

Barrington Community Unit School District 220



February 2006

Inspiring all learners to achieve excellence

District 220 Referendum Set for March 21, 2006

Two Questions on the Ballot

On Tuesday, January 17, 2006, the Board of Education for Barrington Community Unit School District 220 unanimously adopted a resolution to place two questions on the March 21, 2006 ballot. After more than three years of intense research and review, the Board of Education, working closely with a series of community stakeholder groups, concluded the proposed plan is essential to addressing our space issues and to maintaining District 220's high quality educational program.

We believe these important questions—one for building two new middle schools and one for an operating levy increase—represent a comprehensive, long-range, fiscally responsible solution to District 220's steady rise in student population. The key components of the March 21 referendum include:



Navigating congested hallways is a stressful part of daily life for middle school students in District 220.

Proposition: Bond for Building

- Constructing two new middle schools for Grades 5-8.
 - One in Lake Barrington
 - One in South Barrington
 - Both schools will be designed for approximately 850 students
 - Both schools will be designed with distinct and separate areas for 5th & 6th grade students and 7th & 8th grade students
- Renovating our existing middle school campuses to ensure comparable learning spaces.
- Transitioning our schools to a K-4, 5-8, 9-12 grade level structure to maximize existing space in our schools and reduce the number of students in our elementary schools without additional construction.
- Acquiring and renovating Health World Children's Museum in Barrington for an Early Childhood Center.
 - Woodland School will be retired as an educational facility
 - Sunny Hill Elementary School will be able to repurpose classrooms after 5th grade students move to the middle schools
- Total cost of work included in this proposition is \$107,100,000; however, there will NOT be an increase to the tax rate.
- If the referendum is successful, the projected timeline to open the new middle schools and transition all of our students to their new grade levels is Fall 2008. The new buildings, along with all of District 220's schools, are expected to handle projected enrollment for at least a decade.

Proposition: Levy for Learning

- Operating levy tax rate increase of an additional 25 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed value (important note: EAV is not sales value). For every \$100,000 of EAV, a homeowner will pay an additional \$250.
- Increase will allow us to reduce class sizes and address our growth in student population by providing additional staff at our middle school campuses and at Barrington High School.
- If successful, we will be able to address student needs for a minimum of five years.

Complete details regarding both propositions are presented in this special newsletter. If you have immediate questions, please check out our district website at www.cusd220.org or contact the district office directly at 847.842.3501.

Keeping Kids Younger Longer

Why 5-8 Middle Schools?

The conclusion to reconfigure our elementary and middle school grade levels to K-4 and 5-8 is a critical component to achieving a long-term, comprehensive solution to provide appropriate school space. Many years of research evaluating multiple options, community discussions and surveys, visits to neighboring districts, and old fashioned hard work led to the Board of Education's final decision to build two new middle schools and reconfigure our grade levels to maximize our facilities and ease overcrowding.

It became clear that the advantages of the 5-8 Middle School concept provide our students with:

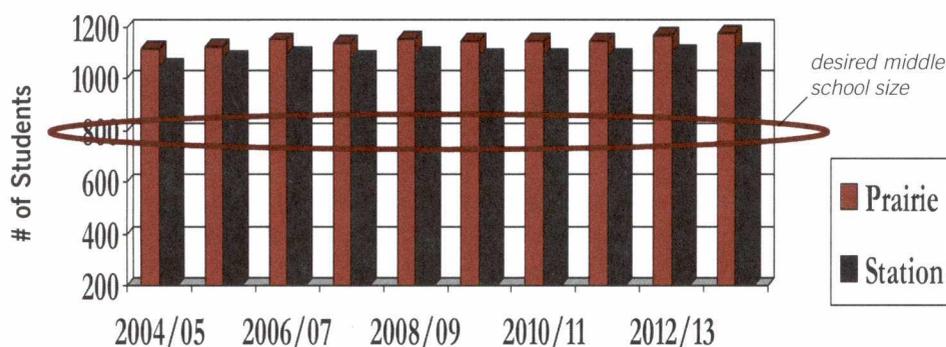
- Better academic opportunities, particularly for fifth graders (e.g. world language)
- Age-appropriate school environments
- Shorter travel times to school

And for our community, we firmly believe the 5-8 solution is the best long-term financial option. This plan creates classroom space at both the middle school and elementary levels. Moving 5th grade to the middle school campuses automatically creates classroom space at all elementary schools – without further costly construction.

Maintaining the appropriate school environment for all of our middle school students is a priority for parents, teachers, and District 220. We have taken many steps to define "schools within a school" that clearly separate fifth and sixth grades in an elementary environment while grades seven and eight interact in a more mature setting, preparing them for the transition to high school. Other school districts' experiences show that this approach helps all "kids be kids" as long as possible.

For more information on the 5-8 middle school program, please visit our district website at www.cusd220.org.

Our Middle Schools Are Overcrowded



Source: 2004 Kasarda

Class sizes have increased significantly along with our total enrollment, especially at the Middle School level. Although the average state class size for eighth grade is 22.9 students, District 220's average is 24.5. And right now, 77 middle school classes have 30 or more students. Overcrowding causes safety and discipline issues, limits our ability to work with students individually, lessens the opportunities for team teaching, and makes participating in co-curricular programs much more competitive.

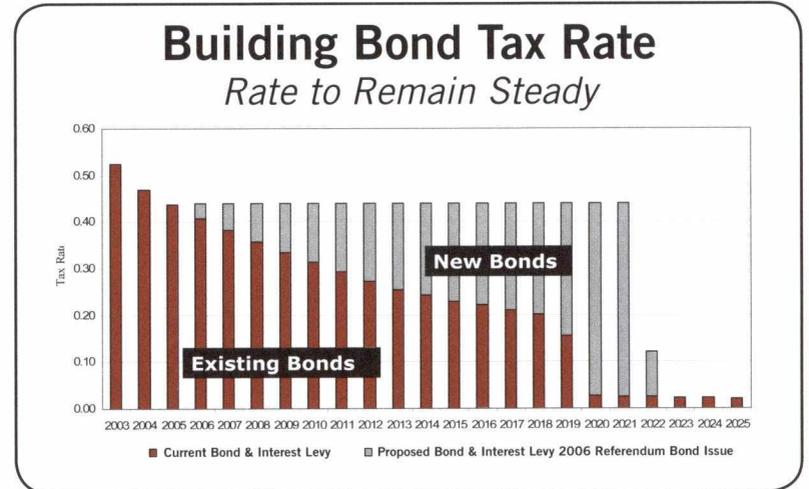
Proposition: Bond for Building

Constructing two new 5-8 middle schools, renovating our existing middle schools, and providing a more central location for our Early Childhood program is the focus of this proposition. If the referendum is successful, the projected timeline to open the new middle schools and transition all of our students to their new grade levels is Fall 2008. It is possible the Early Childhood Program may be available in its new location by Fall 2007.

The total cost for the proposed work is \$107,100,000. It breaks down as follows:

New Middle Schools	\$73,900,000
Renovate Prairie and Station Campuses	\$14,400,000
Early Childhood Center	\$10,000,000
Contingency	\$8,800,000
TOTAL	\$107,100,000

Referendum costs include all new construction, renovations, site work, furniture, fixtures, equipment, technology, and professional fees. There will be **NO INCREASE** to a property owner's annual tax rate associated with this proposition. If approved, the current tax rate will be maintained. This tax rate will be applied to each homeowner's equalized assessed property value.



Identical Design for Two New Middle Schools

Each school approximately 145,000 square feet

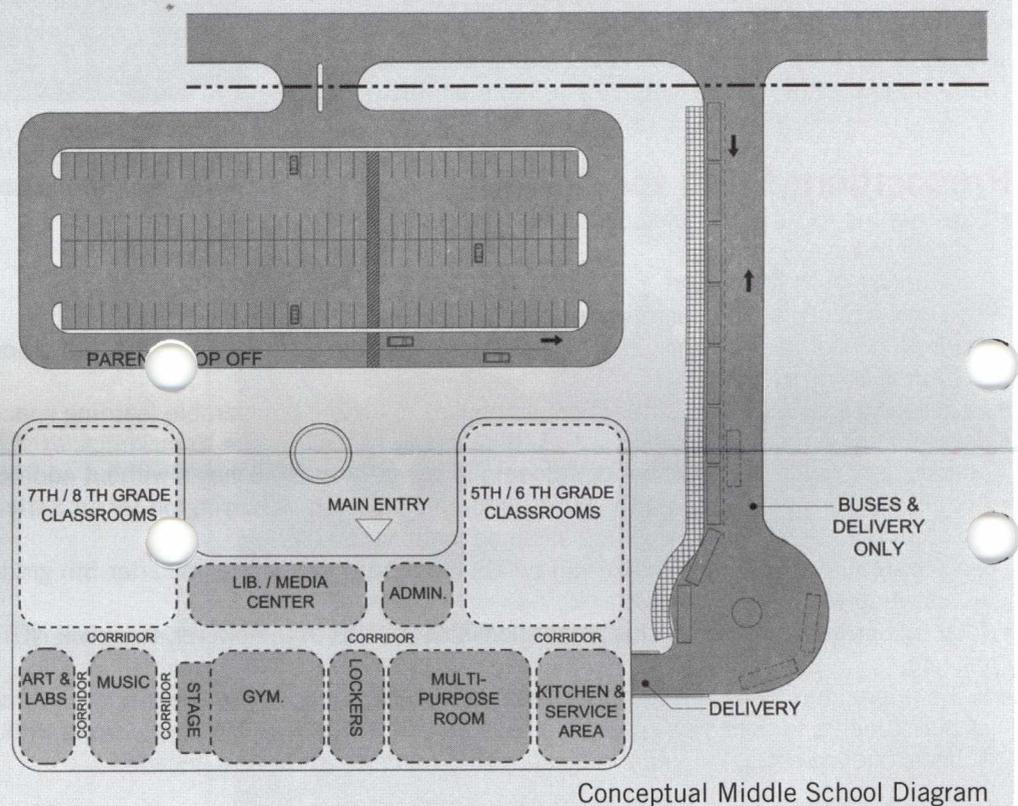
One school located in Lake Barrington

One school located in South Barrington

Each designed for approximately 850 student capacity

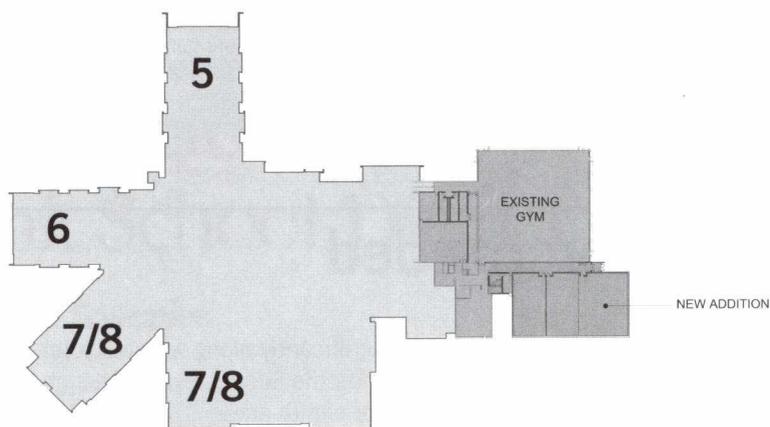
Each school will have the same core facilities, including:

- General /Special Education Classrooms and Labs
- Library Media Center
- Kitchen/Cafeteria
- Computer/Technology Labs
- Music and Art Rooms
- Gymnasium
- Boys/Girls Locker Rooms
- Student Services Areas (Guidance, Speech, Language, Gifted)
- Nurse's Office
- Principal and Support Staff Offices
- Storage Rooms



Renovations Planned for Prairie and Station Campuses: Improvements Needed at Existing Middle Schools

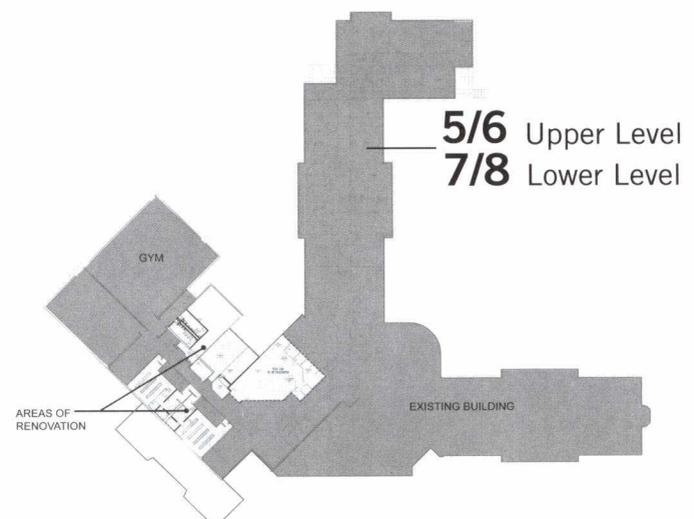
Proposed Work at Station Middle School



Station Campus

- Renovate/reconfigure select classroom areas
- Roof replacement with fire prevention sprinkler system
- Improve infrastructure such as electrical and audiovisual systems, lighting and ceilings
- Add public restrooms and relocate boys/girls locker rooms
- Renovate cafeteria

Proposed Work at Prairie Middle School



Prairie Campus

- Renovate/reconfigure select classroom areas
- Roof replacement
- Add public restrooms
- Remodel kitchen/serving area

Early Childhood Program Finds New Home

District to Purchase Health World Museum if Referendum Passes

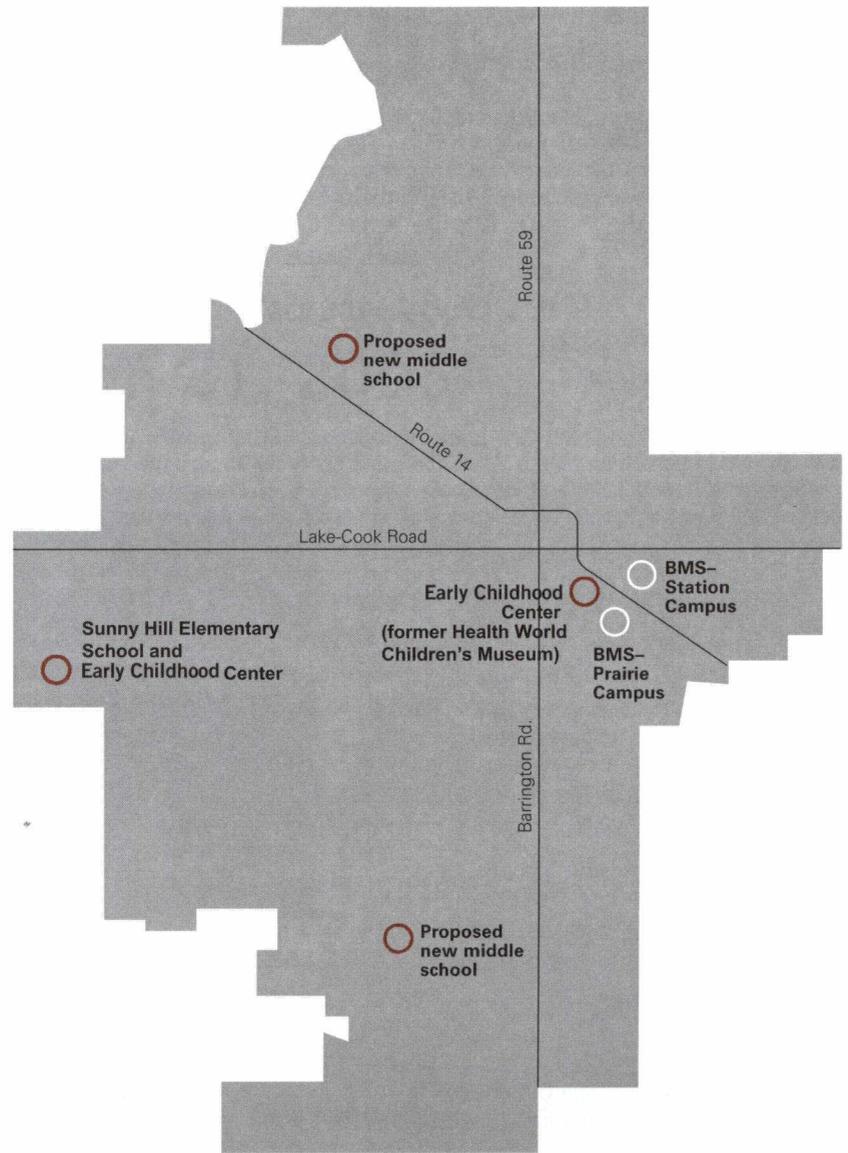


District 220's Early Childhood Program offers a preschool curriculum for students, ages 3-5, who meet certain qualifications and have special needs. This type of program requires specific

facilities and staffing. The District's current main site for Early Childhood is Woodland School, a facility in need of substantial and costly renovations to remain an appropriate school setting. Thus, the decision was made to retire Woodland School and relocate the program to the renovated Health World Children's Museum on South Grove Avenue in Barrington. Also, we will have the potential to repurpose the former 5th grade classrooms at Sunny Hill Elementary School in Carpentersville.

Although the final sale is contingent on a successful referendum, the proposal to acquire and slightly renovate the Health World Museum has many benefits. Specifically, the building:

- Offers child-friendly spaces and will continue to provide interactive programs for children.
- Is located in the geographic center of District 220—reducing travel times for many families with young children.
- Continues to be used as a community learning center just as it has been for the past ten years.
- Provides much needed District administrative office space, allowing the sale of the current administration center at 310 James Street in Barrington. Proceeds from the sale will be used to offset relocation costs.



Barrington Community Unit School District 220 Map

Proposition: Levy for Learning

This proposition requests an operating tax levy increase for our Education Fund, the fund that pays directly for educating students by providing teachers, support staff, special services, and supplies like books and paper. The need for this additional levy correlates directly with our increase in student population, our commitment to reduce class sizes, and our dedication to create middle schools clearly defined by grade levels.

An increase of \$.25 per \$100 of equalized assessed value (not sales value) will provide funds to hire staff appropriate for the new 5-8 middle school program at all four schools, as well as meet the needs of our rising enrollment throughout the District. For every \$100,000 of equalized assessed value, property owners would pay an additional \$250.

Market Sales Home Value	Equalized Assessed Value @ 33%	Projected Tax Rate Increase	Cost per Year	Cost per Month
\$300,000	\$100,000	0.25	\$250	\$20.83
\$400,000	\$133,333	0.25	\$333	\$27.78
\$500,000	\$166,667	0.25	\$417	\$34.72
\$600,000	\$200,000	0.25	\$500	\$41.67

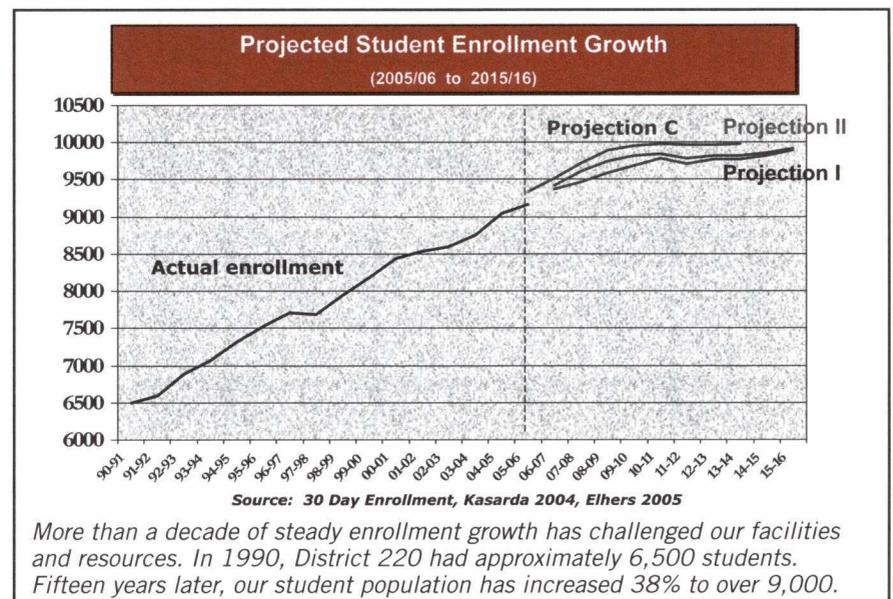
The Levy for Learning will provide greater opportunities for our students. In the fifth grade, students will begin learning a world language and take exploratory classes in arts and technology. Sixth grade students will be able to study a world language year-round rather than only one semester. Seventh and eighth graders will have additional Language Arts instruction and more flexible exploratory course opportunities.

The Levy for Learning will also address enrollment needs at Barrington High School. The building itself can accommodate enrollment growth of up to 3,400 students (projected to near that level in 2015/16). However, BHS needs additional teaching staff. With more teachers, class sizes can be more in keeping with state averages. It has become more frequent that we are not able to grant students their first or second choice of courses.

According to BHS principal, Dr. Tom Leonard, "Unfortunately, large class sizes become problematic on many levels. There is much less ability for teachers to connect with students and for a class to create a learning community. There are also fewer opportunities for frequent individual assessment and feedback. If we could do one thing to improve or maintain the quality of the learning environment at BHS, it would be to ensure a reasonable teacher-student ratio."



Based on our current enrollment projections and curriculum plans, we believe this levy increase will enable us to meet our staffing and operating needs for the next five years.



Many Ways to Vote - Make Your Voice Count!

Check your county websites for specific voter instructions or polling place information:

Lake	www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices
Cook	www.voterinfonet.com
Kane	www.kanecountyelections.org
McHenry	www.co.mchenry.il.us/CountyDpt/countyclerk

At Your Polling Place

Tuesday, March 21, 2006
Polls Open: 6:00AM – 7:00PM

Absentee Ballot

Taking Applications Now

Regular mail-in absentee ballots are available for voters with a *qualifying reason* who are unable to vote in person on March 21st. You must apply for an absentee ballot application by contacting your County Clerk's office. Cook, Lake, and Kane County allow you to request an **absentee ballot application** on line. You must call McHenry County directly (815.334.4242) for an application.

You can also vote **absentee in person** at the County Clerk's offices and SOME Township offices. This requires a *qualifying reason* why you cannot vote regularly at your polling place on March 21st. Call your County Clerk's office for availability.

Early Voting

February 27 – March 16, 2006

Early voting is now available to all registered voters for the first time prior to the March 21, 2006 primary election, *without needing a reason*. This means a registered voter can cast their ballot—in person only—anytime between February 27 and March 16 at the County Clerk's office and most township offices. Please call ahead for specific times:

Barrington Township (Cook County)

602 South Hough Street, Barrington, 847.381.5632

Cuba Township (Lake County)

28000 West Cuba Road, Barrington Hills, 847.381.1924

Dundee Township (Kane County)

557 Barrington Avenue, East Dundee, 847.428.8092

Ela Township (Lake County)

95 East Main Street, Lake Zurich, 847.438.7826

Palatine Township (Cook County - for unincorporated areas of Palatine Township only)

721 South Quentin Road, Palatine, 847.358.6700

Hanover Township (Cook County – for unincorporated areas only)

8N1800 59, Bartlett, 630.837.0301

Hoffman Estates Village Hall (Cook County)

1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates

Algonquin Township (McHenry County)

3702 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake, 847.639.2700

McHenry County Clerk's Office

McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Room 107, Woodstock

South Barrington Village Hall

30 South Barrington Road, South Barrington, 847.381.7510
M-F · 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Barrington Hills Village Hall

112 Algonquin Road, Barrington Hills, 847.551.3000
By Appointment Only

Save the Date

Learn About the March 21st Referendum Firsthand

Referendum Information Fairs

We urge residents to learn all the facts about the proposed referendum to ensure you can make an informed decision. So mark your calendars to attend an interactive Referendum Information Fair to ask questions and get answers. All events run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21
Thursday, February 23
Wednesday, March 1
Thursday, March 2
Monday, March 6
Wednesday, March 8
Thursday, March 9
Monday, March 13
Wednesday, March 15
Thursday, March 16

BMS-Station Campus
BMS-Prairie Campus
Sunny Hill Elementary
Grove Avenue Elementary
Hough Street Elementary
Arnett C. Lines Elementary
Countryside Elementary
Barbara B. Rose Elementary
North Barrington Elementary
Roslyn Road Elementary

School Tours Available

Tours of our Middle Schools are also available on Wednesdays (2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15) between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at both our Station and Prairie Middle School Campuses.

Contact Us with Questions or to Request a Presentation

- By telephone: 847.842.3501
- By E-mail: www.cusd220.org



Larger than state average class sizes make our middle school classrooms cramped and congested.



Hungry middle school students face long lines for lunch.

Barrington Community Unit School District 220



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Board of Education

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Jeff Church, Secretary
Deb Etzel, President
Judith K. Freeman
Penny Kazmier
Jeff Nordquist, Vice President
Sam Oliver
Dr. Mary B. Herrmann, Superintendent of Schools

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Barrington Community Unit School District 220

March 2006



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Make An Informed Decision on March 21st

Referendum Questions Address Steady Growth in District 220

On **Tuesday, March 21, 2006** residents in Barrington Community Unit School District 220 will have the opportunity to vote on two referendum questions to provide our students with a long-term, comprehensive solution to our growth in student population. Voters will find two propositions on the ballot developed to address our pressing space and staffing issues. They include:

Bond for Building – the request to construct two new middle schools, renovate our existing middle schools, and purchase the location for an Early Childhood Center for \$107.1 million at NO INCREASE to a property owner's annual tax rate.

Levy for Learning – the request to implement an operating levy tax rate increase of 25 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed value (not sales value) to provide additional staffing at our middle and high schools.

If the Bond for Building proposition is approved, we anticipate our new and existing schools will have the capacity to handle our projected enrollment growth for the next decade. The two new middle schools are expected to open in August 2008, with the newly added Early Childhood Center in Barrington potentially ready for our youngest students in Fall 2007.



A minute of instructional time from many middle school classes has been reallocated to passing periods so that students may safely navigate the hallways.

If the Levy for Learning proposition passes, we expect the increased operating tax rate will address our needs for the next five years. This will provide appropriate staffing and improve class sizes at the middle school level (the new and existing campuses) and at Barrington High School.

There are more ways than ever to ensure your voice is heard on Election Day. Polls will be open from 6AM to 7PM on March 21, 2006; absentee ballot applications are available; and now in-person early voting is an option until March 16th. We urge residents to check county clerk websites for specific voter instructions and polling place information.

This special edition of our district newsletter presents the final attendance boundaries, more about the proposed 5-8 middle school grade configuration, and answers to many frequently-asked questions. Information about the referendum is available in many other formats too. Log on to our district website at www.cusd220.org, attend a special *Referendum Information Fair*, tour our existing middle schools, or contact us directly at 847.842.3501. **We urge all residents to make an informed decision on March 21, 2006.**

Attention Cook County Voters!

Referendum Questions on Second Paper Ballot

District 220 voters who reside in Cook County ONLY will receive a separate paper ballot with which to cast their votes on the two proposed referendum questions. Voters will be provided the second ballot at their early voting site, with their absentee materials, or at their polling place on March 21st. After marking each question, each voter will then place the voted ballot into a provided envelope and seal it. Residents voting in Kane, Lake, and McHenry Counties will cast their votes as part of the standard ballot listing all candidates and questions.

A Look at the Official Ballot Questions

✓ PROPOSITION TO ISSUE \$107,100,000 SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS

Shall the Board of Education of Barrington Community Unit School District Number 220, Lake, Cook, Kane and McHenry Counties, Illinois, build and equip two middle school buildings, alter, repair and equip the Barrington Middle School Prairie Campus Building, build and equip an addition to and alter, repair and equip the Barrington Middle School Station Campus Building, acquire, alter, repair and equip a building for early childhood education, improve school sites and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$107,100,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?

✓ PROPOSITION TO INCREASE MAXIMUM ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL TAX RATE

Shall the maximum annual tax rate for educational purposes for Barrington Community Unit School District Number 220, Lake, Cook, Kane and McHenry Counties, Illinois, be increased and established at 3.25 percent upon all the taxable property of said School District at the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, instead of 3.00 percent, the present maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended for said purposes?

(a) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for educational purposes under the maximum rate now in force in said School District is the sum of \$81,050,470.

(b) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for educational purposes under the proposed increased rate is the sum of \$87,804,676.

(c) The total dollar amount of the most recently approved annual budget of said School District is the sum of \$112,793,536; the total dollar amount of said annual budget, if increased by the amount of additional tax which may be levied if the proposition is approved, is the sum of \$119,547,742; the percentage of increase in the total dollar amount of the most recently approved annual budget of said School District, if such total dollar amount were increased by the amount of additional tax which may be levied if the proposition is approved, is 5.99 percent.

(d) The percentage of increase between the maximum rate at which such taxes for educational purposes may be levied if the proposition is approved and the annual rate at which such taxes for educational purposes is currently levied is 8.33 percent.

Barrington Community Unit School District 220



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Attendance Boundaries Developed for Four Middle School Campuses

If the proposed referendum to construct two new middle schools is approved, it will be necessary to restructure our middle school attendance boundaries. During community discussions in 2004 and 2005, residents clearly stated these new boundaries should be developed before a referendum was on the ballot. We want to sincerely thank all of the residents who devoted much time and energy to researching this topic and helping to develop our new attendance boundaries – we recognize it has been a challenging and often emotional task.

Attendance Boundary Panel Process

An Attendance Boundary Panel was formed in October 2005 consisting of district residents, Board of Education members, administrators and staff, and professionals from the Barrington Bus Transportation Company. An extensive series of meetings and community surveys indicated that the following areas were most important to residents and became the Panel's guiding principles:

1. shorter travel
2. keep neighborhoods together
3. use natural boundaries
4. equity of school enrollment size, class size, academic/special services among middle schools

Designated Choice Option

The striped areas are "designated choice" areas. Individual families who are assigned to one middle school may have the choice of attending another, selected middle school. In these areas, usually a neighborhood is in close proximity to one middle school while most of the area's elementary classmates are attending a different middle school.

In these areas, individual families may select the middle school campus they wish to attend for all four years. Siblings of students already enrolled in their "designated choice" campus will also be honored. The district reserves the right to review first-time requests annually to help ensure against overcrowding. Further delineation of the criteria for the choice areas will be determined by District 220 administrators and will be reviewed annually.

Boundary Descriptions

NORTH CAMPUS BOUNDARIES

- N: Dist 220 northern border
- S: Lake-Cook Rd to New Hart Rd. following Metra Rail / NW Highway, east on Cuba Rd.
- E: Dist 220 eastern border
- W: Dist 220 western border

PRAIRIE CAMPUS BOUNDARIES

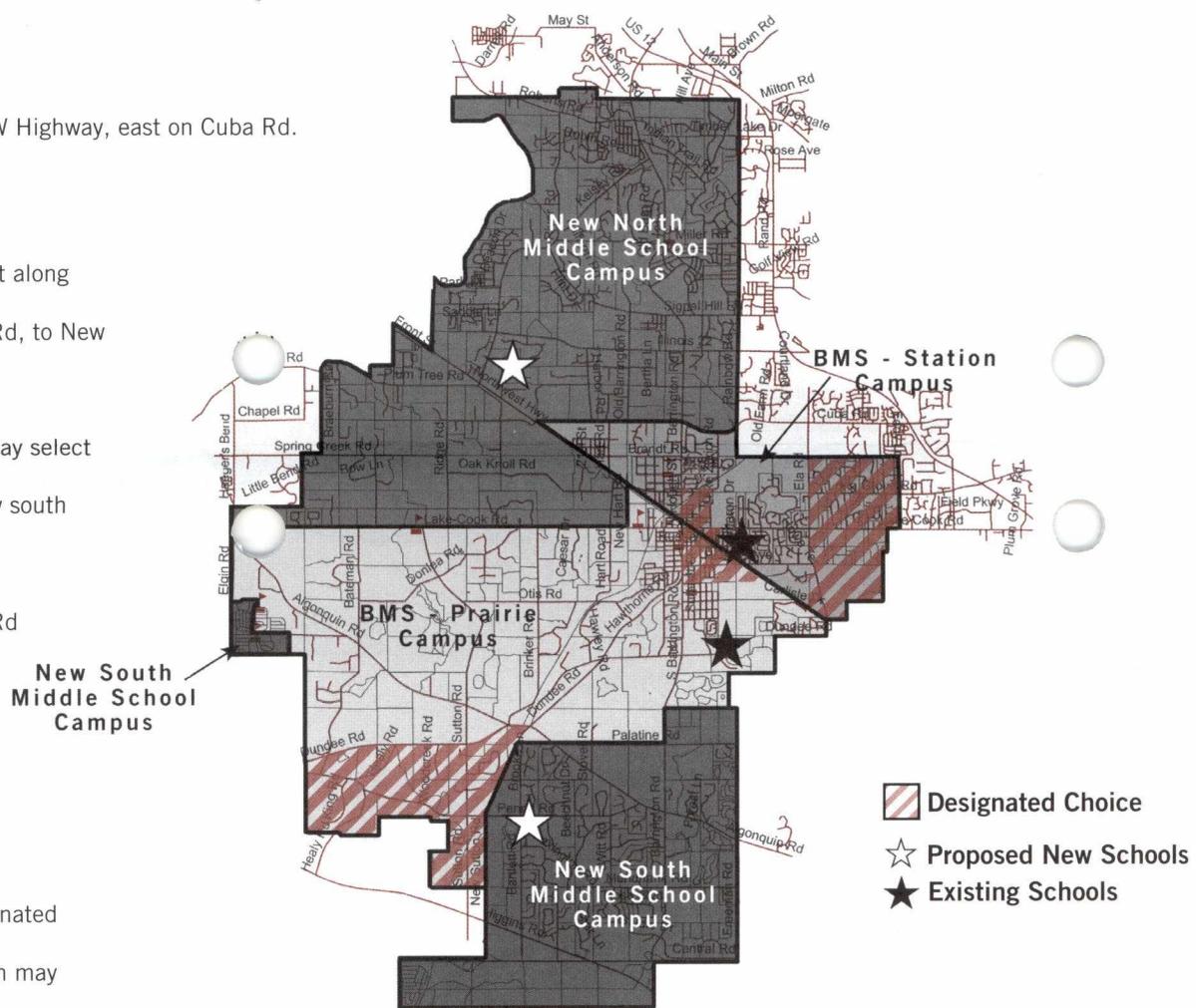
- N: Metra Road / NW Highway, New Hart Rd continuing west along Lake-Cook Rd
- S: Bradwell Rd, south on Barrington Rd, west on Palatine Rd, to New Sutton Rd
- E: Dist 220 eastern border
- W: Dist 220 western border
- DC: Area south of Lake-Cook Road in Village of Barrington may select BMS-Station as a designated choice.
- DC: Area on the district's southwest edge may select the new south middle school as a designated choice.

SOUTH CAMPUS BOUNDARIES

- N: Bradwell Rd, south on Barrington Rd, west on Palatine Rd
- S: Dist 220 southern border
- E: Dist 220 eastern border
- W: New Sutton Rd and Dist 220's western border in Hoffman Estates, south of I-90

STATION CAMPUS BOUNDARIES

- N: Cuba Rd
- E: Dist 220 eastern border
- SW: Metra Rail / NW Highway
- DC: Area east of Ela Road may select BMS-Prairie as a designated choice.
- DC: Area north of Lake-Cook Road in the Village of Barrington may select BMS-Prairie as a designated choice.



Important Property Tax Exemption Information

Did you know there are a host of property tax exemption programs available to homeowners and senior citizens? Check the list below to make sure you've signed up for all that you qualify for! Contact your County Treasurer's office for more information.

General Homestead Exemption is given to owner-occupied residential property or leased single-family residential property when the lessee is responsible for the property tax. The exemption is currently \$5,000.

Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption is a \$3,000 reduction in equalized assessed value for qualifying senior citizens. The reduction is provided for homes owned and occupied by persons who will be at least 65 years of age by December 31st and for single-family dwellings leased by persons that age who are liable for taxes.

Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption is an additional exemption available to seniors who reside in an owner-occupied residence by January 1st of the year prior to the application year, have a total household income level of \$45,000 annually or less, and at least 65 years of age.

Senior Citizens Tax Deferral Program allows qualified senior citizens to defer part or all of the property taxes on their personal residences. Under the program, the State pays the

property taxes due, charges the owner 6% interest per year on the amount paid, and then acquires a lien on the property that must be repaid after the taxpayer's death or when the property is sold. To qualify, an applicant must be 65 years old, have a total household income of less than \$40,000, lived in the property for three years, own the property, and have no delinquent taxes on the property.

Homestead Improvement Exemption is for homeowners who have made improvements to properties used exclusively for residential purposes. The exemption may be up to \$75,000 of the market value of the improvements in the event of an assessment increase (up to \$25,000 of assessed value). This exemption can continue for four years improvement completion.

Circuit Breaker is a type of property tax relief available to senior and disabled persons. To qualify, a person must be at least 65 years old, or totally disabled and at least 16 years old. Total annual household income must be no more than \$21,218 for a one-person household, \$28,840 for a two-person household, or \$35,740 for a three-person household. The grant is based on the amount of property tax and household income.

More on the 5-8 Middle School Solution

The Overall Concept

- Build two new middle schools to relieve the significant overcrowding and provide four manageable campuses of approximately 750-850 students each.
- Reconfigure our grade levels to become K-4 elementary schools and 5-8 middle schools to provide immediate elementary space and additional middle school academic opportunities.

Age-Appropriate Environments

- Separate areas for Grades 5-6 and Grades 7-8
- Grade 5 will have one "core curriculum teacher"
- 5th and 6th grade students will not change clothes for PE
- Support services for students needing reading or math assistance will be maintained as provided at the 5th grade level
- Room parents for younger grades
- Age-appropriate social activities for Grades 5-6 and 7-8 (e.g. no dances for Grade 5-6)
- Other districts indicate this approach "keeps kids younger longer"

Exploratory Course Offerings Include:

- World Language
- Art
- General Music
- Drama
- Computer Applications (5th grade)
- Applied Technology (6th - 8th grade)

New 5-8 Academic Opportunities

5th grade:

Study of a world language begins at 5th grade rather than current approach of beginning at 6th grade, and exploratory courses available to all 5th grade students

6th grade:

Year-round study of a world language rather than current approach of only 1 semester

7th and 8th grades:

Additional instruction in Language Arts



Bus Environment Improvements

- Overall, shorter travel
- Grade level seating for middle school, younger students near front
- Classroom and Bus Driver training
- Both students and parents will sign "Code of Conduct" outlining expected appropriate behavior and consequences if behavior is inappropriate
- Security cameras to be installed on buses

Sample 5th & 6th Grade Schedule

Period	Fifth Grade	Sixth Grade
1 7:55	Classroom core curriculum	Language Arts
2		Language Arts
3		History
4A 30 minutes	Lunch	Supervised time or Band/Chorus/Orchestra
4B 30 minutes	Daily Recess or 2 days Band/Chorus/Orchestra + 3 days recess	Lunch
5	Classroom core curriculum	Math
6		Science
7	Exploratory/World Language	PE/Health
8	PE/Health	Exploratory/World Language
2:50	Community Action Program (C.A.P.)	

Sample 7th & 8th Grade Schedule

Period	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
1 7:55-8:42	Math	Exploratory or World Language
2 8:45-9:32	Science	Exploratory or World Language
3 9:35-10:22	PE/Health	Science
4 10:25-11:12	Exploratory or World Language	Language Arts
5 11:15-12:02	Exploratory or World Language	PE/Health
6A 12:05-12:35	C.A.P. or B/C/O	Lunch
6B 12:35-1:05	Lunch	C.A.P. or B/C/O
7 1:08-1:55	Language Arts	History
8 1:58-2:45	History	Math
2:45-2:50	Board bus before Gr. 5-6	

Proposed Solution for Each Grade Level

The proposed referendum questions directly address the challenges that result from eight consecutive years of student enrollment growth in District 220. Our space crunch ripples throughout the district but is most immediate at the Middle School level.

More Teachers for Barrington High School

- BHS currently has 101 classes with 30+ students and it's become more frequent that we cannot grant students their first or second choice of courses.
- Our existing building can handle approximately 3,400 students expected in 2015/16. BHS currently has 2,800 students.
- The proposed plan will add more teachers to improve class sizes and offer more sections of courses.

More Space and Teachers for Middle School

- Our range of class sizes has reached undesirable levels with 77 classes having 30+ students and valuable instructional time has been reallocated to allow students more time to get through the crowded hallway passing periods.
- Our two existing Middle Schools currently house 2,190 students from over 72 square miles. The proposed plan would provide two additional middle schools to reduce the student population, better balance the district geographically, and add staffing/teachers appropriate to student enrollment.

More Space for Elementary Schools

- Among our eight elementary schools, only 1 classroom is still open. Our ability to accommodate mandated Special Education services and enrollment growth is severely limited.
- The proposed plan creates space in each of our elementary schools without costly additions by moving the fifth grade to the middle school environment.

More Suitable Space for Early Childhood

- The current Early Childhood Center, Woodland School, requires significant and costly renovations to meet the building standards of other District 220 schools. Also, Woodland's location at the district's edge is a long commute for 3 and 4 year old students.
- The proposed plan would relocate the program to the Health World Museum building in the Village of Barrington. It offers a central location in a building already dedicated to children. The proposal acquires the building, installs classrooms on the main floor, as well as an energy efficient heating system.

How do the proposed construction costs for the new middle schools compare with other middle schools in Illinois?

The chart below shows cost comparisons with adjustments made to reflect building during the same period as the proposed new schools.

New Middle School Project	Building Square Feet	Cost if Built in 2007-08	Cost per Square Foot
Clarendon Hills Middle School	88,268	\$19,482,850	\$221
Mokena Junior High	115,000	\$22,418,622	\$195
Cary Junior High	144,000	\$24,491,788	\$170
Elgin Middle School	147,650	\$22,919,374	\$155
Barrington Middle Schools*	145,000	\$25,375,000	\$175

*Proposed size and cost

Pepper Construction, the firm selected to manage District 220's construction, developed cost estimates from three different perspectives: an analysis of Cary Junior High which was designed by Perkins+Will Architects (the same firm hired for District 220), a cost review of other recently constructed middle schools in the area, and Pepper's own school construction experience. In addition, an outside construction consultant reviewed and confirmed the projected costs.

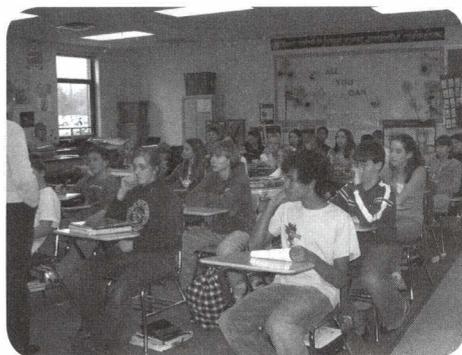
Questions & Answers

Q: Why is overcrowding such an issue today?

A: Over the past 15 years higher learning standards, new state and federal mandates, special education, technology, and evolving teaching techniques have dramatically changed the face of education. Simply accommodating the physical space needed to meet our broad range of student programs and services, in combination with our steady enrollment increase, has forced us to be “creative” in maximizing every available space in our schools. Yet it’s not just the classrooms that are crunched for space – the use of core building areas such as hallways, gym, cafeterias, and libraries are directly affected by our rising student population. Overcrowding causes safety and discipline issues, lessens the opportunity for team teaching, and makes participating in co-curricular programs and activities much more competitive.

Q: How long will the proposed plan accommodate our increasing student population?

A: Our current demographic projections show that the space generated by the two new middle schools combined with the new 5-8 configuration will likely address our enrollment needs at the middle and elementary levels through 2015/2016 and possible even longer. With creative scheduling and programming we anticipate our existing high school (2,800 students) can meet our growing population until we reach approximately 3,400 students – which current projections indicate shouldn’t happen until 2015/2016.



77 classrooms in our middle schools have 30 or more students.

Q: Why do we need to change our grade level configuration if we are building two new schools?

A: Long-term solutions are needed to address District 220’s steady and significant student enrollment growth. Although the proposed “Bond for Building” referendum question calls for two new middle schools to be built, this new space doesn’t address the overcrowding we also face at the elementary level. By moving the 5th grade into the middle schools, space is automatically created at the existing elementary schools, without further costly construction and disrupting students. This approach also provides our fifth graders with additional academic opportunities available in a middle school environment.

Q: How will 5th grade students be treated in a middle school environment? Will they have to travel from class to class?

A: The 5th grade students will be in a defined “school within a school” elementary school environment, one that clearly separates them from the older grade levels. Classes will be taught primarily by one teacher, and students

will travel together to special classes like gym and art similar to today’s approach. Academically, 5th grade students will continue their current elementary core curriculum with additional exposure to world languages, technology, and fine and performing arts.

Q: When will the grade level transition take place?

A: If the referendum questions are approved, the new middle schools and new grade configuration are expected to be implemented in the Fall 2008.

Q: How much will the “Bond for Building” proposition cost and how will it directly impact my tax bill?

A: The total cost of the work included in the “Bond for Building” proposition is \$107.1 million and includes all new construction, renovations, site work, furniture, fixtures, equipment, technology and professional fees. There will be NO INCREASE to a property owner’s annual tax rate associated with this proposition. If approved, the current tax rate will be maintained. This tax rate will be applied to each homeowner’s equalized assessed property value.

Q: Why do we need a “Levy for Learning” operating tax increase and how will it directly impact my tax bill?

A: The “Levy for Learning” proposition requests an operating tax levy increase for our Education Fund; an increase of \$.25 per \$100 of equalized assessed value (not sales value) will provide funds to hire staff appropriate for the new 5-8 middle school program at all four schools, as well as meet the needs of our rising enrollment at Barrington High School. Additional BHS teachers may be hired for the next academic year if the referendum is approved. The need for this additional levy correlates directly with our steady increase in student population and the Board of Education’s commitment to the community to reduce and balance class sizes.



According to The Council for Educational Facilities Planning International (CEFPI), nearly 20% of a school’s useable space is now required for technology.

For every \$100,000 of equalized assessed value, property owners would pay an additional \$250.

Q: How do the costs break down?

A: The total project costs break down between “hard costs” such as construction materials and labor associated with actually building and renovating our schools, and “soft costs” such as site work, furniture, fixture and equipment, and all professional fees related to our professional team of architects, construction managers, and legal counsel.

The chart below indicates the specific breakdown of the project to total \$107.1 million:

BUILDING BOND COMPONENTS

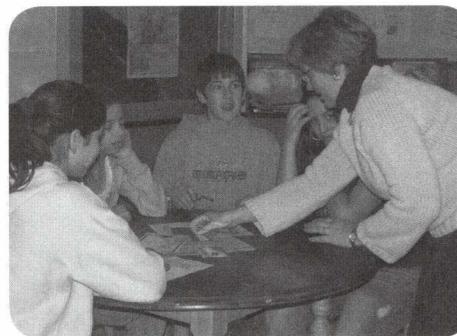
Construction of 2 Middle Schools	\$51.6
Site work	\$10.8
Furnishings, fees, equipment	\$12.5
Renovation for existing middle schools	\$14.4
Contingency (10%)	\$8.8
Middle School Total	\$97.1
Acquisition/renovation of Health World	\$10.0
Building Bond Total	\$107.1

Source: Perkins+Will Architects, Pepper Construction

Q: What happens if the referendum questions do not pass on March 21st?

A: If voters reject the “Bond for Building” proposition in March, the simple fact is that our overcrowding issues will continue to worsen. Classrooms at the middle school levels will remain cramped and congested, as will the hallways, cafeterias, gyms, and other core building areas. It’s possible the district will need to re-district the elementary school attendance boundaries to relieve pressure at that level in the short-term. Besides impacting our students most directly, the costs associated with any construction-related solution will continue to rise, which ultimately affects all taxpayers. The Health World Museum building, the sale of which is contingent on the approval of the “Bond for Building” proposition, may not be available in the future. If voters reject the “Levy for Learning” question, Barrington

High School students will continue to be frustrated by their inability to take desired courses. Students at all levels will find it more challenging to receive individual instruction from faculty and staff.



A science teacher works with students at a lab station made from her own kitchen table. As our enrollment increases, so does the demand for more lab space.

 **Vote Tuesday, March 21, 2006**

Barrington Community Unit School District 220

Referendum News

Special Edition, October 2006



Inspiring all learners to achieve excellence

New Schools Will Solve Space Crunch

Outstanding student performance, dedicated teaching staff, engaged parents — Barrington Community Unit School District 220 has the key components for educational success. Challenges exist though, specifically, lack of sufficient space for student enrollment and programs, and teachers for the classrooms.

If approved by voters this November, the new schools would be open for students in fall 2009.

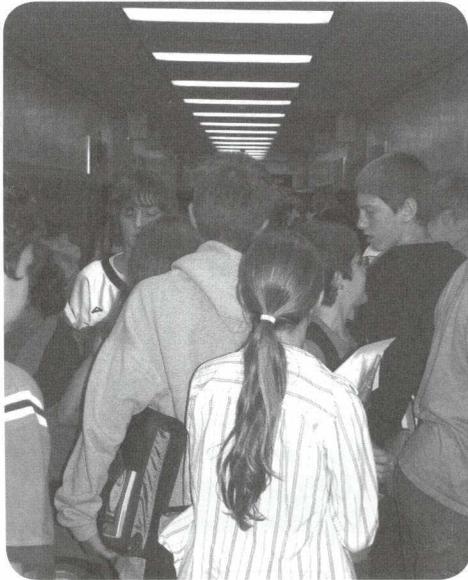
The **Levy for Learning** would provide teaching staff for the new schools as well as address immediate concerns at Barrington High school, including teachers and much needed safety improvements to the athletic stadium.

To alleviate the overcrowding at the middle school level and to create more space at the elementary level, District 220 is asking residents to consider two referendum proposals on the November 7 election ballot: a bond to build two additional schools and renovate two existing schools for Grades 5-8 and a levy to hire more teachers and staff.

Recently passed state legislation now allows taxing bodies, such as school districts, to receive funds approved by a referendum for a maximum of *four* years. At the end of four years, the property tax cap would apply and erode the tax rate. Previously, referendum-approved funds were collected for only one year and then property tax cap legislation would apply. As a result, the November levy proposal of +15¢ (collected for four years) provides similar funds as the March request of +25¢ (collected for one year).

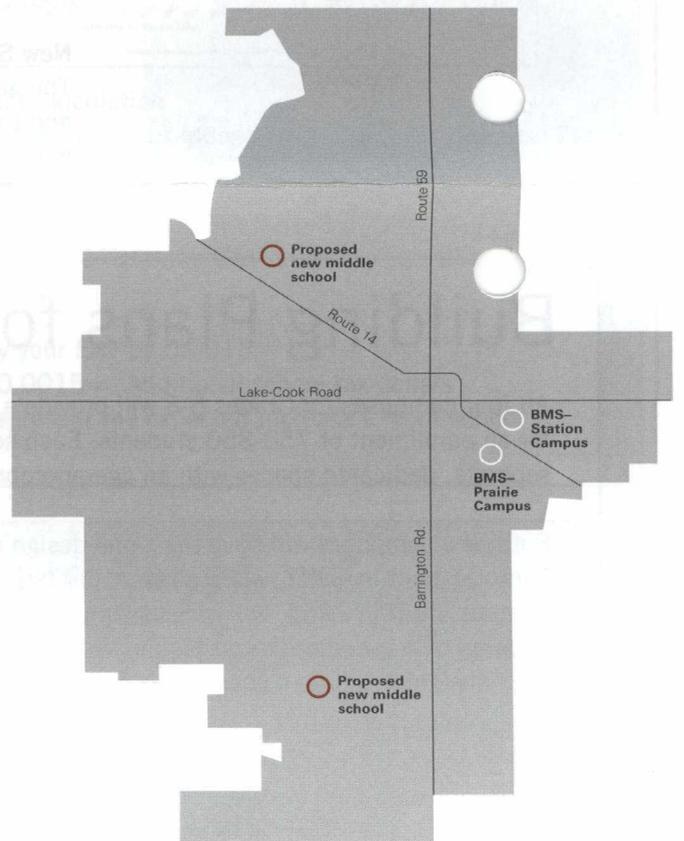
	November 7th Proposal	Previous Proposal
Bond for Building	\$87.5 million	\$107.1 million
Levy for Learning	+\$0.15	+\$0.25

For more detailed information, please turn the page or go to www.cusd220.org.



Students at both BMS campuses face crowded conditions in classrooms, gyms, cafeterias, and hallways.

The **Bond for Building** would construct two new schools for Grades 5-8 and renovate the existing BMS-Station and Prairie campuses for \$87.5 million. The new schools, to be constructed on district-owned land in Lake Barrington and South Barrington, would solve the space crunch at both the middle and elementary levels. Under this approach, all the middle school campuses would house Grades 5-8 (rather than the current 6-8) and the elementary schools would house Kindergarten through Grade 4. All grades would have age-appropriate, dedicated space at the Grade 5-8 campuses (see article on page 4).



Together, the two existing middle schools and the two proposed new schools would better serve the District's large 72 square mile area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Middle Schools & Elementary Schools Out of Room 2
- Residents' Views 2
- New Middle School Designs 2
- Construction Cost Comparison 3
- Cost to Taxpayers 3
- Tax Rate Comparison 3
- Age-Appropriate Middle Schools 4

The November bond proposal is smaller and less complex than the previous bond proposed in March. This new proposal reflects input from the spring resident survey and focus groups (see article on page 2).

The Bond for Building focuses on middle school construction and renovation only. It does not include a request to purchase a building to serve as an Early Childhood Center. Another key area of reduced cost is site work. More data about the sites for the future middle schools were obtained over the summer. As a result, the site work will cost less than originally expected.

Student attendance assignments for the four campuses will be developed by a community advisory committee, pending approval of the new schools. The committee will include residents with equal representation from the elementary attendance areas.

Barrington Community Unit School District 220

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www.cusd220.org

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Storage closets now serve as small instruction spaces in most schools.

"Both time and space are being used creatively."

Middle and Elementary Schools Are Out of Room

All classrooms are being used at both Barrington Middle School campuses and at all elementary schools. Both middle school campuses have over 1,000 students. An enrollment of 750-850 students per campus would be more conducive to the educational program. Excluding physical education, band, chorus, and orchestra, nearly 60 core academic classes have over 30 students each. Common spaces such as hallways, gymnasiums, and cafeterias have become more crowded. In addition to library services, media centers now also include small group instruction. At the elementary level, not one single classroom is open full-time. As a result, the elementary schools are limited in accommodating existing educational programs, including mandated Special Education services.

Short-Term Solutions Implemented

BMS class sizes have increased as enrollment has grown, but the space remained the same. Short-term tactics have also been implemented to immediately help ease the space crunch. At the middle school level, the school day has been lengthened by 15 minutes. While half of the time is used for instruction, the other half is used for passing periods to help students safely navigate the crowded hallways. At the elementary schools, small group instruction has moved into storage closets. Both time and space are being used creatively.

New Schools Add Classrooms for Now and Long-Term

The addition of two schools, combined with the grade reconfiguration, would ease the space crunch for now and the long-term. The Grade 5-8 campuses would have smaller enrollments and moving 5th grade would open classrooms at elementary schools to accommodate more students. Also, existing programs such as Gifted/Extended Resource, Reading Resource, Music, and Special Education Services would be able to move out of closets and hallways.

Residents' Views Shape November Proposals

In the election last March, a comprehensive and holistic proposal to alleviate the overcrowding was offered to the community; however, voters did not approve them. To understand why, District 220 talked to registered voters (nearly 450) using focus groups and a random telephone survey. In brief, residents said:

- More schools are needed.
- Reducing travel times is important.
- New schools will need more teachers.
- High scores were given for quality of education, district leadership, and communication.
- March 2006 proposal was complex.

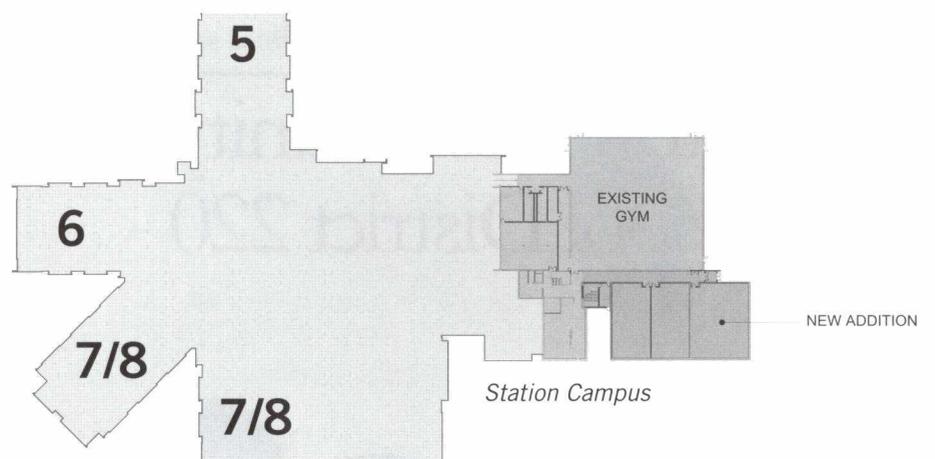
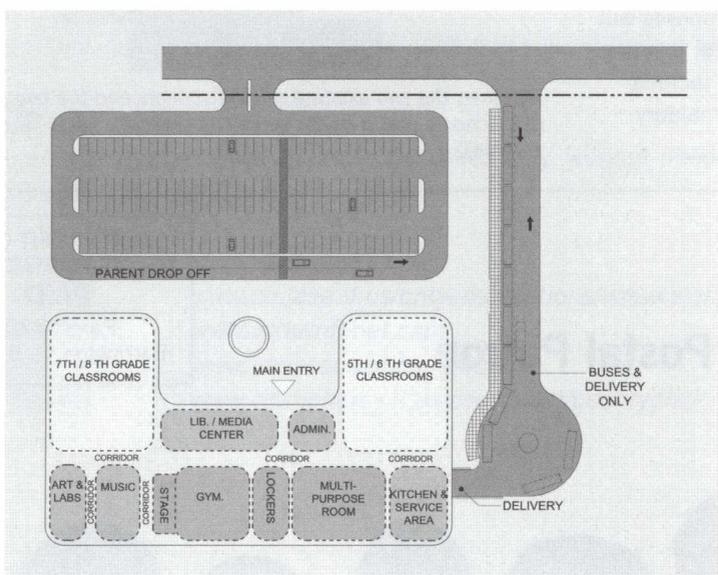
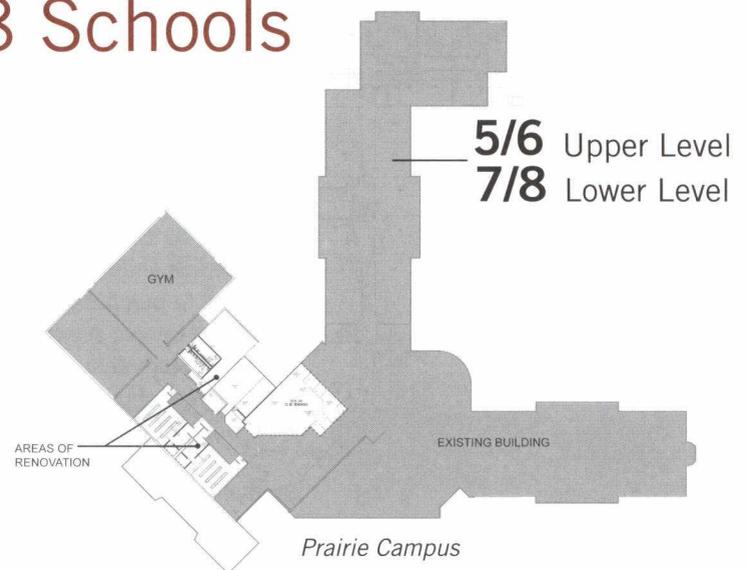
District 220 carefully reviewed residents' perspectives and developed a smaller and simpler proposal. The new November Bond for Building proposal focuses on creating more space at the middle and elementary levels only.

Unlike the March proposals, no Early Childhood Center is requested. District 220 is continuing to explore long-term solutions for an Early Childhood Center.

Building Plans for Grade 5-8 Schools

All four campuses for Grades 5-8 will provide a safe, physical environment for an enrollment of 750-850 students. Each school will house the grades in separate, dedicated spaces with an age-appropriate environment.

Both new campuses will have the same design and layout. BMS-Prairie Campus, built in 1992, will receive minor renovations. BMS-Station Campus, built in 1965, will receive significant renovations such as the addition of a sprinkler fire protection system. Even the existing campuses will house older students separately from younger students.



Construction Process

If approved, the new Grade 5-8 schools will be completed for student use by fall 2009. Perkins+Will Architects will design the new schools and Cashman-Stahler will design renovations for the Prairie and Station campuses. Both firms have extensive experience in designing schools. Perkins+Will designed the original Barrington High School and Grove Avenue Elementary School, while Cashman-Stahler designed Countryside and Roslyn Road Elementary Schools.

The Bond for Building totals \$87.5 million. The costs breakdown as follows:

	\$ Millions
New School Buildings	50.8
Site work	6.0
Renovation of Existing Campuses, Prairie & Station	9.7
Furnishings, technology, professional fees, contingency	21.0
Total	87.5

The construction process will be managed by Barrington's own Pepper Construction, a firm recognized by the Illinois Better Business Bureau for "Doing It Right — Ethically." As construction manager, Pepper will be responsible for seeing that the schools are built on time, on scope, and within budget. The projects themselves (examples include mason work, electric work, etc.) will be competitively bid according to law.

Construction Cost Comparison

School	Building Square Feet	Cost if Built in 2007-2008	Cost per Square Foot
Clarendon Hills Middle School	88,268	\$19.5 M	\$221
Waukegan Junior High	115,000	\$22.4 M	\$195
Each Proposed new Barrington Middle School	145,000	\$25.4 M	\$175
Cary Middle School	144,000	\$24.5 M	\$170
Elgin Middle School	147,650	\$22.9 M	\$155

Source: Estimates for new school construction and existing school renovations were developed by the architects and Pepper Construction. Cost per square foot reflects building construction only, excludes items such as site work.

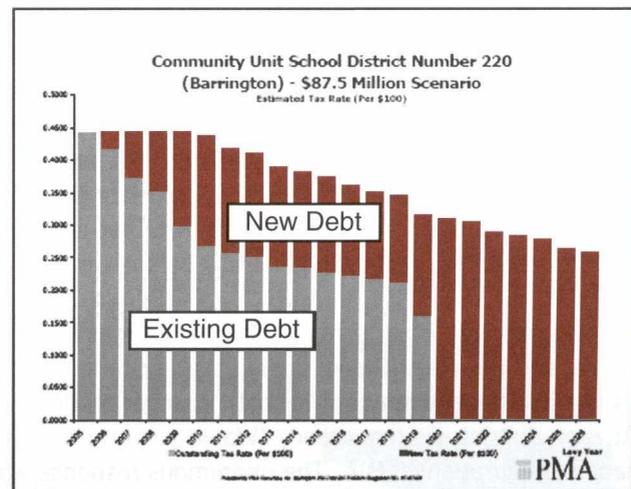
Cost to Taxpayers

Bond for Building + Levy for Learning

If voters approve the Bond for Building, the tax rate will not increase. Actual tax payments will increase/decrease pending the value of the individual owner's property.

In an effort to minimize the immediate impact on taxpayers, the new bonds will be issued using both a timing and structure intended to maintain our existing tax rates for bonds for 3-4 years. After four years, the tax rate will decline as bonds are paid off using level annual payments over the life of the bonds. This approach assumes that the value of total property in District 220 will grow over time.

If voters approve the Levy for Learning proposal, the total limiting school tax rate would increase +15¢ to \$2.98. Property owners' exact rate will differ slightly depending on the county due to timing differences in the county's billing tax cycle.



School Tax Impact Calculation

To calculate the impact to your individual property tax rate, use the following method:

Step 1: Find the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) on your 2005 property tax bill. Please note that EAV is not the sale's value of your house.

Step 2: Multiply your EAV by 0.0015.

Your EAV x 0.0015 = Additional school tax dollars

The result will represent the expected increase to your school property taxes.

How Do District 220's Taxes Compare to Neighbors?

The chart below provides a perspective about District 220 residents' funding contribution compared to other neighboring school districts. While no single data point captures a school district's entire fiscal picture, District 220 residents pay lower taxes (for every \$100,000 of equalized assessed property value) than residents of neighboring school districts. The chart below demonstrates that if two houses had the same equalized assessed property value, one located in District 220 while the other house is located in a neighboring school district, the District 220 home would pay less school taxes.

Area School Districts	2003 Tax Rate (%)	Local School Dollars (Rate x \$100,000 EAV)	Operating Expenses (\$) Per Pupil
Palatine High School District 211 + Elementary 15	5.48	\$5,480	HS: \$12,809 ES: \$9,662
Crystal Lake High School District 155 + Elementary 26	5.03	\$5,030	HS: \$9,020 ES: \$7,114
Stevenson High School District 125 + Kildeer Elementary 96	4.88	\$4,880	HS: \$13,645 ES: \$10,035
Naperville Unit School District 203	4.36	\$4,360	\$9,396
Arlington Heights High School District 214 + Elementary 59	4.11	\$4,110	HS: \$14,167 ES: \$10,993
Lake Zurich Unit School District 95	4.09	\$4,090	\$9,508
Carpentersville Unit School District 300	3.87	\$3,870	\$8,048
Barrington Unit School District 220	3.20	\$3,200	\$10,712

Source: ISBE Ilearn, FY 2005

Age-Appropriate Environment for Grades 5-8

To ensure age-appropriate environments for each grade, District 220 asked teachers, residents, and other educators to review best practices and to visit other school districts who have evolved their middle school years to include Grade 5. After extensive discussion, the resident "School Environment Panel" offered recommendations to the Board of Education regarding what the feel of a Grade 5-8 school should be. All of their recommendations were accepted. They include:

- Grades 5-6 and Grades 7-8 will have separate physical areas.
- Grade 5 will have one "core curriculum teacher."
- Grades 5-6 will not change clothes for PE.
- Support services for students needing reading or math assistance will be maintained as provided at the 5th grade level.
- Younger grades will have room parents.
- Age-appropriate social activities will be provided for Grades 5-6 and 7-8 (e.g. no dances for Grade 5-6).

Recommendations to improve the school bus environment were also accepted. Steps have already been taken to improve bus rides to and from BMS-Station and Prairie. They include: grade-level seating with younger students near front, bus driver training, and security cameras on the busses. In addition, both students and parents sign a "Code of Conduct" outlining expected appropriate behavior and consequences if behavior is inappropriate. With two additional campuses, bus travel for students will generally be shorter.

Visits and discussions with other school districts, such as Lake Forest, Glencoe, and Fox River Grove, proved that a Grade 5-8 campus is a healthy environment for both younger and older students. At each district, visitors asked, "Would you return to your previous grade configuration (6-8)?" The unanimous response was, "Now that we've experienced a 5-8, not likely."

Key Facts about District 220

OUR STUDENTS

- ★ We educate over 9,000 students. We are a unit school district for pre-Kindergarten–Grade 12.
- ★ We serve students from a 72 square-mile area, including all or part of: Barrington, Barrington Hills, Carpentersville, Deer Park, Fox River Grove, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, Port Barrington, South Barrington, and Tower Lakes.

OUR TEACHERS and STAFF

- ★ 66% have Masters degrees or higher.
- ★ 8 teachers have national board certification.
- ★ A District 220 teacher earned the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching Math & Science.
- ★ 4 nurses have national board certification.

OUR PERFORMANCE

- ★ Consistently ranked among the state's top 5% school districts academically.
- ★ BHS ranked "Top 1000 High Schools" in the nation by *Newsweek*.
- ★ "Outperformer" awarded from Standard & Poor's for academic achievement among school districts with similar demographics.
- ★ "What Parents Want" awarded from SchoolMatch.
- ★ "Bright Red Apple" awarded from SchoolSearch for overall excellence.
- ★ AA bond rating earned from Standard & Poor's, the second upgraded rating in three years.
- ★ Balanced budgets for 10 consecutive years.
- ★ Earned second-highest financial ranking of "Financial Profile" from the State of Illinois.

Many Ways to Vote

The Bond for Building and Levy for Learning proposals will appear on the same election ballot as choices for Illinois governor. Referendum proposals usually appear at the end of the ballot.

Registered voters can vote on Election Day, **Tuesday, November 7**, at designated polling places. If you have a conflict that might prevent you from casting a ballot, other options are available, such as Absentee Voting or Early Voting. Information is available at the following web sites, or call your county/township office for further information.

Election Day

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7. For specific locations, refer to the county web sites listed below.

Absentee Voting

For voters with a qualifying reason who are unable to vote in person on November 7th, regular mail-in absentee ballots are available.

Early Voting

A registered voter can cast their ballot — in person only, without needing a reason — anytime between October 16 and November 2.

For more specific information, please refer to:

Lake County	www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices
Cook County	www.voterinfonet.com
Kane County	www.kanecountyelections.org
McHenry County	www.co.mchenry.il.us/countydept/countyclerk

Vote Tuesday, November 7th!

