



# Redbird Review

## December 2023

### MGS Faces Critical Funding Challenge, Proposes Tax Rate Increase Referendum

Metamora Grade School District 1 stands at a pivotal juncture, facing a financial crossroads that demands immediate action. [At its regular November meeting, the Board of Education adopted a resolution seeking an increase in the tax rate for the education fund.](#) The district has relied heavily on loans and sustaining operations under current conditions is no longer viable.

In the face of challenging financial circumstances, MGS has taken painful measures, including a 10% reduction in its workforce over the past three years. These sacrifices have been made to keep the doors of education open, but it's clear that the status quo is unsustainable. Now, the district turns to the community, the heart and soul of Metamora, for the support needed to safeguard the future of education in our beloved community.

The proposed referendum is not just a financial lifeline; it's a call to action, an investment in the very fabric of our community. [Click here to read the press release in its entirety.](#)

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## Your Referendum Feedback Is Needed!

There are several informational sessions on MGS finances/referendum with Dr. Lee and at least one member from the Board of Education.



#### MGS Referendum Info & Feedback

The Board of Education has resolved to issue a referendum on the March 19 ballot, asking voters to increase the maximum rate of the Education Fund. In a quest for effective communication, please answer the following questions.

[Please provide your input on the referendum.](#) including which informational session you'll be attending, if any.

# Playground Fund



The Playground Committee is excited to announce that the large accessible equipment piece for phase 2 has been purchased. Thank you to all that have donated! We hope to

have it installed this Spring! If you would like to donate to the Playground fund you can drop off a check/cash at the school or you can donate through this link <https://givebutter.com/c/mgsplayground>

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## Employment Opportunities

Please consider joining the MGS Team by applying for one of the following positions:

1. Teacher's Aide
2. Cafeteria Monitor &/or Recess Monitor-1.5 hours daily.
3. Bus Drivers
4. Full Time Custodian
5. Substitutes for all of the above positions.

Email any inquiries to Dr. Lee ([blee@mgsredbirds.org](mailto:blee@mgsredbirds.org)). More information can be found on our [employment section](#) of our website.



**Find Us**  
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# MGS Celebrates Its First Year as Unified Redbirds!

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® is a program for schools that intentionally promote meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students



with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting school environments, utilizing three interconnected components: Special Olympics Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.

We now have Unified Redbirds at MGS! This program promotes social inclusion through peer buddies and different

activities that work to promote and include all of our students. Look for more information to come about our first Unified Volleyball Game on February 1st. We would love to have a great cheering section for this event.

To find out more about what inclusion [looks like in the school setting, click here.](#)

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## **Regular School Hours:**

**8:15 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.**

*Students may arrive at 8:00 or after.*

*Breakfast is available at 8:00.*



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## MGS Behavior Matrix

Ask your child(ren) about the MGS Behavior Matrix. They should be able to tell you that as Redbirds, we are....Respectful, Responsible and Safe–no matter what part of the school or time of the day. [Click this link for examples.](#)

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## Youth Mental Health

We wanted to share important information with you regarding the well-being of our adolescents aged 11-18 in Woodford County. Recently, area health departments sent information to school districts about an increase in suicide attempts among this age group, with many of these attempts involving the use of prescription or over-the-counter medications.

At MGS, we are committed to the safety and well-being of our students, and we want to provide you with resources to support prevention efforts, address mental health concerns, and prevent substance misuse among teens. Our website is a starting point under [Student Health Resources](#). Additional resources are below:

### **Mental Health/Suicide Prevention Resources:**

- [SAMHSA 988 Partner Toolkit](#)
- [NAMI Back to School Resources](#)
- [NAMI Local Resources: Tri-County Illinois](#)
- [ISBE Suicide Prevention Toolkit](#)
- [HULT Center – Mental Health Suicide Prevention](#)
- [SAMHSA Suicidal Behaviors: Warning Signs and Symptoms in Youth](#)
- [Safe2Help](#)

### **Substance Misuse Resources:**

- [NAMI: Substance Use and Mental Health Warning Signs and Symptoms in Youth](#)
- [Preventing Substance Misuse](#)
- [Lock Your Meds: Preventing Prescription Misuse in Your Household](#)
- [SAMHSA Recovery Month Toolkit](#)
- [SAMHSA Tips For Teens Fact Sheets](#)
- [Prescription Drug Safety Flyer](#)

These resources cover a wide range of topics, from recognizing warning signs to providing guidance on prevention and intervention. We encourage you to explore these tools to learn more about these topics and promote open communication.

### **Safe2Help Illinois**

Last school year, our school district began participating in a statewide school safety program called Safe2Help Illinois. This program offers students a safe and confidential way to share information that may help prevent suicides, bullying, school violence, and other threats to student safety. The program also includes resources for educators and parents to reinforce the program concepts with their students.

Safe2Help Illinois features a 24/7 helpline (1-844-4-SAFEIL), free mobile app, and dedicated website ([www.Safe2Helpil.com](http://www.Safe2Helpil.com)). In the absence of a trusted adult, students can use Safe2Help Illinois to share

concerns about themselves or others in a confidential environment. Once vetted, the information will be immediately shared with local school officials, 911 call centers/Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) depending on the nature of the tip. It is important to note that this program is not intended to punish, suspend or expel students. Rather, the intent is to encourage students to “seek help before harm.”

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## Health & Wellness Reminder

Please take time to review our health and illness guidelines (also available on our website). We would like to see all students in school each day but there are times when it is necessary for students to stay home. If your child will be absent please call the main office to report the absence. Thank you for your cooperation. [Return to School from Illness](#)

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## Upcoming Events/Opportunities



**December 4      Kg-3rd Grade Winter Concert @ MTHS**

**December 18      Jr. High Band Christmas Concert**

**December 18      5th-8th Grade Chorus Concert**

**December 20-31   Christmas Break - No School**

