

6 facts you should know before voting on the Woodstown-Pilesgrove referendum

Brittany M. Wehner / *South Jersey Times* on October 26, 2014

It's almost time for voters to decide on the fate of the proposed referendum to fund renovations to the nearly 100-year-old high school in the **Woodstown-Pilesgrove** Regional School district.

Voters will be asked to approve \$19.8 million on the November ballot to fund building upgrades — roughly \$7.9 coming from state funding and \$11.9 million coming out of the local share.

Here are six things you should know about the Woodstown-Pilesgrove School District proposed referendum before hitting the polls.



Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District Business Administrator Frank Rizzo, and Pilesgrove Mayor Kevin Eachus tour the inside of the high school. The school in dire need of repairs, and the district is asking voters to approve a referendum come November to fund building needs, Oct. 14, 2014.

1.) The 1915 roof of Woodstown High School needs to be replaced.

Roof upgrades would include new metal copings, fascias, wall panels, and will be under a 20-year warranty. The current aged roof has poor drainage, clogs, and leaks.

2.) The referendum will fund upgrades to the HVAC system.

Upgrades in the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system include the replacement of existing boilers with new high efficiency boilers, new air conditioning units, new hot water piping and heating. A new electrical system will also upgrade wiring to support new HVAC system.

3.) More than 200 windows and 20 doors will be installed.

Exterior windows and doors with thermally insulated aluminum will be installed to protect against glare and heat gain.

4.) The lifeline of these projects are expected to last longer than 10 years, some 20.

The district's plan includes many different construction components that will exceed 20 years in serviceable life. Select components of the upgraded security systems are expected to have a lifespan of between 10 and 15 years.

5.) The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District administration has set a timeframe for construction.

If the funding is approved, the construction projects will begin in spring 2015 and they will be completed in various phases through the calendar year ending in 2016.

6.) The tax impact on Woodstown and Pilesgrove taxpayers will range from \$17 to \$22.

For the owner of an average assessed home of \$216,500 in Woodstown, taxpayers can expect to see an additional \$17.88 per month in taxes, equating to \$214.54 in school taxes for the year.

For the owner of an average assessed home of \$285,000 in Pilesgrove, taxpayers can expect an impact of an additional \$22.72 per month, meaning the annual \$272.67.