



School District of New Richmond

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Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee,

My name is Patrick Olson and I am the District Administrator at the School District of New Richmond. On behalf of all 3,552 students, 456 staff members, and our Board of Education, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you today. Your task of reviewing all state appropriations and revenues is not an easy one. As you approach the Wisconsin 2021-23 Executive Budget, I would like you to keep in mind our core purpose at the School District of New Richmond, which is to inspire every student to learn to his or her potential.

To date, we have been able to provide 141 in-person learning days for SDNR Elementary students, 113 in-person learning days and 28 remote learning days for NRMS students, 109 in-person learning days and 32 remote learning days for NRHS students along with offering a majority of our extra-curricular activities during both the fall and winter and now in the spring season. These opportunities continue to be realized through teamwork, collaboration, sacrifice, and most of all care for our students, staff, families, and community. We are still in a pandemic and we need to be vigilant in our mitigation strategies as they have been proved effective.

However, our work is not done. As a community we ask for your assistance in supporting the governor's proposed budget which provides a revenue limit adjustment of \$200 per pupil in 2021-22 and \$204 per pupil in 2022-23. The governor's budget also proposes to provide increases state general and categorical aids sufficient to achieve two-thirds funding of schools statewide. To decrease disparities between low revenue school districts and higher revenue/higher spending districts the governor's proposed budget also increases the low revenue ceiling from \$10,000 per pupil, to \$10,250 in 2021-22 and to \$10,500 in 2022-23. As you are aware, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau states taxes on the typical Wisconsin home over the next two years would not increase quite as much under Governor Evers' budget proposal as they would under current law.

SDNR COVID-19 Totals	10-28	11-4	11-9	11-18	11-24	12-7	12-11	12-18	12-22	1-3	1-14	1-22	1-29	2-7	2-12	2-19	2-26	3-5	3-12	3-19	3-25	4-4	4-9	4-16
Current Student Active Cases out of 3,500	6	7	14	26	18	8	8	9	7	8	14	13	13	4	4	4	5	1	2	0	1	X	7	3
Current Staff Active Cases out of 450	3	3	9	9	1	2	1	4	6	8	2	4	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	X	1	1
Current Student CC Required to Quarantine	102	80	501	341	169	49	19	49	55	25	30	132	191	55	40	73	56	50	45	18	8	X	19	60
Year to Date (YTD) + Students/Staff Cases	48	58	78	109	140	153	157	166	173	186	208	224	241	244	246	250	255	257	259	259	260	260	268	272
Year to Date (YTD) + Student Cases	33	41	51	76	107	114	117	122	126	134	148	161	176	176	181	184	188	188	190	190	191	191	198	201
Year to Date (YTD) + Staff Cases	15	17	27	33	33	39	40	44	47	55	60	64	65	65	65	66	67	69	69	69	69	69	70	71
Year to Date (YTD) + Cases at NRHS	14	19	27	40	54	61	63	66	69	72	83	87	91	95	96	98	100	100	101	101	102	102	104	104
Year to Date (YTD) + Cases at NRMS	11	12	18	27	31	31	34	35	35	41	45	50	53	54	54	55	56	56	56	56	56	56	57	57
Year to Date (YTD) + Cases at Hillside	6	8	9	12	13	15	15	16	17	17	20	25	26	27	29	29	29	29	29	29	30	30	31	34
Year to Date (YTD) + Cases at PJ	3	4	6	9	14	15	15	17	17	18	18	19	19	19	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	22	22
Year to Date (YTD) + Cases at Starr	13	15	17	19	24	27	27	29	32	35	39	42	43	43	43	44	45	45	46	46	46	46	46	48
Year to Date (YTD) Close Contacts Quarantine	481	551	706	1005	1336	1373	1390	1420	1447	1470	1517	1658	1807	1879	1892	1912	2017	2027	2065	2074	2078	X	2119	2152
SCC 14 Day County Level (DHS Website for #)	37.5	59	80.3	101.6	92.6	45.8	40.4	36.3	41.9	22	24.7	20.2	16.6	15.5	10.9	9.9	9.1	11.4	10.9	11.6	10.1	24.9	29.8	35.6
SCC 14 Day County Level with Antigen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	41.2	40.6	36.6	28.3	24.8	18.4	15.9	12.4	13.4	11.9	12.6	13.0	26.4	30.9	37.5
7-Day for SDNR (DHS Website for #)	X	X	X	X	X	X	10.57	10.29	8.57	3.43	9.14	6.71	7.14	4.57	2.43	0.43	1.86	1.71	2.00	1.57	0.86	3.57	4.14	4.71

Please providing predictable annual increases in state general equalization aids and annual per-pupil adjustments to revenue limits to at least match inflationary increases in school costs. Federal COVID-19 relief funds are one-time funds intended to defray costs specifically related to the pandemic. It is neither advisable nor desirable to budget one-time funds for ongoing expenses. This past year in New Richmond, we froze seven positions to allow flexibility for costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the 2021-22 school year, the School District of New Richmond is projected to transfer \$4,872,321 from our general fund to fund 27 to balance our budget and pay for special education services. Increasing special education categorical aid reverses this trend and frees up money in school districts' general funds, thus providing relief under the revenue limits, which in turn reduces the need for districts to have to go to referenda to exceed those limits.

The School District of New Richmond currently collaborates with FamilyMeans to provide clinical psychologists in our District. However, even prior the pandemic, these schedules were full in our buildings. Now include the fall-out of the current COVID-19 pandemic and we continue to see a greater need by students for help. Please support the funding increase for school-based mental health services.

Each day, I have the pleasure of working with highly skilled and professional staff members that care about students and work tirelessly to help them reach their potential. I personally get to see the difference that our TEAM of staff, parents, and community collectively make for each child that walks through our doors. It is well documented that the quality of public education in the state of Wisconsin is second to none and I would hate to see that change due to a lack of resources.

In the end, the Joint Finance Committee will be in charge of making decisions that will affect thousands of students across the state of Wisconsin. Before making a recommendation please ask yourself that all-important question, "Is this what's best for ALL students?" On behalf of the students, staff, parents and community members of New Richmond, we thank you for your time and your willingness to listen.

Respectfully,

Patrick B. Olson
District Administrator

Cc- Senator Rob Stafsholt
Representative Clint Moses