

Algonac Community Schools Update

It is hard to believe that we are already a month into the new school year! The first month is always an exciting time in education. Many good things are taking place here in Algonac, both inside and outside of the classroom. With Homecoming on the horizon, it's always a good time to stop by the schools and catch a game, attend a program or even just stop in and say hello.

Academically, we are in the process of implementing our new NWEA testing for all students in the district. For those of you who have been around for a while, you might remember NWEA from several years ago. This product gives the staff at ACS the best available feedback regarding where students currently stand academically. The data allows teachers to adjust their lessons and practices to best meet the needs of their students. I truly believe that the results that we get from these assessments will drive instruction and benefit students on every level.

Looking outside of the K-12 realm, Algonac Childcare received some great news this week. Childcare centers throughout the State are rated on a 5 star system (with 5 being the highest). Many things factor into the ranking including staff credentials, curriculum and instruction, and community relations, just to name a few. Consultants from the State visit the site and evaluate the programs to determine their ranking. It was just announced that Algonac Childcare has earned a 5-star ranking!!! This makes Algonac Childcare the only center in St. Clair County to earn such a distinction. Congrats to the staff and administration, and thank you for all of the hard work with our young ones.

In ACS's ongoing attempt to keep the community informed of key issues, I would like to share a couple items. At the September Board of Education meeting, the Board executed the refinancing of the 2009 School and Building Site Bonds. The refinancing will reduce the district's debt millage by 7/10 of a mill, for a total savings of \$560,547. While the saving can't be used to support the General Fund, this will save the taxpayers money by lowering the interest rates on our outstanding debt.

Another item of interest is the upcoming Operating Millage Renewal that will be on the November 7th ballot. This 18 mill non-homestead millage was last renewed by voters in 2014, and expired with the July 1, 2017, levy. Homeowners will see no increase in their local school taxes for the primary residence if this is approved. If approved, the district will receive full funding for operations beginning in 2018. I have attached a FAQ informational bulletin that will fully explain the proposal and its impact on ACS.

Thanks for being such a great community – Al Latosz, Superintendent

The election will be held on
Tuesday, November 7, 2017.
Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and
close at 8:00 p.m.

City of Algonac
St. Catherine's Activity Center
1103 Washington St.
Algonac

Clay Township
Algonac High School Gym
5200 Taft Rd., Algonac

Ira Township
Ira Twp. Office
7085 Meldrum Rd., Ira



Paid for by
Algonac Community Schools
5200 Taft Road
Algonac, MI 48001

KEY POINTS

- The District's per student funding assumes the full 18 mills is levied. The State of Michigan will not make up the \$3,800,000 in state assumed school revenue for 2018 and 2019 if the vote were turned down.
- This millage is a renewal levy for non homestead properties (businesses, second homes, etc).
- The proposal would restore the millage to a full 18 mills.
- This millage is not paid on primary residence property.

VOTE
NOVEMBER 7TH

Algonac Community Schools



2017

Operating Millage
Renewal and
Restoration

Frequently Asked Questions

Operating Millage Renewal—November 7, 2017 Election

What is the November 7, 2017 Operating Millage Proposal?

Currently, the district's operating millage expired with the July 1, 2017, levy. This proposal is for renewal and restoration of a total of 18 mills on all "non homestead" property. If approved, this will simply continue the non homestead levy at a full 18 mills. If the operating millage is not renewed by June 30, 2018, the district would lose approximately \$3,800,000 beginning in 2018.

How would this affect my property taxes?

This millage does not apply to a homeowner's primary residence. It applies only to non homestead properties (businesses, second homes, etc.). Primary homeowners will see no operating millage increase in local school taxes for their primary dwellings if the proposal is approved.

What difference will this operating millage make for Algonac Community Schools?

If voters approve the operating millage renewal and restoration, Algonac Community Schools will continue to receive full funding for daily operation at approximately \$3,800,000 per year beginning in 2018.

Wasn't this on the ballot a few years ago?

Yes. The Operating Millage was on the ballot in November 2014, and approved for three years. That three years expired with the July 2017 levy.

How is the Operating Millage Renewal tied to State funding?

This is money that the State assumes that the district will collect on 2nd homes and businesses. If this is not approved, the millage rate on those properties will drop to zero, resulting in a loss of approximately \$3,800,000 beginning in 2018.

How will Algonac Community Schools use the operating millage Funding if approved?

The annual operating budget of the district is approximately **\$17 million**, which includes key expenditures such as classroom curriculum and materials, school supplies, facility upkeep and maintenance, utility costs (electricity, gas, water, and sewer), fuel costs, and student transportation. The operating millage renewal and restoration represents about \$3,800,000 annually and is vital to the day-to-day operation of the district to serve students and the community. The annual loss of \$3,800,000 would reduce the quality of education and services that Algonac Community Schools can provide its students, families, community and other stakeholders.

What is the November 7, 2017 ballot language?

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Algonac Community Schools, St. Clair County, Michigan be increased by 18 mills (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 2 years, 2018 and 2019, to provide funds for operating purposes (17.8992 mills of the above is a renewal of millage that expired with the 2017 tax levy and .1008 mill is a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately \$3,888,779.