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TO: SCC REGISTERED VOTERS

FROM: SCC BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: MARCH 1, 2018

RE: PROPOSED FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND VOTER PPEL FORUM

**How can I learn more about the proposed facility improvements and the Voter PPEL election on April 3?** To help you make an informed decision, factual information is being provided to voters in the South Central Calhoun Community School District. Information attached with this mailing provides an update of the proposed project and information about the Voter PPEL vote on April 3, 2018. In addition, two Public Forums have been set as options to learn more about the project: 1) Forum #1 - Thursday, March 8, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the elementary building in the multi-purpose room in Rockwell City; and 2) Forum #2 - Monday, March 19, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the high school in Lake City in the auditorium. Tours can be provided.

**What information will be presented during the public forums?** Information to be reviewed during the forums will include: 1) the process used to make a decision as to the scope of the project; 2) the Voter Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, VPPEL; 3) rationale for the improvements at the elementary and high school; 4) presentation by the architect on the needs being addressed by the improvements being requested; and 5) time for questions and answers. *Please bring the attachments with this letter to the public forums to help with the information being presented.*

**So what is the rationale for the project?** Improved services and programming needs are the driving forces for the proposed project. At the elementary, safety is the first factor to consider. With the new entrance to the building, all visitors would have to enter the building through the student services center. The area would provide better programming opportunities for speech services, mental health, small group work, nursing, hygiene, conference areas, and storage. The additional gym would provide greater flexibility to meet gross motor skills and physical education requirements, indoor recess space, and better use of the current multi-purpose lunchroom. Currently the elementary staff consists of approximately 70 adults needing more parking space, and the proposed location of the gym is the current lot. At the high school, locker rooms are used by almost all students as PE is a required course. The renovation would create more equity between the boys and girls locker rooms, and showers would be more individualized spaces. Locker rooms are tornado shelter areas; therefore, protective window glass would provide greater safety.

**What was the process used to determine the scope of the project?** A facilities committee began reviewing needs in the district to improve programming offerings to students and staff. The district hired an architectural firm to help with the process, develop conceptual ideas, and provide estimated costs for the original scope of the project. Because the original scope of the project would have

required a bond referendum for 20 years to fund the project, the board conducted a survey of the community to gather information from the public. Over 360 people completed the survey. Sixty-two percent indicated the elementary building being less than adequate, 35% felt the high school locker rooms were less than adequate and 38% of the respondents did not know, and 52% felt gym space was less than adequate. Two gyms did not receive enough support to pursue.

**Why was the VPPEL selected as the funding option?** Using the Voter PPEL as an option to fund the project was chosen for multiple reasons: 1) the board did not feel comfortable going to a bond referendum because the dynamics of the district could change drastically in 20 years. 2) The SAVE dollars, which is the one cent sales tax provided to districts based upon enrollment, is being used for the Fine Arts addition at the high school, on-going district facility and grounds improvements, and technology needs. 3) Data from the survey indicated 39% would support some type of a levy increase for facility improvements, 14% would not support a levy increase, and 47% wanted more information.

**What is a Voter Approved PPEL?** The VPPEL is a tax levy used by nearly 80% of school districts in the state; SCC is one of the 20% of school districts not currently using this funding option. The board has chosen to make the VPPEL levy question a property tax only question for the simple reason the district can only borrow against monies that are generated through a property tax. If approved, the VPPEL would be in place for 10 years at \$1.34 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. To be approved, the VPPEL requires a simple majority to pass.

**What is the difference between sales value, assessed value, and taxable value of property?**

Sales value is what your property will sell for on the open market. Assessed value is the value the county places on your property. Taxable value is the value you pay taxes on after the rollback. Currently the rollback is 55.62% of the assessed value. To calculate the taxable value, you would use the following formula:  $((\text{assessed value} \times \text{residential rollback}) / 1,000) \times \text{levy rate}$ . So once you know your assessed value multiply that number by 55.62% for the rollback then divide by 1000 and finally multiply by \$1.34. This will be the amount of taxes you would pay annually for the facility improvement project to add student support services, a gym, and parking at the elementary building and renovations of the high school locker rooms.

**What are some examples of how this would impact a residential, commercial, or agricultural owner?** For residential property owners, a person with an assessed valued home of \$100,000 you would pay an additional \$68.01 per year, \$5.67 per month, or \$0.18 cents per day. For commercial property owners, a person with an assessed value of \$100,000 would pay an additional \$120.60 per year, \$10.05 per month, or \$0.33 cents per day. For an agricultural property owner using the average assessable valuation for Calhoun County of \$1,956, a person would pay an additional \$0.12 cents more per acre per month or \$1.43 more per acre per year. If a person owns 1000 acres, the cost would be \$1,427.10 more in school taxes per year for 10 years.

**What are my options for voting?** Registered voters who reside in the South Central Calhoun School District can vote on April 3 from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in Rockwell City or the Community Building in Lake City. As an alternate option, voters can vote by absentee ballot if the ballot is postmarked on or before the day prior to the April 3 election. After March 5, a person can vote absentee at the courthouse or by completing the ballot request form and submitting it to the Calhoun County Auditor.

Randy Martin – SCC 9-12 Principal  
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