

---

# UNITY

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

1908 150<sup>th</sup> Street/Hwy 46 North, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Phone: (715) 825-3515

[www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us)

Fax: (715) 825-3517

April 20, 2015

Dear Senator Harsdorf,

I would like to begin by thanking you for listening and continuing to engage in a conversation about school finance and its place in the current state budget cycle. I understand that the conversation about the state budget is ongoing and that the elimination of the per pupil aid adjustment may be re-considered once the Legislative Fiscal Bureau provides its revenue forecast.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that many school districts are busy in their budget planning process for the 2015-2016 school year at this time. Many school districts, including Unity, will see staff reductions that will impact programming and educational opportunities for students. As required by statute, preliminary notice of non-renewals for certified staff members are to be provided to staff members for the next school year by the end of April. To comply with state law, and in the uncertainty of the state budget situation, many school districts will be "laying off" multiple educators this week.

I emphasize this issue because Unity School District is not alone in providing outstanding educational opportunities for students that is predicated on having quality educators. For example, in smaller school districts there may only be one teacher in a high school department. Additionally, there may only be three or four sections at an elementary grade level. Reductions in staffing due to budget constraints have a profound effect on programming and class sizes.

Once again, I respectfully request that you have this information in mind when you consider eliminating or continuing the per pupil aid adjustment. Additionally, please consider an inflationary increase to revenue limit for school districts. Unity School District is projected to have a revenue limit next year that is as low as it was in the 2009-2010 school year. It is difficult to provide the quality education that our children deserve, to help them reach their highest potential in the competitive marketplace, when funding is too limited to make that a reality.

Please contact me with any questions regarding how the budget proposal may affect Unity School District and how the school funding formula impacts local school districts. Additionally, I would be more than happy to answer any questions or offer any guidance about educational programming, mandates, and policies. I look forward to continuing to work with you regarding Wisconsin's exemplary educational system.

Sincerely,



Brandon W. Robinson, District Administrator