



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

82 Monrovia Avenue, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

Telephone (302) 653-8585

Fax (302) 659-6290

April 18, 2024

Official Statement

The Smyrna School District Board of Education would like to take the opportunity to dispel some rumors and share facts with our referendum fast approaching on June 6th, 2024. Many community members have reached out directly or shared posts from social media where the Town of Smyrna and the Smyrna School District are being tied together. This simply is not true.

The Town of Smyrna and the District are two entirely different entities. The Board was unaware of the town's plan to double property taxes. The Smyrna School District does not receive revenue from the town property tax and, therefore, will not receive anything from its recent vote to double that tax. The Smyrna School District paid the town of Smyrna \$1,296,322.67 in 2023 while only receiving \$17,075.63 in impact fees. The District has asked the town to increase these impact fees. This would take some of the burden off the local taxpayer and place it onto the developers. The developers, in most cases, are not local community members and in some cases are not even headquartered in Delaware. These pleas, as of now, have fallen on deaf ears. The District is required, by law, to go to a referendum to ask the community for support financially. That is what the community voted on back on March 9th. The Town Council voted on April 9th to increase their collected property tax by 100 percent. These are two vastly different things with very different processes.

The Board would also like to address another misconception: that voting no on a referendum will slow or halt the construction of new homes. This is simply not true. The District has no say or sway in the approval of new developments or building lots. The District still must figure out a way to educate all the new children these developments bring, even if we don't have the capacity to handle these influxes of students. For example, John Basset Moore Intermediate School is one of the most overcrowded schools in the State of Delaware. The Smyrna School District is the second largest district in the State of Delaware in terms of square miles. This includes the entirety of Clayton, Kenton, Smyrna, and surrounding areas. Our district stretches from the Delaware Bay to the Maryland line. With this much area, growth is inevitable. The Board and the District will continue to seek a more equitable path forward to help ease the burden on our local taxpayers.

Sincerely,

The Smyrna School District Board of Education

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment, educational programs, services, or activities based on race, color, marital status, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other protected category or status in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries should be directed to the District Superintendent.