

November 3, 2017

As the school year progresses, we continue to celebrate our student successes within the Kiel Area School District; however, we find ourselves in challenging financial times. Kiel has always been a low spending district and due to a combination of the state funding formula and increasing operating expenses, we are facing a budget shortfall.

Throughout the last month and a half, we have been sharing our financial situation with staff, parents and the community. The budget shortfall is a result of many different components such as: student enrollment, health insurance increases and increased operating expenses.

We have been a district experiencing declining enrollment and this year, we are fortunate enough to have seen a slight increase in student enrollment. We are excited about this increase in enrollment, however it plays a role in our budget challenge.

The school board has been discussing options to address our current budget situation and part of these options include a review of all budget accounts as well as potential reductions. The school board has chosen referendum as the option to continue to ensure our students receive the best education while being fiscally responsible during these challenging times. School board members are working hard to identify the amount of community support that is needed.

There will be a second question also going to referendum that will ask the community to support enhancements to our high school athletic facilities as well as the construction of a new Performing Arts Center.

I am looking forward to the community's support as we continue to move the Kiel Area School District forward!

Brad Ebert