

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CADOTT COMMUNITY

426 Myrtle Street, Cadott, Wisconsin 54727

www.cadott.k12.wi.us

April 22, 2021

Dear Distinguished Members of the Joint Finance Committee

Thank you for your interest and support for the students and families in the State of Wisconsin.

I am the District Administrator for the Cadott Community School District in rural Wisconsin. We are a district of 842 students in grades 4K-12.

Special Education funding support

We have a special education population with a variety of needs. To meet these needs, our district currently transfers over \$1.2 million dollars from general education funds into special education funds. This is 10% of the overall district budget. This shows how increasing special education support will benefit all students.

General Revenue support and predictability

We often hear that schools should manage their budget like families and live within their means. Most families have a predictable annual income and budget, notwithstanding a crisis in employment or large lottery win.

We request that school revenue growth be indexed to CPI or a predictable inflationary increase. This allows better planning. It also reinforces a reasonable commitment to long term improvement in our student work.

Student count mitigation

We found that parents did not send their children for different reasons. Some parents were afraid and wanted the highest level of protection and physical distancing. Some parents did not want their child to wear a mask for any reason. Flexibility in student count through allowing the greater of the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 count for revenue limit calculations will ensure that we have continued staffing and funding to improve any academic challenges that come as a result of COVID-19 and the related effects.

Broadband expansion

Our district was not a one-to-one district for student technology before the pandemic. We have large areas with no high speed broadband options. Only 30% of our families have cable-level internet access. 50% of our families reported their internet is intermittent or usually down and

"It is the school district's mission to challenge each and every student to reach his or her full potential."

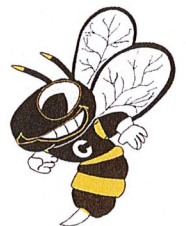
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Dedicated to ensuring high levels of learning for all students and staff.

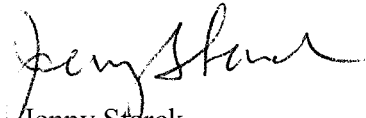


they have trouble staying connected. The expansion of internet accessibility is critical to our students adequately accessing learning opportunities.

Conclusion

Thank you for your listening to the voices of those who represent the children in our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Starck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenny Starck
District Administrator