**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools will have an Operating Millage Renewal Proposal on the August 5, 2014 ballot. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding this important election.**

***How much will this cost me?***

Homeowners will see no increase in local school taxes for their primary dwellings if the proposal is approved. That is because the operating millage tax is not collected on “homestead property”. Only non-homestead properties (businesses, 2nd homes, etc.) are impacted- and for them, this is primarily a renewal, not a new tax. If you own a business or second home within the \_\_\_\_district boundaries, there will be an increase in your tax.

***What if the millage is voted down?***

It would have a devastating effect on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools. The State of Michigan assumes school districts levy and collect the full 18 mills, and subtracts this amount from each district’s per pupil allowance, and ultimately our final budget. For \_\_\_\_\_\_Public Schools this would be about $2.5 million of lost revenue per year. These are the funds used to pay for staffing, textbooks, classroom supplies, and the operation of the district’s school buildings. These local funds are deducted from the per pupil money the school district receives from the state. If the millage renewal is not approved, the state will not make up the difference, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools will lose $2.5 million in revenue (or about $750 per pupil).

***Is this a new tax?***

No. This is a RENEWAL of the full millage approved by the voters in 1994. The voters approved the maximum levy of 18 mils in 1994. A .3699 millage reduction of the 18 mils has resulted over time due to a provision in the state law commonly known as a “Headlee Rollback”. If the millage is passed, the restoration of the .3699 decrease along with the 17.6301 renewal will go into effect.

***I thought schools no longer received funding through property taxes, so why are we considering a millage renewal?***

Under Proposal A, schools must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property in their district. In other words, the State of Michigan *expects* this millage to be part of public school funding. For instance, every school district in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County assesses this Operating Millage, as does nearly every school in the State.

***What if I have other questions?***

We welcome your questions! Please call Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or e-mail ([\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_](mailto:tlangdon@sturgisps.org)) with any questions you may have.

**PLEASE REMEMBER- THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX!**