



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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February 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Family Members,

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank members of our community who have attended one of our three in-person referendum meetings held over the past few weeks. Your interest in learning more about how we budget, the needs we have that are driving our ask, and the minor impact on taxes is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of the **Referendum**: Two more opportunities to learn about the funds needed to support the total educational experience for all of our students are coming up: **February 2** – virtual and **February 10** – in the school cafeteria. Sign up for the February 2 virtual meeting: <https://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/> (click on the “REFERNDUM INFORMATION” box, then click on “TOWN HALL MEETINGS”).

Unfortunately, we have experienced the stark reality of life with COVID-19 as we made the difficult decision to transition our **sixth grade** into digital learning for fourteen days. This action was largely precautionary, giving us time to complete the necessary contact tracing. We will continue these efforts while parents monitor their students for symptoms. Classroom and specials teachers began digital instruction on Monday, January 25. Students are expected to return on Friday, February 5.

Four- and Five-Year Old Kindergarten Enrollment for 2021-2022 - We will hold four- and five-year old kindergarten enrollment the week of **March 1 – 5 from 7:30AM to 4:00PM** each day. Enrollment packets will be mailed home in early February or sent home with those 4K students currently enrolled in our program. During the week of March 1, parents are asked to drop off the completed enrollment packet and to bring along the child’s birth certificate. Please contact the elementary school office. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

2021-2022 Calendar - The Board of Education recently approved the calendar for next school year. You can access the calendar at <https://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/calendars.cfm>.

Youth Apprenticeship Parent Meeting: We will be hosting an in-person YA parent meeting on **Monday, February 8**. So that we can adequately prepare seating with social distancing in mind, parents must sign-up to attend **by February 4**. Unfamiliar with the Youth Apprenticeship Program? Click on the links that follow to learn more: [YA Informational Handout](#)

Referendum Talking Points

- The projected mill rates of \$10.09, \$10.13, and \$10.25 are typical of years past.
- Between 2020 and 2024, a property owner will just a \$3.00 increase on a \$150,000 property and just a \$6.00 increase on a \$300,000 property.
- Largely, our mill rate will look the same three years from now as it did just one year ago.

These figures demonstrate the District’s understanding of the need to maintain a reasonable level of ask that is more predictable in terms of mill rate and resulting property tax, which is especially helpful to those on a fixed income.

Lunch Account Refunds

As mentioned in previous parent letters, the Free School Lunch program has been extended through the end of the current school year.

Many families have a positive balance on their lunch account. While this money will stay on your account for next school year, many families may benefit from having those dollars to use at this time. Learn more on how to request a refund by reading the related article on Page 5 of the February edition of The Link. (https://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/departments/the_link.cfm).

Wishing each of you a great week.

Mrs. Schweitzer

“Where Excellence is Expected”

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