

This is a compiled list of facts about the 2016 referendum and about Oshkosh Area School District. I will show how OASD has lied to us in order to increase their budget. Before I begin we need to define the word Lie/Lying. #1 Deliberately misleading someone to take something or to get a desired outcome. #2 Lying by omission. Leaving out part of the truth or altering something to indicate the opposite of the truth. #3 Lying by ignorance. Passing an opinion off as truth without knowledge of what the truth really is. #4 Lying by deception or stretching the truth.

As always I will leave it up to you to determine the truth of the matter. I will list my sources after EVERY fact.

**1. Your taxes will go up regardless of how you vote. Voting 'yes', voting 'no', or not voting at all the Oshkosh School Board will raise the tax levy 6-8%. Your school taxes will go up with or without the referendum. The School Board increases taxes every year they can.**

Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau Letter Dated: March 11, 2016: Table 6 - Gross School Levy for the Oshkosh Area School District and Statewide. Shows increase to the following years and Tax Levy increase %: 2006 (7%), 2007 (5.5%), 2008 (3.1%), 2009 (6%), 2010 (7.6%), 2012 (3%), 2013 (3.7%), 2014 (7.6%) Amount of increase in Oshkosh School Tax Levy is 49.5% from 2006 to 2015  
Posted on [www.facebook.com/OASD.VOTE.NO](http://www.facebook.com/OASD.VOTE.NO)

OASD is lying about this by omission. They will only answer questions about the tax levy increase if confronted. They know full well that the school board will seek to increase the levy this year in addition to the 2016 referendum if it passes. In the last 10 years your taxes for Oshkosh Schools went up 49.5% Wow!

**2. If the 2016 referendum passes your taxes will increase \$83 per \$100,000 value of your home for 7 years.**

Source: OASD Referendum 2016v4.3 Long Version.pdf - OASD Referendum Website. Slide 35 of 38

They do state this on their website but when advertising they always tell you that it will only cost \$7 a month. The Support Oshkosh Students ('Yes' vote group) are saying it is \$9 a month. While technically correct it is a deceptive practice because it makes it seem like you taxes only go up a little bit. Everyone pays taxes yearly so at best this is an advertising gimmick at worst it is stretching the truth to appear smaller than it really is. Since this is for 7 years it would actually be \$581 per \$100,000 over the 7 years. Not a cup of coffee like they say.

**3. OASD states their budget is \$107 million. In reality the full budget is \$151.6 million. After bond payments are taken off they are left with \$134.6 million.**

Source: <https://sites.google.com/a/oshkosh.k12.wi.us/business-services/budget>  
2015-16 budget summary on page 19

ALL FUNDS	Audited 2013-2014	Unaudited 2014-2015	Budget 2015-2016
<b>GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS</b>	141,911,556.00	143,448,560.00	151,666,069.00
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	15,293,616.00	15,491,844.00	17,006,391.00
Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>126,617,940.00</b>	<b>127,956,716.00</b>	<b>134,659,678.00</b>
PERCENTAGE INCREASE - NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		1.06%	5.24%

Stan Mack will always tell you \$107 million for this years budget but that is just Fund 10(General Fund). They have many funds with money along with control over the Recreation Departments Budget. Why lie about it? If their budget appears smaller than it is you would be more inclined to give them more money and vote yes.

**4. OASD has received \$83.4 million above the regular tax levy from 2009 to 2014.**

**This include the following monies:**

**2009 Maintenance Referendum - \$6.5 million**

**2012 Oaklawn construction Referendum - \$12.9 million**

**2012 Energy Efficiency Bond - \$21.5 million (No Referendum required just School Board Approval)**

**2014 Energy Efficiency Bond - \$14.5 million (No Referendum required just School Board Approval)**

**2014 Technology Referendum - \$28 million over 7 years**

**Note: we still have 5 years left on the 2014 referendum which expires in 2021.**

**Energy Efficiency Bonds are added to your taxes just like the normal referendums. We pay but we have no voice.**

Sources:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Oshkosh\\_Area\\_School\\_District\\_Maintenance\\_Referendum\\_\(2009\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Oshkosh_Area_School_District_Maintenance_Referendum_(2009))  
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[https://ballotpedia.org/Oshkosh\\_School\\_District\\_Bond\\_Measure\\_\(April\\_2012\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Oshkosh_School_District_Bond_Measure_(April_2012))

Both Energy Efficiency totals from The Oshkosh Northwestern:

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/education/2014/09/20/oshkosh-schools-move-forward-million-energy-savings-projects/15913703/>

<http://fox11online.com/archive/both-sides-react-to-oshkosh-schools-referendum-passing>

Oshkosh isn't outright lying about this money existing they just don't want you to think about it. If you realized how much extra they have gotten over these 6 years who wouldn't second guess if the district really needs this money?

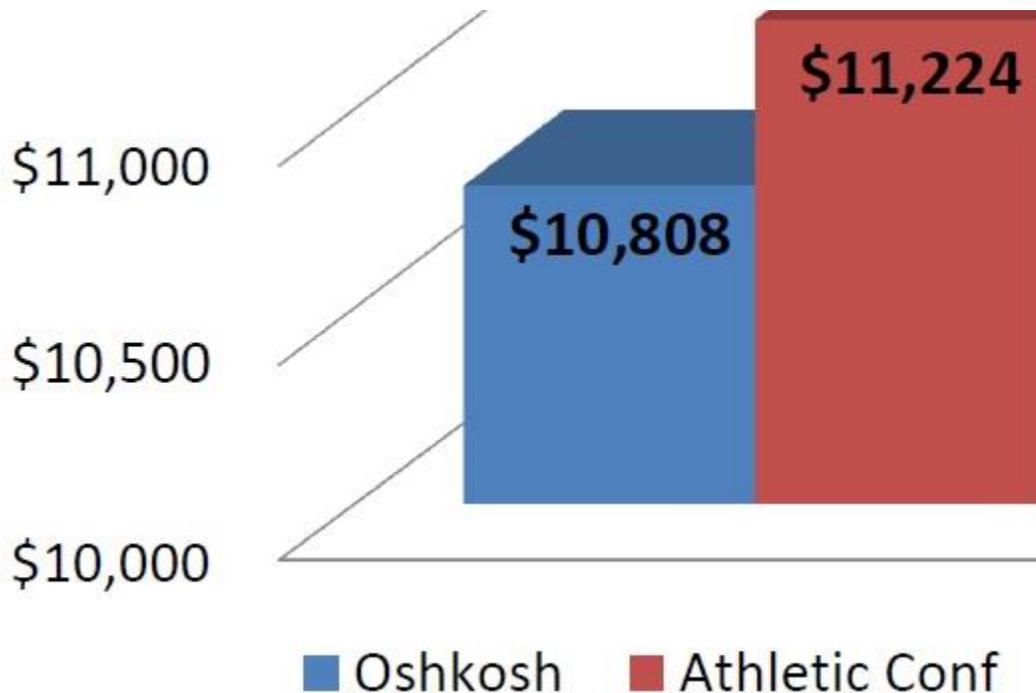
**5. The data from State Legislative Fiscal Bureau shows that OASD received \$11,537 per student for the 2013-14 school year. OASD states in their 2014 referendum slide presentation that they only received \$10,808 per student in the 2013-14 school year. That is a \$729 discrepancy per student. With 10000 students that means there is a gap of \$7.29 million between what the state says they received to what OASD says they received.**

Sources: Legislative Fiscal Bureau Letter Dated March 11, 2016 Table 1 for 2013-14 Revenue per pupil.

**TABLE 1**

**2013-14 Revenue Per Pupil Using Audited Annual Report Data from DPI**

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Oshkosh</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Statewide Average</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Property Taxes	\$4,385	38.0%	\$5,479	43.1%
Federal Aid	744	6.4	985	7.7
State Aid	6,019	52.2	5,756	45.3
Local Non-Property Tax	<u>389</u>	<u>3.4</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>3.9</u>
Total	\$11,537	100.0%	\$12,716	100.0%



OASD has a serious issue here. Either they are outright lying about how much money they get per student or they are missing \$7.29 million from 2013-14 alone. I am working with the 2013-14 school year because the 2014-15 to 2015-16 is a 2 year budget that isn't complete. Budgets are biennial and aren't added until complete and proven. To verify 2016 we would have to wait until 2017 for the state to have those numbers. I will tell you that student spending always goes up. So if OASD is lying about 2014 then their numbers will be off in 2015 and 2016 due to their 'flawed' reporting. If they 'lost' \$7 million every year for the last 3 years where's the \$21 million??? Our choices are lying or fraud. Neither are good for OASD.

**6. The budget for 2016-17 and 2017-18 doesn't exist. They don't create the budgets until late summer after receiving the state aid numbers. Final budgets are created/accepted in August/Sept. The \$3.4 million short fall in 2016-17 and the \$4 million Short fall in 2017-18 can't exist because the budgets don't exist.**

Source: Stan Mack and Sue Schnorr along with the Oshkosh Northwestern articles:  
<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/local/2015/03/11/oshkosh-school-district-may-consider-million-cuts-budget/70189452/>

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/education/2015/09/24/oshkosh-schools-approve-2015-16-budget/72734832/>

They do a simple budget projection which, they say, shows a 'possible' budget short fall using last years state aid numbers but those numbers go up. The problem with budget projections is that they are just guesses. 2015 had a \$4.7 million projected shortfall. Not only did it not come to pass but this is the one year the tax levy went down due to a state funding increase. That is what happens when you guess. Could it come true? Sure but it probably won't. They need ALL the numbers to make the budget. Anything else is incomplete and inaccurate.

**7. The proposed cuts exist because the Oshkosh School Board and District Administration say they do. The cuts are based off the budget short fall. The ones that don't exist from Fact #6. If the budgets don't exist how can the cuts exist?**

Sources: Same as #6

To have cuts you need a budget. No budget? No Cuts. Unless they want the cuts anyway. OASD has talked about closing a middle school for years. Many of the other cuts they have wanted to do also. Thus a win-win for them. If the 'Yes' vote wins they get more spending. If the 'No' vote wins they can do the cuts they wanted to do all along. Protected by the excuse that these cuts wouldn't have happened if the voters pass the referendum.

**8. OASD Administration is the 8th highest paid administration out of 443 school districts and charter schools. There aren't many districts that have 2 Deputy Superintendents either.**

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/dataondemand/wisconsin-public-school-employee-salaries-33534649.html#!/totsalary.desc.1/>

School District	Sum of Administration Salaries	# Administrative Employees
Milwaukee Sch Dist	\$ 12,739,419.00	131
Madison Metropolitan Sch Dist	\$ 2,679,659.00	22
Green Bay Area Public Sch Dist	\$ 1,741,739.00	15
Kenosha Sch Dist	\$ 1,592,174.00	13
Racine Unified Sch Dist	\$ 1,492,321.00	13
Appleton Area Sch Dist	\$ 1,377,928.00	12
La Crosse Sch Dist	\$ 1,284,946.00	11
Oshkosh Area Sch Dist	\$ 1,063,572.00	9
West Allis-West Milwaukee Sch	\$ 1,006,030.00	9

**9. OASD will never answer where money is being spent. When asking to see previous full budgets you can not get a copy. You need to go to the Central Office building and look at it there during business hours with their help. The online budgets are just budget summaries. All they will tell you is that the referendum money will be used to protect existing programs and expand new programs. NO spending details EVER.**

Source: Ask them. Ask to see the full budget. Not the summary online. You will be invited to join them at the Central office during business hours to go through it with their

help. They won't even leave you alone in the room for fear you will copy it with your phone. Makes you wonder what they are so afraid of. If you want a copy of a public budget shouldn't you get one?

**10. OASD spent over \$40,000 in 2014 to push for that referendum. They are budgeted to spend \$57,465 for this referendum. That is tax payer money... Your money. They spent \$8,500 on 1 mailing alone.**

Source: Question answered through the OASD referendum site. Also discussed during a 4 hour meeting with Stan Mack and his staff. We recorded the entire meeting.

This spending is just OASD not the Support Oshkosh Students (Vote 'Yes' Site). We won't find out their information until after the election. OASD is the focus anyway because OASD is spending your money. For someone like me, fighting against the referendum means I am literally fighting against my own money. It may be legal for them to spend our money like this but is it morally correct? They say it is their duty to spend our money to get the message out. Including sending flyers in every child's backpack. Sending emails through their system to every parent. As parents we can't get away from them pushing the referendum. I can count on my hand the number of people that have spent money against this referendum. They are all personal funds.

**11. Stan Mack was hired to push for referendums. In Stan's 20+ years in Minnesota he pushed for 16 referendums. Since being hired here he has presided over another 3 (Oaklawn, 2014 and this referendum). Bringing his total up to 19 referendums. He also states that there will be another referendum in 2018 probably for the same amount to get spending levels to where he wants them. Finish with 20?**

Source: Stan Mack and his team during our 4 hour meeting. Recorded on Audio tape. NBC 26 was there also but I am not sure if they recorded the whole meeting.

Stan Mack also mentioned the 2014 referendum will end in 2021 so we will need to vote to extend that one for the technology. Anyone else getting tired of these being pushed on us? There are too many people on fixed incomes that will be hurt by these tax increases but when confronted Stan just ignores the question. If he truly cared about the voters of Oshkosh he would ask for exactly what he needs not hit us with round after round ignoring the plight of people that just can't afford this.

**12. OASD conducted a survey in Dec 2015 asking a small group of Oshkosh Residents (406) if they would be willing to accept a referendum in 2016. 56% said they would probably vote yes to a \$4 million each year for 7 years. That is when the referendum 'need' was created. Two weeks later OASD administration took these survey results and stated before the Oshkosh School board that they would have a \$3.4 million short fall in the 2016-17 school year and they wanted to do security upgrades that would cost \$600,000. They also stated they would have a \$4 million short fall in the 2017-18 school year. Before that there was NO discussion of any short fall.**

Sources: OASD answered questions from Referendum Website along with the Oshkosh Northwestern article:

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/education/2016/01/15/school-board-april-referendum/78848542/>

As I was growing up I was taught that if something sounds too good to be true it probably is. A survey tells OASD they could get \$4 million and magically the first year has a \$3.4 million short and they need \$600,000 in security upgrades totaling \$4 million. It doesn't end there. The second year they need exactly \$4 million to cover a shortfall. Almost sounds planned doesn't it? Especially since these short falls are from budgets that don't exist yet. Refer back to Fact #6. If this sounds a little too convenient then I would have to agree with you.

**13. OASD administration says they knew in 2015 that they would have budget problems this year. With that in mind the administration signed a 2 year contract before going to the School Board to ask for the April 5th Referendum Vote. They locked in their jobs, pay and raises before there was even a hint of any budget trouble but by their own admission they knew budget problems were coming.**

Sources: Question answered on the OASD referendum website.

Who would do something like that? What does that show of their character?

**14. The cuts list is scary and that is on purpose. The Administration does NOT share in that pain at all. Their cuts list has 92.7 teachers, clerical, custodial, and maintenance staff that will lose their jobs over the next 2 years if the referendum fails. (Assuming you believe them.) How many Administrators will share that pain? 1! One administrator would lose his/her job under the proposed cuts. The only reason that person would lose their job is one of the middle schools would close. One principle would lose his/her job. That's it. Must be nice to protect yourselves and your jobs but throw regular employees under the bus like this.**

Source: Cuts list put out by the OASD and Approved by the Oshkosh School Board.

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/education/2016/02/25/oshkosh-budget-cuts/80921302/>

I am glad I don't work under these people. Between the school board and OASD administration it must be pretty stressful to work for OASD right now. Unless you are administration of course. They can just sit back and relax.

**15. Part of the first year of the 2016 referendum calls for spending \$600,000 on security upgrades at most school buildings. OASD has been discussing the sale of the property on Ryf Road as a one time windfall of funding. They expect to get at least \$700,000 for the land. The security upgrades are also a one time expenditure. It would make sense to sell the land and use that money to pay for the security upgrade without the need for a referendum. That is what we call a win-win**

Source: Stan Mack and his administrative team. Both for security costs and sale of Ryf Road.

This helps the kids, this helps the schools, and it helps the taxpayer by not forcing them to increase taxes. I guess that makes it a win-win-win!

**16. Median household income for Oshkosh has dropped from \$58,451 to \$52,387 over the last 10 years. In the same 10 years OASD Tax Levy increased by 49.5%. Simply put Oshkosh residents make \$6,000 less since 2005 but their tax burden for school went up almost 50%. This is not including referendums and energy efficiency bonds which I discussed in Fact #4. Adding those taxes to the tax levy over that decade only increases our tax burden multiple times.**

Source <http://www.depthofnumbers.com/income/wisconsin/oshkosh>

and

Table 6 in Legislative Fiscal Bureau Letter dated: March 11, 2016  
Posted on [www.facebook.com/OASD.VOTE.NO](http://www.facebook.com/OASD.VOTE.NO)

**17. Not everyone can afford this referendum. There are people that are unemployed, on fixed incomes, or poor that can't handle another tax increase.**

Source: You. Everyone knows someone that is unemployed, on a fixed income, or is poor.

OASD ignores this question every time it is asked. The vote 'yes' group also will not talk about it. I guess by not talking about it this problem will just go away. It saddens me to think of someone on Social Security having to decide whether to eat or buy their medicine just so our District can keep their spending up. Please be their voice on election day.

**18. From 2005-06 to 2015-16 our school district has lost 529 students. During that same time our spending has increased. With 500 less students spending should have been reduced not increased.**

Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau Letter Dated: March 11, 2016 - Table 3 - Pupil Membership in the Oshkosh Areas School District. Page 3

Student count verification of 10,010 at:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Oshkosh\\_Area\\_School\\_District,\\_Wisconsin](https://ballotpedia.org/Oshkosh_Area_School_District,_Wisconsin)

Why on Earth would you keep services and programs funded for 10,539 students when your student population is only 10,010 students? Does that seem fiscally sound? Only a school system addicted to spending would continue to waste money on students that aren't there.

**19. People around the district keep hearing that if the referendum fails the music programs will be cut including Orchestra. This is completely false and the truly sad thing is the music staff is perpetuating this lie. Worst case scenario, according to Stan Mack, is that Orchestra would be moved from the regular budget to the Recreation Department budget. No cut at all. The music department would lose 1.2 music teachers throughout the entire district. The other teachers work load would increase to make up for the 1.2 teachers lost.**

Sources: The orchestra move was suggested by Stan Mack so there is a seamless continuation of the program. He discussed this during our 4 hour meeting which is recorded.

The Music teachers workload and cut is discussed in OASD Referendum 2016v4.3 Long Version.pdf Slide 32 of 38 on the OASD Referendum Website.

I would hardly call this the destruction of the Music Department. Yet teachers prompted many kids to come to us during the concerts to let us know they didn't want their programs cut by the no vote. I reassured the kids that a failed referendum would do very little to the music program. It would continue pretty much like it is today. That is all based on the assumption that the cuts are real. I don't totally believe that they are but even putting that aside the Music program will indeed survive a failed referendum. It bothers me that they told the kids that and sent them out in an attempt to shame us. It didn't work.

**20. OASD and the 'yes' vote group will tell you a 'yes' vote is for the kids. To improve their education. There is an ongoing debate in the educational community where one side says more money equals better education. The other side says that money well spent is much better than spending more. Oshkosh proves that spending less can produce great results. This quote is from Districts own presentation, "OASD performs at or above the state average in all content areas." They also state that our students do well on the ACT test and we have a higher than average graduation rate. By their own admission we are doing well with less money. More money doesn't equal better education. It equals more expensive education.**

Sources: OASD Referendum 2016v4.3 Long Version.pdf Slide 10, 11, and 12 of 38. View the presentation at OASD's Website

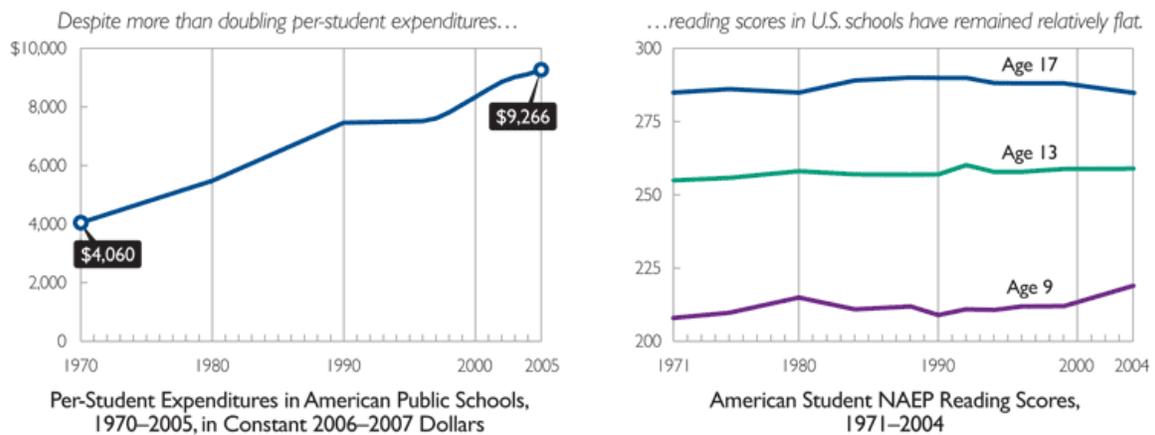
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2008/09/does-spending-more-on-education-improve-academic-achievement>

Despite the lack of consistent findings, leading researchers in the area acknowledge that any effect of per-pupil expenditures on academic outcomes depends on how the money is spent, not on how much money is spent. According to Hanushek:

Few people...would recommend just dumping extra resources into existing schools. America has...followed that program for several decades, with no sign that student performance has improved...

You can find people on both sides of this issue but I think that OASD and existing student performance shows that Oshkosh does just fine spending less. Thanks to the district for providing information to prove my point.

### The "Link" Between Education Spending and Student Performance



Sources: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, "National Trends in Reading by Average Scale Scores," updated July 6, 2005, at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ltr/results/2004/nat-reading-scalescore.asp> (April 14, 2008), and *Digest of Education Statistics: 2007*, Table 174, at [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d07/tables/dt07\\_174.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d07/tables/dt07_174.asp) (August 19, 2008).

Chart 4 • B 2179 heritage.org

### Summary:

I could continue listing reasons why I am voting no but I think this collection of facts speaks for itself. If you get through these 20 facts and still want to vote 'yes' then there is nothing I could say that would change your mind. Regardless of how you vote thanks for taking the time to read this list. Remember that 100% of the voters will be affected by a tax increase. Please take time to vote on April 5th and share your voice.

For more information visit us at: [www.facebook.com/OASD.VOTE.NO](http://www.facebook.com/OASD.VOTE.NO)