



WATERTOWN

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Services Center
111 Dodge
Street
Watertown, WI 53094

Cassandra Schug, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(920)262-1460 Ext. 3229
schugc@watertown.k12.wi.us

June 2020

Dear Representative Jagler,

We know that we have a shared interest in serving the community of Watertown, and we thank you for your dedication to our students, families and community. We have appreciated your regular outreach to the Watertown Unified School District (WUSD), and we appreciate your regular calls, conversations, updates and having the opportunity to provide feedback. We further appreciated your support for raising the revenue limit for low-spending districts. While the WUSD was not able to utilize this increase due to our declining enrollments, we are hopeful that in the future this will make a difference for us, and we appreciate your advocacy for this important change for more equitable funding.

We wanted to take this opportunity now that this very unusual school year has come to a close, to share with you how the WUSD has been coping with COVID-19, and what the impacts have been on our staff, students, families, and budget. We have been beyond proud of the work of our staff during these challenging times. Our staff have truly gone above and beyond in every respect to ensure that each student received individual attention when we transitioned to distance learning. Our food and nutrition staff prepared and served between 1400 and 1800 meals/day for our students. Our computer services staff have distributed over 800 systems to our students and assisted with repairs, internet concerns, and troubleshooting. Our custodial and maintenance teams have worked tirelessly to clean and disinfect our buildings and prepare us to offer in-person summer school to 200 students in July.

We would also share with you that we have been tracking our additional costs over these past months, and our projected costs moving forward. We have had to purchase additional computer systems for our students and our staff to access learning from home as well as additional personal protective equipment to include plastic partitions, infrared thermometers and hand sanitizing stations. We anticipate that we will be spending significantly more on our transportation next year as we will need to safely transport our students at much smaller numbers, and we know that we will need additional devices, software and system repairs for our to prepare for what will need to be a flexible learning environments responsive to our community health needs.

We know that as you begin work on the budget repair bill, you will keep Watertown in mind. We know that you know that the WUSD has faced considerable financial challenges as we have dealt with declining student enrollments coupled with funding at approximately \$1,000 less per student than the state average over the past ten years. While we understand that there will be significant financial challenges facing our state, please help to advocate for funding for the students and families served by the WUSD.

Thank you for your service, and as always, please reach out to us if there is anything additional we can provide.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Schug
Superintendent

Tony Arnett
Board President