

Dear School District of Wisconsin Dells Community Members,

As many of you know, this past fall has seen the student-athletes of WDHS have an incredible fall sports season. In particular our soccer team has forged ahead and in the span of a week they captured their first regional championship with a 6-1 win over Mount Horeb/Barneveld, they went on to win both of their sectional games and making even more program history by punching their ticket to qualify for the state tournament with a 2-1 win over McFarland. They will now play Friday, November 4, 2022 against New Berlin Eisenhower at 7 p.m. at Kohler Engines Stadium at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. WDHS will be putting out additional details regarding this event in the days to come. Congratulations to the coaches, players and their families for qualifying for the state tournament. What an accomplishment, and **thank you** for representing WDHS so well!



The Wisconsin Dells Soccer Team is on its way to the state tournament for the first time in program history. Congratulations and good luck!

Our folks in the fine arts department have also been busy, and WDHS will present, “The Man Who Came to Dinner” this weekend. Shows are scheduled for Friday, November 4, at 7 p.m., Saturday, November 5, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, November 6, at 2 p.m. All shows will take place in the WDMS gymnasium, and take note, this will be the last-ever high school drama performances in this building as next year the new WDHS Auditorium will open at the start of the 2023-24 school year.

On October 24, 2022, the Board of Education adopted the 2022 levy, and the levy includes the amount if the upcoming operating referendum were to be successful. As such, this levy amount is \$19,856,872, and this amount is \$140,000 less than last year. This would result in **no tax increase** associated with an approved referendum. The aforementioned amount sees an overall mill rate of \$6.77 as compared to \$7.76 in a year ago. A 99-cent decrease in mill rate. Additionally, last year the state average for K-12 districts was \$8.67, thus showing the fiscal responsibility the District has exercised in past and current budget planning.

With an approved referendum, the District will be able to exceed its revenue limit by \$1.2 million per year for the next four years. This will allow us to:

- Maintain small class sizes for students
- Continue offering a variety of academic, elective course and extracurricular opportunities
- Retain talented and experienced educators
- Avoid budget cuts in key areas

This referendum is necessary due to the State of Wisconsin's outdated funding formula, which does not provide enough revenue to adequately fund our programs and services. Although state-imposed revenue limits are adjusted every two years as part of the state budget process, our revenue limit lags behind increasing costs, and with per-pupil funding frozen within the current two-year revenue limit this has accelerated the need for an operating referendum.

Finally, while the late summer and early fall weather has been relatively nice, there will come some weather that won't quite be so pleasant. Whether it be ice, freezing rain or an excessive amount of snow, at some point there will be a need to cancel, delay or early release the students of the District. We do this to ensure the safety of the students we serve each day. The District will do its best to decide to cancel or delay classes no later than 6:15 a.m. Please realize that late-breaking weather may call for a late decision and, in this event, the District will utilize radio and television sources as soon as it has decided.

The District will utilize the following four methods as our primary way of communicating with the public. The first will be the school messenger service. This will provide a phone call to the number you have provided the District within the Skyward student management system. Other media sources, the district's Facebook page, WISC-TV 3, and WNNO 106.9 FM, are the earliest contacts that the District makes. The District will be contacting other media as well, however, in the order as mentioned. Please realize that canceling school is one of the most difficult things to do as the weather conditions can change rapidly, especially in the case of freezing rain. If the District deems it necessary to early release students because of inclement weather and you have elementary age children, please make sure that we have your alternative day care arrangements in advance and on file at one of the elementary offices. This will greatly assist the office staff as well as the classroom teachers and aides who ensure that your children are on the correct bus or for any alternative pre-approved arrangements. This will ease some of the confusion in an already hectic day!

Finally, in mid-November DPI will be releasing the annual state required school report cards. When released, we look forward to sharing this information as our schools continue to see positive academic trends in a variety of areas. We know there will always be areas we can improve upon, and we continue to strive towards forging ahead.

In closing, our students and staff are striving to reach our vision statement of academic and individual excellence for a stronger community, and we recognize there will always be challenges to get better. We thank you for the opportunity to serve our communities' children for they are both our highest priority and it is our privilege to do so!

Sincerely,

Terrance R. Shook