

Kieleidoscope

April 2, 2015

The upcoming referendum is less than a week away. I appreciate the time our community members have taken to provide feedback either through written editorials or emails. This truly is a referendum for the community that will impact our future for the next forty to fifty years.

As the District Administrator, I cannot endorse a vote either way but I can inform you of the uses and value of each of the three questions.

Question one: A new eight lane pool and renovation of the locker rooms. The current pool has outlived its years. In addition to structural cracks and other issues, there is not adequate spectator seating and deck space. The eight lane pool is a plan for the future. We want Kiel to be a place where other school districts want to come to compete. There is much pride that goes into hosting events at our schools. We should be proud of our facilities and have people leave our district thinking Kiel is a forward-thinking, up-to-date facility that is supported by our community.

Question two: The warm water therapy pool could truly be an asset to our community. The goal of the therapy pool is to assist our senior citizen and youth population in rehabilitation and recreational activities. In addition to serving our senior citizens, it is also a separate facility for our youth. The warm temperature allows us to create programming to serve citizens of the community. The school district is an important part of our community. We serve our students, and we also serve the citizens of the community. This was strongly supported in the survey, so I ask that you reflect on the services this therapy pool can offer our community members.

Question three: While question one and two are bond questions for brick and mortar, question three allows us to open the doors and keep them open. Additional operating funds will provide the resources to create an annual maintenance plan for the pool and allow the operation of the area to expand its hours. Question three is a needed resource to keep us current with technology devices for our students and to achieve the goals of completing maintenance projects that are on-going capital improvements that are outside of the annual budget.

I understand the financial impact this referendum will have on my household and other households if it is successful. I wish our current revenue limits and state aid would be enough to cover these expenses. But the reality is it does not.

My hope is that you consider all the information provided to you through mailings, public forums and editorials while looking forward into the future for our students, senior citizens and youth.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kiel Area School District. It is my pleasure to be a part of this wonderful community. Please vote on April 7.