

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD JOINT NO. 1

DEDICATED TO THE SUCCESS OF EACH STUDENT

CITY OF HARTFORD, TOWNS ADDISON, ERIN, HARTFORD – WASHINGTON COUNTY • TOWNS OF ASHIPUN, RUBICON – DODGE COUNTY
HARTFORD, WISCONSIN 53027

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is not a secret that people in our community are anxious about the financial situation in Wisconsin and its effect on the School District of Hartford Jt #1. We are in the midst of a complete landscape change in education and we simply don't know what all the rules might be for the future of education.

One thing will not change: Education and schools are important components of the community and the Hartford Jt. #1 School Board, administrators and staff care deeply about the quality of our schools. While everyone wants answers, **we just don't know what the end game will be.**

Therefore, while the politics are playing out, we know that we certainly have challenging decisions ahead. Right now, I am still sorting out the information. At some point, we will make our best analysis of the situation and formulate assumptions about what we believe will be most likely to happen.

In the short-term, here are the things the School Board and I are doing so that we can move forward and keep our students' education first and foremost.

In the weeks ahead, I will continue to analyze the information we have about the budget proposal with the Board of Education and our business manager to determine the financial impact on our district. I will share with you the assumptions we are going to make about the financial impact. We are currently looking at **losing approximately 1.2 million dollars in revenue** for the 2011/12 school year.

To offset this reduction, the School Board has taken the following actions:

- Staff at the middle school will be reduced by three - a sixth, a seventh and an eighth grade classroom teacher. So that teacher student ratios don't increase, the middle school staff has worked out a new schedule for themselves that will increase the amount of time they teach, while maintaining class size.
- Staff will start paying 5.8 % toward their retirement.
- Health insurance will be competitively bid.
- Staff will increase their health insurance contribution to 12.6 %.
- More services will be subcontracted, thus the District will increase the number of purchased service staff.
- A virtual/charter school committee has been Board approved to look at alternative education options.
- A calendar committee has been Board approved to review a change in State law that allows districts to increase the length of the school day and shorten the length of the school year.
- Savings will be maximized through staff attrition opportunities – we currently have 10 retirements and anticipate 5 more in the next few months...for a total of 15 retirements.

The School Board, working with the community and the administrative team will determine the essential priorities for your district. While all programs are valued, all will have to be evaluated to determine what is essential, and those priorities will need to be shared.

I am not going to say this is going to be easy, but I will say that we will do this together as a community and we will continue to work hard for the benefit of our children, our schools and our district.

Yours in education,

Mark Smits, Ph.D.
District Administrator

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