

**TOWN HALL QUESTIONS | MAY 11**

- 1. How will the outcome of the referendum affect employees with temporary contracts this school year that wish to stay with the district next year?** *If the referendum is approved, the district will be able to hire staff to reduce the class size increases that occurred in the 2019-20 school year based on the projected enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. Some positions that were approved by the Board for elimination in the 2020-21 school year can be restored if the referendum is approved and the board takes action to do so. This does not mean that the same people will be returned to their previous positions, or that the staffing will be exactly the same as it was in the 2018-19 or 2019-2020 school years as several other factors influence the staffing. Examples are enrollment in each school, the number of students in each grade level within each building and the utilization of units as determined by building administrators. Also, filling of positions is done in accordance with the union contract for those positions. Those employees on temporary contracts are employed only through June 30, 2020, and if they are reemployed for the 2020-21 school year depends not only on the referendum being approved, but the needs of the district as discussed previously.*
- 2. Exactly how many TEACHER positions are being restored when we get the referendum passed? Which of these are from prior years downsizing due to attrition?** *This depends on the enrollment for each school. The plan is to minimize the need to approve waivers for class size and the 98% division 1 building unit allocation. This means that staffing for K-3 classrooms would be based on a 1 to 22 adult to student ratio and schools would also receive a minimum of 98% of their earned division 1 units.*
- 3. Will local raises be restored even though the contract doesn't provide? That seems to have been dangled by Fred Board member, but I see no promises or specifics. Every other district pays their staff.** *If the referendum is approved, Christina will be in a position to negotiate contract language that has a financial impact with each bargaining unit based on the terms and agreements already established in the individual Negotiated Agreements.*
- 4. How many staff are we losing just because our enrollment is down? What is the expected population for each building?** *Enrollment in each of our school buildings vary from year to year. The Delaware Department of Education provides a staffing allocation each year based on the September 30th unit count. Final staffing allocations are provided to the district based on the number of students in our building at that time. You can reference Christina's enrollment for 2019 via the Delaware Department of Education Report Card at <https://reportcard.doe.k12.de.us/index.html>.*
- 5. Here's my two cents: Trust would be more likely if the district's books were audited (externally) on a regular basis. Rumors spread fast and suspicions are high as we continue to hear the same stories. Look at areas where money could be saved without injury to learning (buses running for 30+ minutes while waiting to unload, electricity use in empty buildings, administration, unused real estate) instead of promises that children will lose out. Build trust first, then ask for money.** *The monthly CBOC reports are*

available on the Christina School District Website. Here is where you can find them: Our District / Board of Education / Board Committees / CBOC / Monthly Reports to CBOC. These reports show the income and the spending for each month.

6. **Students that are more creative than athletic need an extracurricular activity in school. Why is this change being considered?** *Some essential programs such as the arts, advanced academics and athletics will be eliminated. A vote “for” the referendum can help restore these programs.*

7. **When will we be getting the money back for the prom!! It’s bad enough the former sports director embezzled all the money for the basketball team to buy them all new sneakers, uniforms, warm up suits etc., and screwed all the other sports out of money so they couldn't attend track meets, or out of town games. what is being done!!** *Please contact your school administrator regarding the refund policy and guidelines with regard to the prom.*

8. **Why does the district always ask for money? The teachers in Christiana school buy stuff for the kids and they always ask the parents for the money back. I know people that work in other school districts and they say the teachers have to submit to the school not the parents. Most school districts have to go out for referendum in order to keep up with rising costs to provide quality education. See chart below.**

	Appoquinimink	Brandywine	Christina	Colonial	Red Clay
2019	December 17 - pass		April 30 - fail		
2018					
2017				June 6 - pass February 28 - fail	
2016	December 20 - pass	May 17 - pass March 23 - fail	March 23 - pass		
2015			May 27 - fail February 24 - fail		February 24 - pass
2014					
2013	May 9 - pass February 28 - fail			June 4 - pass February 28 - fail	
2012		March 28 - pass			February 28 - pass
2011				May 10 - fail	
2010			May 25 - pass		
2009	December 8 - pass				
2008					February 28 - pass
2007		June 4 - pass April 24 - fail	November 6 - pass		May 17 - fail
2006	December 12 - pass		January 26 - fail		
2005		May 24 - pass		September 27 - pass	
2004					February 26 - pass
2003	November 12 - pass		April 10 - pass		
2002		April 23 - pass	April 18 - pass		March 6 - pass
2001		May 31 - pass	April 3 - fail		April 10 - fail
2000	May 9 - pass				

9. **With a drop-in student attending schools in the district, many are concerned about the district needing more money. How will this referendum directly impact students? How can tax payers be assured that their money is going to the right things? How will the district make sure future referendums aren't needed?** *The capital and operating referendum will help with major building renovations, new learning environments, reducing class size, day-to-day operations including funding for students, instructional materials, essential programs such as the arts, advanced academics and athletics, teaching and support staff positions and benefits. We maximize every dollar to offer an exceptional education for our students. It is our obligation to be great stewards of the community's children and tax dollars. Most school districts go out for referendum every 2-3 years, not just Christina.*
10. **I would like to understand why the school district and state has not considered a fairer tax system that would include sales tax versus taxing homeowners and real estate owners more. It seems we have too many that pay very little in taxes yet receive the bulk of the non-education services. For example, free breakfast and lunch programs along with afterschool care. There is also special needs care that seems to be getting larger. We want all children to be given the opportunity to succeed however some of the most physically challenged kids are needing significant resources just to come to a school while our honors programs have too many kids per teacher. It just seems we have gotten away from what the focus should be which is providing a high-level education. Your points are valid, please contact your local legislator regarding how Delaware residents can join the conversation about a fairer tax system.**
11. **I am hoping we see more online meeting time for classes currently. My girls are in HS in the CHS Honors Academy. I also hope academics, sports, and enrichment are not cut. To be honest I am amazed at the amount invested in special needs. I hope I made the right decision for my kids to be in the academy. Our family will be very disappointed if there are cuts in academics, enrichment and sports. Additionally, why cut those things but keep so much staff on now being paid as usual. (For instance, paras for special needs). If online not quite sure why that is needed now. There are several parts to this question**
- a) *Online class meeting time. The amount of online class time is dependent upon the class but is designed to fit into a schedule that provides for online time for teaching, self-study by the student, and interaction between the teacher and the students outside of the online class time.*
 - b) *The Board does not want to eliminate advance academics, athletics, enrichment, or other extracurricular activities, but the Board decided to take a balance approach between reductions in programs and reduction in classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, etc.*
 - c) *The district is committed to and required to provide the services needed for all students, including special needs children. This is one of the most difficult areas to provide on line instruction, but the effort continues to provide these students the education they deserve. The staffing needs for special needs students utilizes more paraprofessionals than students without special needs.*
12. **Please make sure you communicate how to sign up for an absentee ballot. Also let us know how we can help get this referendum passed. Here are several options for securing an absentee ballot. Easiest Method: Complete your request for an Absentee Ballot online (do so immediately). Use this link: ivote.de.gov or ask for an Absentee Ballot by phone: (302) 577-3464. How you can help: Inform your network about the Referendum and ask them to vote. Make sure the community has the right information. Make sure people know we're asking BOTH PARENTS to vote. Use your voice and network by using social media to help spread the word.**

13. **Why should I vote for a referendum when I have no idea what direction this district is going in and who will be its leader? You ask us to do this so that the students don't suffer. As someone who has been working in these schools for almost 4 years - and left in part due to its instability and lack of leadership and direction, I agree and would typically not hesitate to vote yes. However, this board has removed the entire Infrastructure of the district and waited almost a year before interviewing or seeking their replacements. Is at most 2 weeks enough time to insure a smooth transition? I want to vote yes however I want to know what's the plan? Please don't tell me "don't punish the kids" tell me what you're doing to assure my funds will be used wisely. Your Special Services Director lasted 3 months? What are you doing to get talent that will stay and promote change?**
- a) *The Board of Education expects to have the new Superintendent named soon. One of the first things the new Superintendent will do is determine the structure of the organization and the people who will fill those roles.*
 - b) *On the transition, there typically has been no overlap between the outgoing and the new Superintendent. This is often due to circumstances beyond the control of the Board, and also because an overlapping transition would require to have both Superintendents under contract, one of whom would be paid fully from local tax funds.*
 - c) *The direction of the district that has been implemented the last 2 years is described in the Christina Strategic Plan. We will not try to describe everything in this document because it has many aspects which are being implemented concurrently. A lack of local funding will have a significant impact on the initiatives in the strategic plan and impede the progress the district has made on the last several years.*
14. **When school starts will there be any change in the time of arrival should be 8 o'clock in the morning for kids and middle school and high school I would think 8 to 3? At this time, there are no changes to the current schedule.**
15. **Have you considered closing one of the HS since the buildings are under-utilized? Would save on maintenance and amount of staff. Students would still be served with a decent size of staff. There has been a review of the use of the three high schools. All Christina high schools are being used close to 100% capacity. In addition, there are programs and classes in our high schools that require smaller class sizes than the average size used by the state for students. Examples are AVID, Jobs for Delaware Graduates and programs that support our special needs population. Our high schools offer diverse career and technical education programming that requires space to be utilized differently than a traditional classroom. Our schools also create space for supplemental programming such as clubs, committees, honors activities, science lab space, tutoring and electives. Ensuring that schools have adequate space for special and supplemental programs must be considered before making a decision to close a school. The District is continually reviewing all aspects of maximizing our building utilization while ensuring that all student needs are being met. The biggest impact of closing one of the high schools would be a significant increase in class sizes at the other high schools, which impacts learning.**
16. **How will these changes effect Special Education programs such as IEP's, classroom settings and size? Will the changes implemented still provide and meet Federal/ State guidelines for special education? Christina will continue to provide FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) as required by law for all students including those with special education needs.**

17. **If any changes do effect special education services, what services is Christina School District willing to provide or compensate in regards to independent services?** *Christina School District will continue to provide access to quality education as required by Delaware Department of Education including special education students.*
18. **If the changes don't satisfy the parent(s), will Christiana School District help to choice special education students into schools who can meet their service needs?** *Christina School District will continue to provide access to quality education as required by Delaware Department of Education including special education students.*
19. **Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Christiana School District closure, will students who meet ESY eligibility still have summer school?** *The Christina School District is holding ESY summer programming remotely from July 6th – July 30th. A letter describing our remote model has been sent to families and additional letters are going out this week with notification and contact information of your child's ESY teacher and next steps to participate remotely.*
20. **If there is no summer school for ESY students what other services does Christiana School District have in place?** *The Christina School District is holding ESY summer programming remotely from July 6th – July 30th.*
21. **What assurance can Christiana School District provide regarding the upcoming school year regarding Covid-19 and the CDC restrictions?** *The Christina School District will work within the guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Delaware Department of Education as they create workgroups to prepare the critical structures, processes and protocols needed to reopen schools. A comprehensive communication plan will accompany that work and be announced to the entire Christina community in a timely manner.*
22. **As a CSD alumni, I believe that the reason why I am able to attend an Ivy League college is due to the programs that are on the chopping block if the referendum does not pass. How will you make sure students are competitive for selective schools without art, music and other programs? Academics are not the only element of a college application.** *We believe our students deserve the full school experience. A successful referendum would restore essential programs such as the arts, advanced academics and athletics.*
23. **How would cutting the Chinese Immersion program save money? Wouldn't those children still need teachers and doesn't the district receive money from the State through "Opportunity Funding" initiative? Wouldn't the district lose this money, if they cut immersion? Additionally, how do you feel about losing students? Why not cut sports and then you'll actually have people come out to vote? Elimination of the Chinese immersion reduces the cost of the teachers who teach classes in Chinese, who are in addition to the compliment of teachers. One of the cuts if the referendum is not successful is the elimination of all sports and all extracurricular activities, such as marching band, orchestra, drama, year book, student council, and clubs.**
24. **Why are Christina's per pupil expenditures so much higher than for any other district in the state?** *The largest difference is caused by the differences in how the State provides funding for Public Schools. The State does not provide equal funding to all districts. This is called "Equalization Funding". The formula for this funding has been out of alignment and frozen, with the last major revision done in 1984. As an example of*

the differences, Appoquinimink School District receives \$15,602 for each Division I unit (Teaching Unit), while Christina is provided \$6,465.

25. **Why is CSD not considering across-the-board salary reductions for high level administration before firing teachers, like many institutions of higher education are doing in response to COVID-19?** *Over the last 3 years Christina has significantly reduced spending by more than \$5M and reduced staffing by more than 120 employees. The Board will continue to carefully evaluate which administrative positions will be filled.*
26. **What is the actual excess capacity in CSD high schools, and why can't the buildings be used more efficiently?** *See response to question #15.*
27. **We have many schools operating under capacity in the district. My understanding is that we have not consolidated because there was hope that magnet programs would result in expansion of the student population. If so, then why would we eliminate the Chinese Immersion program which is currently the most sought-after program in CSD?** *Christina does not have many schools operating under capacity. See response to question #15. Chinese Immersion along with other key academic programs will have the opportunity to be restored if the referendum passes and the board of education takes the action to do so.*
28. **Why is it if the Referendum passes that the Maintenance department is not going to get their jobs back? That is unfair all the way around and I will go to the paper and tell them that may people are going to still lose their jobs that is just not right in a time like that, that they lose everything. Please let me know what you going to do about it I was voting yes now I'm not sure.** *The Christina School District Board of Education voted in favor of a reduction in force for the Maintenance Department as part of cuts necessary to deal with a \$10 million structural deficit for FY21. If the referendum passes, then the Board of Education in cooperation with the new administration would have to decide the path forward for the Christina Facilities department similar to the determination of the other programs and positions that were eliminated. The Board would have to implement that path by another vote.*
29. **Why should you be given a raise when everyone has lost money throughout the Corona Virus lockdown.** *We understand the impact of the corona virus on many people who have lost employment and lost business. The Christina School District still has to educate children. To educate children the district has to employ teachers and pay their salaries, and also pay for the services needed to operate and maintain the schools. These costs continue to increase and have reached a point for the second year in a row that expenses exceed income. Since the cost of employees is about 85% of the expenses, a reduction in spending means reduction in the number of teachers and other discretionary expenses (e.g. sports teams, special academic programs). The biggest impact of not approving the referendum is the impact on the education of the children.*
30. **Have your ratings and scores gone up since the last referendum 2 years ago. Should we reward poor performance. You always say it will get better with more money and it never does.** *We take great pride in our ability to concentrate our funding where it will do the most good, while also being efficient with taxpayer dollars. Where will funding do the most good? The classroom – ensuring our students and teachers have everything they need to be successful. Christina consistently awarded Nationally High Performing Schools. Some of our recent awards include:*
- Newark High School named 2020 Best High School by U.S. News & World Report
 - Students Competing Nationally for Scholastic Art Awards

- National High Performing Blue-Ribbon School (1 of 3 in the state)
- Three National PTA Schools of Excellence
- Top-Performing Middle School Honors Academy Continues to Grow
- Cutting-Edge High Schools with Focused Pathways and Enhanced Programs
- Five DDOE Recognition Schools of Excellence (more than any other school district)
- First-ever DIAA/Special Olympics Unified Basketball State Champions
- Two National ESEA Distinguished Schools
- National Digital Principal of the Year
- Three Delaware PBS Recognition Schools
- 50% of Christina’s Teachers have Master’s Degrees

31. You continue to raise our property values which makes the Christiana School district a less desirable area to live in. *We believe Christina School District is a great place to live and work. Most school districts go out for referendum every 2-3 years, not just Christina.*

32. The Referendum Ballot can be confusing, and voters could benefit from further clarity. Specifically, Section 1, "Restoring budget reductions and reducing class sizes" and "Employee expenses" could use additional details to give voters a true sense of the wide range of programs effected under this category. Wording such as "tax to retain sports coaches and music programs (elementary instrumental and secondary strings)" is concrete, specific and clear. *The Christina website at www.christinak12.org/vote has more detailed information of the use of the additional revenue from Section 1 of the ballot. Because of the size of the ballot, we could not list all the different uses of these funds.*

33. Cuts to EPER effect many services offered to students, not limited to: after school clubs, marching band, sports, student council, year book, AVID/National Honors Society, drama and the spring musicals. Will the public be made aware on the ballot that these are some of the programs that they are voting to support under "Employee expenses?" *The Christina website at www.christinak12.org/vote has more detailed information of the use of the additional revenue from Section 1 of the ballot. The list is long. These are only some of the positions that would be eliminated.*

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| – Athletic Teams | – Indoor Band | – Audio Visual Director | – Student Council Advisor |
| – Athletic Director | Director | – Drama Director | – Yearbook Advisor |
| – Band Director, Band | – Choir Director | – Newspaper Advisor | – Technology Coordinator |
| Front Coordinator, | – Orchestra | – School Store | – Clubs |
| Line Coach | – Drama Director | Manager | |

34. How do you pass a referendum? *Christina articulates the specific needs of the district, ensuring that these needs reflect the priorities of our students and community. The referendum is passed by the majority “yes” vote of individuals who live in the school district.*

**TOWN HALL QUESTIONS | MAY 28**

1. **If the Referendum fails and programs need to be cut why not cut the entire athletic programming for 2020 - 2021 especially since we are not sure of the return to functioning schools due to COVID 19. All athletics both High School and Middle School will be eliminated.**
2. **Curious why it is important to hold the referendum during the pandemic rather than after. Why do this while there is a cloud of suspicion over the Board's motives in trying to get it passed? Instead of raising people's taxes, why not find ways to not waste money? Look at Transportation Costs. June 9 was selected because the referendum has to be approved in June to allow the tax rate to be set and provided to New Castle County by the second Thursday in July to be collected for the 2020-21 school year. The Department of Elections did not allow any elections between the middle of February and the end of May. Transportation: While the Christina School District conducted rich conversations regarding the potential reduction of transportation costs, the analysis of evaluating the regulation of cost share with the state, married to the tiered starting times of the schools and the priority of the students in terms of walking along roadways to arrive at potential new bus hubs was not significant enough to jeopardize the safety of all CSD students.**
3. **Where can I see details about the referendum? The site only has general information about what it will be used for. Public schools are important but we need to be given enough information in order to understand exactly what the money is used for. It might help to see budgets and where money is going. The monthly CBOC reports are available on the Christina School District Website. Here is where you can find them: Our District / Board of Education / Board Committees / CBOC / Monthly Reports to CBOC. These reports show the income and the spending for each month.**
4. **Will the cut programs and 67 positions be restored if the referendum passes? With a successful referendum, the Christina Board of Education will be provided the opportunity to restore programs. The opportunity to restore teaching positions depends on the enrollment and unit count, but the intent is to reduce class sizes.**
5. **Given the constraints our students will undoubtedly have when they are able to return to school, how with the district be able to accommodate less students in a school/classroom at once when there will be less teachers available to teach? The State has established three state wide committees to look at how school will be conducted in September. Christina will follow guidelines established by Delaware Department of Education.**
6. **If the Referendum passes, will all those cuts be reinstated? (Will we have strings, marching band, and sports again?) Will they be put back in their original positions and then those cut be put back in their positions? What steps will our district take to prevent this problem in future? Will any administrators be**

cut at district office since we are clearly overstaffed if we have to cut teachers who have 40 students in their classrooms, so now there will be more? See question 4. If positions are reinstated, the processes outlined in the Negotiated Agreements will be followed to recall employees. On administrative positions, CSD has reduced the number of administrators over the last 15 years, and there currently are positions that are not being filled. Administrative positions are needed to meet district responsibilities. Christina has the lowest administrator to student ratio of any of the 5 traditional districts in New Castle County, and the lowest in the state of traditional districts except for Delmar and Woodbridge. Also, Christina has the lowest ratio of students to teacher (12.8 to 1) of any traditional district, supporting the District's practice that our resources should be used in the classroom and not on an abundance of administrative positions.

7. **What is the plan for the 2020-2021 school year? My high schooler is really struggling with the virtual learning, my middle schooler is handling it well. Will there be a chance of splitting days between virtual and in school?** *The Christina School District is following guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control, Governor John Carney and Delaware Department of Education. Once the guidelines for reopening schools are established, the Christina School district will communicate with all families about our plans for the future of schools.*
8. **The high school students that were enrolled in Driver's Education, what is the Christina doing to assist them in getting a waiver from the DMV to be taught at home? Will there be an offer to hold classes during the summer, as they will be able to maintain social distancing?** *The Department of Education just released guidelines for Driver's Education on May 29th. We are currently sharing that information and working with our Driver's Education department to create a plan for the Christina School District. We will communicate the plan as soon as it is finalized.*
9. **How do we answer our friends and neighbors who say that if we just closed some facilities in the district we would have enough money? It's a response I get frequently and don't feel like I have an informed answer.** *This is normally directed at high schools. All Christina high schools are being used close to 100% capacity. In addition, there are programs and classes in our high schools that require smaller class sizes than the average size used by the state for students. Examples are AVID, Jobs for Delaware Graduates and programs that support our special needs population. Our high schools offer diverse career and technical education programming that requires space to be utilized differently than a traditional classroom. Our schools also create space for supplemental programming such as clubs, committees, honors activities, science lab space, tutoring and electives. Ensuring that schools have adequate space for special and supplemental programs must be considered before making a decision to close a school. The District is continually reviewing all aspects of maximizing our building utilization while ensuring that all student needs are being met. The biggest impact of closing one of the high schools would be a significant increase in class sizes at the other high schools, which impacts learning.*
10. **How will this effect students with a IEP?** *Students identified with an individualized education plan, IEP, will continue to receive the required accommodations and supports as outlined in their plan.*
11. **What happened to the millions of dollars LOST years ago and supposedly stolen by a District employee? Mismanagement? Was it found or stolen?** *If this question is in regards to the financial failure of the District under the leadership of a previous superintendent, the failure was a result of overspending, not theft or fraud. An investigation was completed by the State, and no evidence of theft or fraud was reported. The*

overspending was centered on staffing levels, both Administrative and Teachers, far in excess of units earned.

12. **For many decades, the District has had thousands of pupils leaving to attend public school in other districts and charter schools, yet the Board has failed to consolidate accordingly. In this referendum, you are asking to build new classrooms at Downes, and renovate more classrooms at Christiana High with 100% Local funds even though the State refuses to issue the certificate of necessity & fund the 60% share. The State probably knows that this is more wasteful spending. Why can't you close one of the high schools? Why does the board continue to waste taxpayer money year after year?** *Christina submitted a \$100 million-dollar request for funding to the State for much needed renovations to approximately 1/3 of our schools. The State of Delaware has a large backlog of requests (\$2 billion) and was able to approve \$11.4 million to be used to do renovations at CEEC, Marshall, and Leasure. Question 3 on the ballot is approval to fund the local share of these renovations. Question 4 is approval to fund projects 100% locally that were submitted on the original ask but that the State could not fund at this time because of budgetary constraints. The projects supported by this funding align with the District's vision for reimagining our High Schools and expansion of successful programs.*

13. **Why has the district continued to hire more employees than the state formulas call for with 100% local funding? Why can't you be more frugal like other districts who manage to have higher test scores with fewer staff members?** *We recognize that staffing is a key element of educational quality. Christina works to provide staffing based on the state formula and required equitable distribution of personnel. Christina is consistently awarded Nationally High Performing Schools and has significantly reduced spending by more than \$5 million over the past 3 years.*

14. **Will the children have to do summer school? How will all this affect them on passing? Should the parents also take a training class to help their children? Will the school district offer training for the parents?** *The Christina School district is committed to partnering with families to ensure positive experiences while learning at home. We will continue working on plans to enhance virtual learning and will communicate those plans as soon as guidelines are released for the reopening of schools. No students will be held back this school year. There will be no summer school, except for students who are eligible for special programs, credit recovery at the high school and some course recovery for our middle schools. If you have a question around whether you are eligible for one of our summer programming offerings, please contact your building principal via email.*

15. **With a possibility of a denial, who will be present to assist that principal for Downes?** *Downes currently operates under the leadership of the principal. However, Christina will evaluate to determine if an administrator position is needed for additional support.*

16. **With an approval will there be extra assistance for children that aren't considered part of the norm since the schools are supposed to be inclusive educational settings?** *All students with Individualized Education Plans should consult with their school's Educational Diagnostician to discuss any options available at this time.*

17. **My school taxes increased \$600 due to the 3rd referendum (because 2 NOs were unacceptable)! Will more yes money add to the existing increases or do they EXPIRE?** *The tax increases do not expire. The total assessed value of properties in the CSD has decreased over the last several years, so the income goes down with a steady tax rate. Costs continue to go up. To have sufficient money to pay the local costs the tax rate has to increase periodically.*
18. **When are changes effective once referendum passes?** *If the referendum passes, this will provide an opportunity to restore programs and positions. The process will begin shortly thereafter. If the referendum could have been held before May 15, the teacher reductions would have happened only if the referendum was not approved.*
19. **Can my daughter change from home school to online public school and get a report card at the end of this academic year?** *Our elementary schools are providing a Progress Report for the 4th Marking Period. Our secondary schools will issue a 4th marking period grade that is an average of the first three marking periods. In semester courses, the 4th marking period grade will be the same as the 3rd marking period grade prior to school closures on March 13th. Secondary school students have the ability to improve their 4th marking period grade by participating and completing their remote learning assignments. Report cards will be posted on Home Access Center beginning on June 19th.*
20. **Is there any other way that we can navigate these budget cuts?** *A majority of my peers, including myself, are in the music, athletic, and arts programs, and we truly value them at our school. They are helping us with our future careers, and I believe we all truly need these at our schools. If they do permanently get taken away due to budget cuts, they will further damage our educational careers. All I want is for all students to get the same opportunities regardless of what school they go to. I want to continue my education in the Christiana school District, and I truly love the opportunities we did have. Despite the great educational opportunities, extra-curricular are a big factor that determine whether or not students will stay in this district. We agree with the impact, but the other option would have been the elimination of more teaching positions and larger class sizes.*
21. **As a taxpayer who funds the district, will you publish all questions submitted to this event regardless if you intend to or do answer them in order to role model transparency and respect for all submissions to know their questions were, at minimum, received?** *Yes, all questions received for the May 11 and May 28 Town Hall will be placed on our website.*
22. **I am very concerned about the decision to end the Advanced Academics program here at Thurgood Marshall. We have an excellent teacher leading the effort and my daughter has been a part of this program since 2017-2018, after moving back from SLC, UT. As my daughter has been gifted since Kindergarten, I'm very concerned that there will be no advanced opportunities for her to progress as well as stay focused through her early school years. I would be a strong advocate to keep this program open. Please let me know how we can keep this program going so that our children remain focused and realize their potential. I am very concerned about children regressing and becoming lazy academically. I hope to hear from the district soon. Thank you for giving me this very valuable opportunity to speak up about this very important decision. To keep Advanced Academics and additional programs, we must have a successful referendum.**

23. **What is the deciding vote. Is it 50.1%? Is there a number the district is looking for? Does it just go by How many votes or does the district take into consideration the non-voters too?** *The deciding vote is carried by the majority.*
24. **Why does your online calculator, as of 5.21.2020, show the property taxes only if Question 1 is successful? What if all 4 questions are successful? Does the number change? Does it go up? If so, by how much, and why is this not being shared with the public?** *The second link is to a tax calculator to determine the increase in your operating tax for the year 2020-21. Due to limitations on the calculator, this will show the increase in the first year for the 29-cent increase and the additional increase for the 5 cents in the following two years." Additionally, we can answer that if all four parts are approved, the total increase in the third year will be \$293.80 for a property assessed at \$65,000. The break down is 29 cents = \$188.50 in taxes. Each 5 cents = \$32.50. Capital at 1.2 cents = \$7.80. $188.50 + 32.50 + 32.50 + 32.50 + 7.80 = \293.80 .*
25. **If yes is the majority vote will that stop Christina school districts layoffs? I'm told that it doesn't matter what the vote is.** *If the referendum passes, the Board of Education in cooperation with the new administration would decide the path forward for the programs and positions that were eliminated. The Board would have to implement that path by another vote.*
26. **What does this all include for our students and teachers?** *We're not sure what is being asked here. However, if the referendum is passed, students and teachers will benefit by:*
- *Continue ongoing programs*
 - *Funding for instructional supplies, materials and technology*
 - *School safety and security initiatives, and new learning environments*
 - *Retention and recruitment of teachers and support staff*
 - *Keep up with rising operating costs such as funding for students, salaries, transportation and energy*
 - *Updating and replacing major building systems and addressing critical maintenance and facilities challenges*