



Borough of Freehold Public Schools

280 Park Avenue
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
(732) 761-2100 - FAX (732) 462-8954

Annette Jordan
Board President

Rocco G. Tomazic, Ed.D
Superintendent

August 12, 2014

Press Release

Freehold: At its meeting August 11th, the Freehold Borough Board of Education authorized a construction referendum to be placed before the voters on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 from 2pm to 9pm. Proposed additions and renovations involve each of the district's three school buildings. The \$32,902,400 project would be eligible for 66.89% of eligible costs in debt service aid (or 38.02% overall) from the state of New Jersey.

The school district has seen unprecedented growth in recent years. Currently the district has a functional capacity for 1,148 students. The district will start the 2014-2015 school year with 1,630 students (1,617 in district and 13 students out of district.) The district has up to 150 Kindergarten students placed in rented Freehold Township classrooms at West Freehold Elementary and Marshall Errickson Elementary. Even with these rentals the district has 300 more students enrolled than the buildings are designed to hold.

"All students who reside in Freehold Borough are entitled to a New Jersey constitutionally-guaranteed thorough and efficient education," said Rocco Tomazic, Superintendent of Freehold Borough. "Our severe overcrowding is adversely impacting that education and this referendum is a necessary step to address our shortfall in classroom space."

Based on a home at the averaged assessed value of \$255,600, residents would pay \$278 more annually. The bonds would be issued for 30 years and would seek to take advantage of the relatively low interest rates currently on the market. If the referendum passes, the planning and construction would take three years to complete with the added facilities ready for students by the 2017-2018 school year.

At the board meeting key groups came forward to speak in favor of the referendum including the Freehold Borough Education Association and the Freehold Borough Administrators Association.

"The Board recognizes its responsibility to put before the voters questions involving the proper education of Borough students," said Board of Education President Annette Jordan. "We need to pass a referendum to access state aid and to adequately address the educational needs of our students."

The deadline for voter registration for this special referendum is September 9th.



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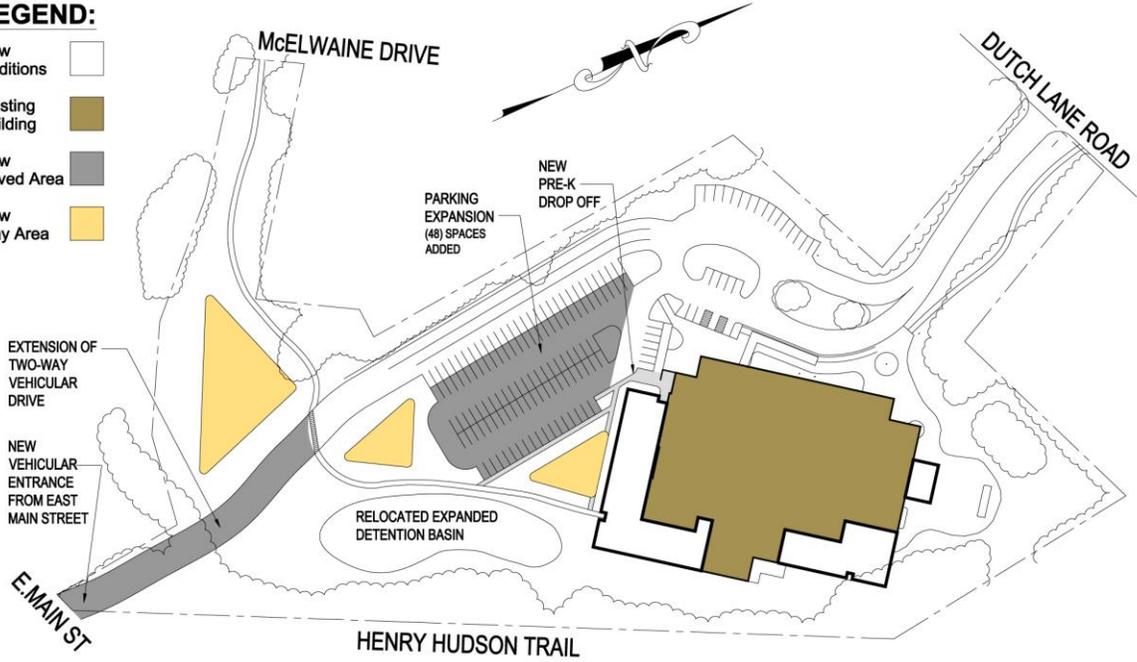
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LEGEND:

- New Additions
- Existing Building
- New Paved Area
- New Play Area



LEGEND:

- New Additions
- Existing Building
- New Paved Area
- Existing & New Grass

