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Monroe County Community School Corporation

**Referendum Advisory Committee
March 8, 2022
Videoconference**

A Referendum Advisory Committee for Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) conducted its initial meeting on March 8 via Zoom. Composed of community leaders invited by MCCSC, the committee - over the course of four sessions - will learn about and offer feedback on the possibility of the school board placing an operating referendum on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Hauswald led the group through introductions, explained the basics of the possible referendum and said the Board will decide by June 2022 whether to place the referendum on the November ballot. Dr. Hauswald pledged that the school corporation will not campaign on negative consequences. He led the group through numerous points of pride concerning MCCSC learning opportunities for all students along with metrics-based and anecdotal accounts of the kind of student success that sets the district apart in education quality.

John Kenny, MCCSC Director of Business Operations, presented an introduction to school finance. He explained that an operations referendum means that the school corporation seeks revenue for operating purposes as opposed to construction. Operating referendum revenue goes into Education or Operations funds - which, combined, account for the majority of district expenditures. Monroe County voters approved MCCSC operating referendums in 2010 and again in 2016. The current referendum expires at the end of 2022. Kenny explained that Indiana school district referendums became commonplace after 2009 state legislation resulted in substantially less state assistance for public schools.

Additionally, Kenny and Dr. Hauswald explained that while MCCSC - like most districts - has a balance of ESSER funds, these are one-time federal funds earmarked to cover pandemic-related expenses. The remaining balance of ESSER money in MCCSC has been allocated for accelerated learning, cleanliness and safety, transportation, technology preparedness and air quality.

Committee members asked questions and offered examples of MCCSC's positive influence on the community.

RAC members in attendance were: John Barada, Mary Catherine Carmichael, Jennifer Crossley, Paul Farmer, Chris Finley, Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer, Ross Grimes, April Hennessey, Glen Hopkins, Beth Leney, Vanessa McClary, Jen Pearl, Tina Peterson, Maqubé Reese, Jenny Robinson, Eric Spoonmore, Matthew Stark, Julie Warren, Markay Winston, Adam Terwilliger, John Kenny, Jeff Hauswald, Karen Butcher, and Kelby Turmail.