



CONNECTIONS

Living and Learning in NW Lake County

A community magazine for Antioch, Lake Villa, and Lindenhurst

District 34 gets to work on referendum promises

District 117 welcomes new principal

Get ready for fall, winter in Antioch

Antioch Township meets transportation needs and more

Antioch and Lake Villa Libraries

Strategic Planning results in Lake Villa 41

Fun at Peacock Camp with Lake Villa Township



Fall 2017

Referendum Passes! Thank You, Antioch 34 voters

Sixty-three percent of voters said “yes” to the District 34 referendum in the April 4, 2017 election. Because of this vote of confidence, District 34 will be working to accomplish the following outcomes:

Shift to a K-5 Grade Level Configuration

In the current District 34 configuration, students attend three different schools during their K-8 school experience. Hillcrest Elementary School serves as the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade center. Students then attend one of three elementary schools that serve a grade 2-5 population (Oakland, W.C. Petty, and Antioch Elementary School). All students then attend Antioch Upper Grade School (AUGS) for their remaining sixth through eighth grade years. District 34 is planning to change the configuration to a K-5 structure, which will reduce the number of required school transitions. The proposed configuration also creates neighborhood schools and allows for more efficient bussing.



Mobile classrooms were removed from school campuses over the summer as part of the referendum that voters passed in April.

Eliminate Portable/Mobile Classrooms

Over the years, District 34 has acquired 16 portable classrooms to accommodate growing student populations. These learning spaces are not ideal and require students and staff to travel out of doors to access the main buildings. Not only will the elimination of portable classrooms enhance student and staff safety and security, but it also will provide greater aesthetic value on our school campuses.

Create Greater Equity of Learning Spaces Across all Schools

There is a wide range of quality of learning spaces as a result of the age of school buildings ranging from 15 years old to 90 years old. Some schools have central air conditioning while others do not. Some schools have separate spaces for the gymnasium and cafeteria while

other schools have a combined gymnasium/cafeteria space. There also is a wide range of fluctuation in the size of the classroom space, quality of lighting, room temperature, and other variables that impact student learning. The Master Facility Plan proposes to increase the equity and quality of learning spaces across the District.

Capitalize on the Timing of Retirement of Debt Obligations

District 34 will replace existing debt that is due to retire in 2017. The passed referendum will not increase the amount of annual property taxes paid by a homeowner for the District’s bond and interest payments.

Since the referendum passed, District 34 has now moved into the design and detail phase of the project. This process began immediately after the referendum passed so that blueprints and detailed construction documents can be created. Portable classrooms at both Oakland Elementary and W.C. Petty Elementary also have been removed in order to prepare for construction. District 34 is now in the process of conducting a school boundary study to determine which neighborhoods will attend each of the three elementary schools.