

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The Rutherford Board of Education unanimously and strongly supports the School Facilities Improvement Referendum voters will be asked to approve on October 2. The plan developed over 3 years, with broad community input and public discussion at Board meetings, is a district-wide proposal, benefitting all students, at all schools, year-round.

We are elected volunteers charged with maintaining and growing strong school programs in a way that efficiently and responsibly uses taxpayer dollars. The students of Rutherford deserve nothing less than class sizes, programs and facilities that are safe and maximize their opportunities for success. The referendum addresses crowded classrooms, aging infrastructure, and enables growth in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics programs. We are pleased to report the Rutherford PT Council has endorsed the referendum.

The referendum includes decommissioning the Rutherford High School pool and moving our undersized cafeteria into this larger space to make room for four modern science labs in the old cafeteria space and five additional classrooms in the high school. We did not make this decision lightly. We examined multiple alternatives. In all options studied, maintaining the pool added millions of dollars in expense to the referendum. As board members, we could not ethically or responsibly pass along millions of dollars in expense to school taxpayers to preserve an asset no longer part of our educational programs.

The size of this \$53M referendum directly reflects the magnitude of our schools' needs. If passed, it will result in a school tax increase estimated between \$29.72 and \$33.48 per month for the average assessed value home.

Great schools keep a town strong, and we are proud to present a fiscally responsible package that benefits all district students. Please visit www.rutherfordreferendum.org for more information and consider attending one of our remaining town information meetings.

Thank you,
The Rutherford Board of Education Trustees