



# Red Bank Regional Referendum Newsletter

RBR is an award-winning school that offers unique and rich programs in such areas as information technology, engineering, finance, international studies, early childhood education and the visual & performing arts. *The Washington Post* and *Niche* have continually ranked RBR among the finest public high schools in the state and country. Most recently, *N.J. Monthly* ranked RBR as the second best public high school in Monmouth County and 39th in the state. RBR's exceptional programs have enabled the high school to accept tuition students for many years, reducing the cost to our taxpayers and enabling the growth of this rich curriculum.

## REFERENDUM QUESTION 1

- Addition of 10 classrooms (approximately 13,600 square feet); approximately \$7 million
- Remodel of the Media Center and other educational spaces; approximately \$6.8 million
- Roof Replacement and electrical upgrades; approximately \$6.1 million
- Total Cost \$15.5 million with \$4.4 million of state debt service aid

## REFERENDUM QUESTION 2

- Installation of turf field
- Construction of two restrooms and a concession stand
- Total Cost is \$1.8 million with \$500,000 of state debt service aid

*Total Referendum Cost Inclusive of Question 1 and 2 with anticipated state debt service aid is \$17.3 million.*

*Note: Question 2 can only be approved if Question 1 passes.*

## Why Does RBR need a bond referendum?

### TO MEET GROWING ENROLLMENT

RBR's increased enrollment is now causing space shortages with many more students coming from lower grades. Educational standards designate RBR's capacity at 1,043. Our enrollment for 2018 was 1,217. Demographic studies predict that to increase to 1,395 in four years. We are simply running out of space.

### TO IMPROVE OUR FACILITIES FOR ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

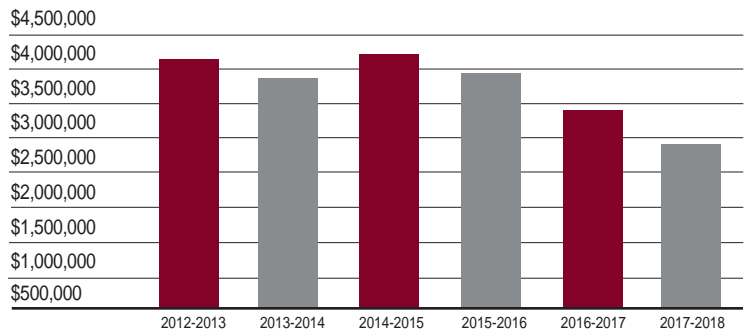
The proposals in this referendum seek to make our facilities ready for 21st century needs. Our remarkable students, staff, and programs are housed in a facility that is nearly 50 years old. No major change in the footprint has occurred since the building was opened in 1975. Modern learning spaces will inspire students and better support our programs. Additionally, our community driven strategic plan identified what the taxpayers and the public want from the school in both educational and athletic facilities. This includes a turf field, concession stands and bathroom facilities, all to bring our athletic facilities up to par with other school districts. These improvements should also reduce maintenance costs and minimize weather-related cancellations.

### TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF TUITION REVENUE

Space limitations have caused the school to turn back many qualified tuition students. The recent loss of revenue has already been significant. RBR took in \$4 million in tuition four years ago. Last year that amount dropped to \$2.8 million. By comparison, total state aid is approximately \$1.2 million.

### TUITION REVENUE

- Consistent revenue losses due to less space to accept tuition students.
- Down more than \$1.2M from just 3 years ago.



### TO PROVIDE NECESSARY MAINTENANCE OF PHYSICAL PLANT

The roof is approaching the end of its service life. Its replacement is approximately \$6.1 million. A project this large cannot be paid for within the regular budget.

**ON DECEMBER 11 THE RESIDENTS OF LITTLE SILVER, RED BANK, AND SHREWSBURY WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE ON A BOND REFERENDUM TO ENSURE AND ENHANCE RBR'S EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.**

*revised* **INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS ANNUAL TAX IMPLICATIONS**

		Through FY 2023 Questions			After FY 2023 Questions		
		#1	#2	#1&#2	#1	#2	#1&#2
<b>Little Silver</b>	per \$100,000 assessed home value	\$18	\$3	\$21	\$10	\$3	\$12
	per \$663,730 assessed value (avg.)	\$121	\$17	\$138	\$65	\$17	\$83
<b>Red Bank</b>	per \$100,000 assessed home value	\$19	\$3	\$22	\$10	\$3	\$13
	per \$366,231 assessed value (avg.)	\$70	\$10	\$80	\$38	\$10	\$48
<b>Shrewsbury</b>	per \$100,000 assessed home value	\$21	\$3	\$24	\$12	\$3	\$15
	per \$552,125 assessed value (avg.)	\$118	\$17	\$135	\$64	\$17	\$80

**W**hat will the referendum cost taxpayers?

Every homeowner will have a different cost depending on their town and their home's assessed value. Also, because we are timing this with the expiration of old debt in 2022, the amount will go down after a few years. Please note the cost per each town is based on a formula set by the State of New Jersey.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RBR-REFERENDUM:**

- Residents can email any questions specifically related to the referendum to [rbr-referendum@rbrhs.org](mailto:rbr-referendum@rbrhs.org).
- As always, you can contact your locally elected BOE member to ask questions about any RBR issue.
- The RBR Board of Education public meetings are always posted on the [www.rbrhs.org](http://www.rbrhs.org) website.

**W**hat will happen if the referendum fails?

RBR is a unique school in many ways. In one important fiscal way, RBR accepts out-of-district students who pay tuition either through their sending school districts or their parents. In the past, the tuition RBR received not only covered the cost to educate the tuition students but ALL the costs of our award-winning academy programs, PLUS our athletic programs and all of our extra-curricular activities PLUS much more. Our taxpayers are now paying over \$1.2 million more per year than they were just four years ago due to lost tuition revenue.

If the Referendum fails the school will still need a new roof, will still have an increasing lack of space for our in-district students, and will not have a mechanism to fund the needed work to accommodate them. We will also have a continuously decreasing revenue stream that will pass a larger bill onto the taxpayers and will trigger the reduction or elimination of program offerings that make RBR so special. Cost reduction due to state debt service aid is only available with referendum funds.

