

What's new @ WCA!

Supporting Local K-12 Education

By Barry Schmidt, Superintendent

This past Spring, I informed the district community about West Central Area Schools about renewing the operating levy and what your tax dollars have contributed to. The West Central Area School Board approved a Strategic Plan ,with a three year operational plan, that will enhance programing and plans for future facility needs. Part of this operating plan would be to put the question of renewing the operating levy for anther five years on the November election ballot. The operating levy will generate \$1.4 million per year and \$400,000 in state aid.

Education Funding: Minnesota's education funding system is based on a state and local partnership to provide the resources and opportunities our students need to graduate from high school and be college or career ready. Local property taxes provide about 27% of the revenue for most of Minnesota's school districts. However, at West Central Area Schools, our revenue sources are **21.6% from property taxes, 68.9% from state aid, 5.5% from other local aid, and only 4% from federal aid.**

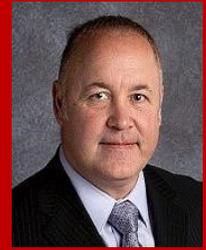
School districts rely on revenue from operating referendums just to maintain current programs or to prevent budget cuts. Referendum revenue can provide resources for basic, essential services and programs for students including opportunities for career exploration through quality electives, and the ability to keep class sizes small so that teachers can help all students learn. In fact, 99% of Minnesota school districts rely on an operating referendum - a clear sign of the importance of this source of revenue.

What are the differences between an Operating Levy and a Bond Levy? While both operating and bond levies are considered levies on your property tax statement, they serve different purposes and in some cases are restricted in how the money can be used. It is often said that, "levies are for learning and bonds are for building."

Bond levies are the funds the district uses for new construction, renovations or additions to school buildings. These funds cannot be used to run schools, hire teachers or support general operating expenses.

Operating levies are the funds that the district uses to run and operate its schools. It provides money above the state allocation to be used for day-to-day expenses such as staff salaries, supplies, utility expenses, transportation and co-curricular programs. The last voter-approved levy was passed in November **2015 and expires in 2019-2020. West Central Area Schools are going out a year early to ensure the operating levy continues , at the same level for the next 5 years.**

I believe strongly that together we can keep West Central Area Schools stable and financially solvent for the next five years. Our residents know that quality schools make strong communities and we want to continue all the great work that is happening in our classrooms, in the district, and for our students. Feel free to stop in, call (office: 320-528-7301) or send me an email (bschmidt@isd2342.org) anytime you have a question or concerns. Thank you for your continued support of our students of West Central Area Schools!



**Supporting Local
K-12 Education
by Superintendent**



Coming This Fall!!

**Early Entrance
Conferences**

**September 4th and 5th
for k-6 grade**

**Professional
Development Early
Outs:**

**Will Continue for the
2018-2019 School Year**



West Central Area Schools ISD2342

Challenge ♦ Learn ♦ Succeed