

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

To: Media Outlets  
From: Monroe County Community School Corporation  
Date: April 13, 2022  
RE: Monroe County Community School Corporation Considering Fall Referendum

**Monroe County Community School Corporation Considering Fall Referendum**

(Bloomington, IN.) – The 2016 voter approved operating levy for Monroe County Community School Corporation is set to expire at the end of 2022. Over the last year or so, the Board of School Trustees and district administration have been reviewing options to address the funding shortfall from the expiring 2016 referendum.

“The Board is likely to support seeking voter approval of another operating levy,” said Brandon Shurr, President of the MCCSC Board of School Trustees. The question is, how much revenue is required to fund our priorities, and what can our community support?”

MCCSC has been working with a financial advisor to learn more about the impact the referendum has on school programming, staffing levels and overall school finances. Last night at a public work session, the Board of School Trustees received additional information from financial advisors to understand more completely MCCSC’s financial health and to gain additional knowledge on the important role referenda funding plays in MCCSC’s school finances.

Some critical facts include:

- Since 2010, the MCCSC operating levy has provided \$7.3 million annually to support staff salaries and student programs.
- Had that \$7.3 million kept pace with inflation, it would have been worth \$9.5 million in 2022 – cumulatively, MCCSC could have collected an additional \$9 million if we levied a property tax rate instead of a specific levy amount. This scenario has created less capacity in 2022 referendum dollars than existed in 2011.
- State funding has NOT kept pace with inflation either – state increases since 2010 have averaged 2% annually, while the Consumer Price Index has increased by an average annual rate of 2.13%
- Currently, MCCSC tax rates are the 8th lowest in the state, at \$0.63 per \$100 of property value (which includes our referendum levy of \$0.09 in 2022) - this is significantly less than most school districts our size.
- Without an operating levy, and without budget adjustments, our cash balance would drop below zero in two short years creating a “fiscal cliff” that would likely require educational cuts and wage/salary stagnation.
- Initial surveys and community conversations indicate strong community support for MCCSC and K-12 public education – there is a clear understanding of the value MCCSC provides to Monroe County.

“We know we can’t make decisions in a vacuum,” said Dr. Jeff Hauswald, Superintendent. “We’re committed to engaging the community to learn more about what community members see as educational priorities for students and how much they can afford to pay to support those priorities.”

The first step in the process was a community opinion survey last fall which showed strong support for increasing the levy. In March, a 25-member Referendum Advisory Committee made up of community members and school staff began reviewing the district’s financial situation in detail. Principals will be meeting with staff members and at PTO meetings in May to provide information and receive feedback. District administrators will be meeting with community groups and other community members in May as well.

In June, the Board of School Trustees will decide on whether to place a question on the November ballot to ask the community to continue its support for an MCCSC referendum through 2030.

The community will be updated through the MCCSC website, community meetings, district newsletters, and social media platforms. More information is available at [mccsc.edu](http://mccsc.edu) on the newly launched 2022 Referendum page.

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*The Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) serves nearly 11,000 students from diverse populations in 23 schools in Monroe County, Indiana. MCCSC is a leader in STEM and EARTH curricula, encompasses a Performing Arts Academy, International Baccalaureate schools, Dual Immersion programs, multiple Career Pathways, a Career Center, as well as numerous College Credit opportunities to prepare students towards college and career readiness. Our commitment, as we educate tomorrow’s leaders, is to Engage, Empower, and Educate all students in a world-class learning environment empowering them to maximize their educational success in becoming productive, responsible global citizens.*

**Kelby Turmail**

Communications Officer, MCCSC  
812-330-7700  
kturmail@mccsc.edu