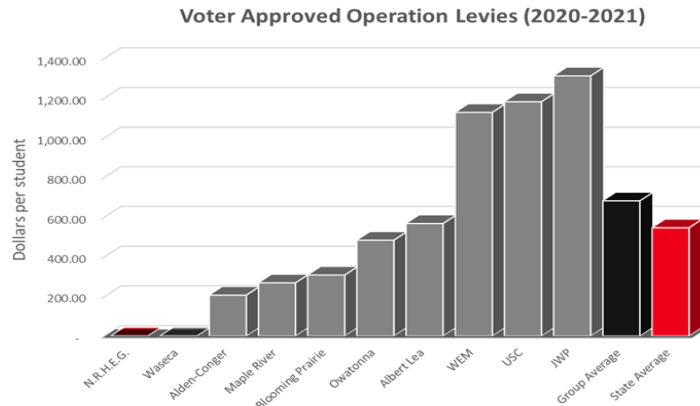
The average homeowner (\$125,000 value home) would see school tax increases averaging \$11.25 per month.

Tax Impact Summary								
Proposed Tax Rate is 0.107961%								
RMV Value	Annual	Monthly	RMV Value	Annual	Monthly	RMV Value	Annual	Monthly
\$ 30,000	32.39	2.70	100,000	107.96	9.00	\$ 175,000	188.93	15.74
\$ 50,000	53.98	4.50	125,000	134.95	11.25	\$ 200,000	215.92	17.99
\$ 75,000	80.97	6.75	150,000	161.94	13.50	\$ 250,000	269.90	22.49
						\$ 300,000	323.88	26.99

- Agricultural Land and Seasonal Recreational Property not affected since they are not taxed referenda.
- Ag Homesteads pay based on the value of the house, garage and 1 acre of land only, in accordance with the table above.
- RMV = Referendum Market Value

HOW DO WE COMPARE WITH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

Currently, our district does not have any additional local funding, that has been approved by our voters, to pay for the costs of operating our schools. Operating levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs. Of the 332 school districts in Minnesota, 226 currently have locally approved operating levies, providing important financial support for their schools. In a report recently published for the 2019-2020 school year (schoolsforequity.org), NRHEG Public Schools ranked 276th out of 332 school districts in revenue received. The graph below shows where NRHEG Public Schools is positioned compared to regional school districts.



OPERATING VS BUILDING NEEDS

Needs associated with this operational referendum should not be confused with taxpayer support in approving the April 2019 building referendum. The 2019 referendum focused on addressing needed classroom repairs, safety improvements and deferred maintenance. The November 2020 operating referendum addresses operational services, programming and other ongoing or recurring costs that cannot be sustained within the current revenue limits received from the state and local taxpayers.

Thank you for taking time to be informed about the November 3, 2020, operational referendum question to increase the general education revenue for the school district so that our school community can maintain as well as grow educational opportunities for our students. Be sure to go to the district’s website for more information including the *Tax Calculator* at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/domain/711>.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. Typically, the location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the NRHEG Secondary School Media Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. However, until further notice, the School Board will hold its regular monthly meetings at the Secondary School Media Center due to “live-stream” technology requirements. The School Board intends to continue live-streaming School Board meetings at least through the COVID-19 pandemic period while restrictions are placed on the number of the public that may attend. The October 19, 2020, School Board meeting and the November 16, 2020, School Board meeting will both be held at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Until further notice, Board members have the option to attend the meeting remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a minimum of one Board member and myself at the designated site. All COVID-19 CDC safety guidelines will be enforced for any public attending. Members of the public may view the Board meeting live via YouTube by going to the District’s website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3436>. Recordings of the Board meeting are available by going to the same link as above. At this time, anyone wishing to make a public comment to the Board will have to attend in person at the designated site.

We celebrate together in the accomplishments of our students because we are in this journey together as a school community. Thank you for all you do to support NRHEG Public Schools and our students!