

April 19, 2017

Dear Distinguished Members of the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee:

Downsville Elementary  
N2681 460th Street  
PO Box 78  
Downsville, WI 54735  
(715) 664-8546

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my thoughts related to the state budget, and thank you for your service to our state. I would especially like to thank Senator Sheila Harsdorf for the effort that she has made to gather feedback and share information with the constituents that she represents in Western Wisconsin. Senator Harsdorf has gone above and beyond during the past several months to meet with school superintendents. She has not only responded attentively to my individual correspondence and inquires, but she has also initiated communications to keep me informed throughout the budget hearings.

Knapp Elementary  
110 South Street  
Knapp, WI 54749  
(715) 665-2131

I am here today to advocate for more funding for K-12 public education. While I was glad to hear from Senator Harsdorf that the committee has decided not to build the K-12 budget from last year's base, I would also like to encourage the committee to find a way to establish a budget that includes K-12 funding at the levels proposed by Governor Walker.

Menomonie High School  
1715 5th Street West  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 232-2606

It is a critical time for public education in Wisconsin. Schools across our state have made many tremendous improvements in the rigor, relevance, and delivery of what is being taught in our schools. We truly are providing 21st Century learning opportunities for all children in the State of Wisconsin.

Menomonie Middle School  
920 21st Street South  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 232-1673

Like many school districts across the state, in the School District of the Menomonie Area the needs of our children have required us to add several positions for the 2017-2018 school year. Despite stable enrollment, the changing demographics of the community that we serve will result in our school district adding four new special education teachers, a new English Language Learner (ELL) teacher, a new school psychologist, and a new library media specialist. We will also be expanding a school counselor position from part-time to full-time, and adding a new classroom teacher that is needed to keep class sizes at a manageable level. While some of these positions will be created by reallocating funds from other parts of the school district budget, we are anticipating needing more than \$350,000 of new revenue just to pay for our basic staffing needs.

Oaklawn Elementary  
500 21st Street South  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 232-3798

Without the full \$200 per student proposed by Governor Walker for each year of the biennium, our school district will have no choice but to reduce basic programming and services. After several years of new school revenue failing to keep up with inflation, there is nowhere to cut without drastically impacting the children and families that we serve. Our staffing plan for next year does not allow for the continuation of a school social worker in our school district, so I also request that the committee give strong consideration to the governor's proposal for adding funding for school social work.

River Heights Elementary  
615 24th Avenue West  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 232-3987

Thank you again for considering my thoughts and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to hear about how the state budget impacts the School District of the Menomonie Area. With your support of Governor Walker's budget proposal, we would be able to go into the new biennium without reducing programming for our kids.

Wakanda Elementary  
1801 Wakanda Street NE  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 232-3898

Yours truly,



Joseph E. Zydowsky, PhD  
District Administrator