



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG

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Wisconsin State Assembly – Joint Finance Committee

Co-Chairs Senator Darling and Representative Nygren

**KEVIN BRUGGINK**

District  
Administrator

**KRISTIN DE BRUINE**

Director of  
Finance/  
Personnel

**SCOTT GREUPINK**

Principal  
Oostburg High  
School

**SHERRI STENGEL**

Principal  
Oostburg Middle  
School

**AARON WHITE**

Principal  
Oostburg  
Elementary School

**BRYCE DE ROOS**

Director of Special  
Education

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the upcoming biennial budget. My name is Kris De Bruine and I have the unique opportunity to serve as the Director of Finance and Personnel for two excellent school districts in Southeastern Wisconsin. The School District of Oostburg and the Cedar Grove – Belgium School District are where I get to witness the great things our schools are doing for kids in the state of Wisconsin.

In order for us to continue to offer great programs and more importantly what we feel are the best teachers and leaders for our students, we need your continued support for public K-12 education in the State of Wisconsin. We appreciate the support of \$200 and \$204 per student in categorical aid that you supported in the last biennium budget. We would love to get that same commitment through an increase to the Revenue Cap of like amounts in this next budget. Both of the districts I represent are low spending districts and greatly appreciated AB 835 last year, which increased the Revenue Cap for those of us low spending districts. We would like to ask that if increases in school spending occur within the Revenue Cap for this next budget, that those additional boosts get readjusted to allow for our continued ability to catch up to districts at the state average.

Several other programs that you have added in recent years, have been through grants to schools. Some of these include Robotics grants, Educator Effectiveness Grants, and Personal Devices for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This funding is greatly appreciated; however, the process for applying, being awarded and then filing claims and waiting for reimbursement puts added responsibilities on districts who have tried to reduce the amount of funds spent on non-instructional roles like the business office. As a financial leader in two districts, it is becoming increasingly hard for me to keep up with all the paperwork tied to these new funds. In order for more partnerships like mine to take place, it would be great to try to reduce the amount of paperwork it takes to obtain the funding that has been spent on great programs for kids.

To end, I want to thank each of you for your service to the people of the State of Wisconsin. I know you have many requests for financing for all kinds of different needs throughout our state. I encourage you to continue your support for Public Education for our kids!

Sincerely,

Kristin De Bruine