

January 4, 2018

As we welcome back students from winter break, we look forward to sharing many more highlights in 2018 as well as remembering some of the great things that happened in 2017!

Our goal for 2017 was to celebrate with the community the many accomplishments of our staff and students. We began the year by highlighting the Kiel Area Youth Theatre and the High School Band students who performed at our staff in-service. Our students entertained the community with their performance of Shrek the Musical, Veterans Day programs and holiday concerts. We also inducted 24 students into the National Honor Society; these are only a few of the accomplishments!

Homecoming week gave our students an opportunity to partake in many different activities. During that week, we were fortunate to have many families and alumni return to the district to share in the excitement and cheer on our students.

Each of our fall sports teams had a great season! We celebrated a girls' cross country conference championship and a state cross country participant. We wish our winter and spring teams much success!

The school report cards were released and the Kiel Area School District "exceeded expectations." We are very excited about this achievement! We would like to thank our staff for the important role they play in the success of our children.

As we begin 2018, the Board of Education had the privilege of meeting with local legislators to "Tell Our Story". Representatives Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Paul Tittl, and Tyler Vorpapel along with Ethan Hollenberger from Senator Duey Stroebel's office took time out of their schedules to listen to our story and seek ways to enhance our partnership to ensure our students receive the same opportunities and resources as students in other districts. Currently, Kiel receives approximately \$700 less per student in funding than the state average. As a district, this is very concerning and therefore our Board of Education approved going to referendum on April 3rd, asking the voters to support a revenue cap question for \$840,000/year for 10 years to support educational resources and opportunities for our students.

Based upon feedback, I would like to clarify the difference between our current financial situation and our request to exceed the revenue cap by \$840,000/year for 10 years. The goal of the district is to balance the budget by reducing our expenses by approximately \$1.4 million dollars. The \$840,000/year for 10 years is not intended to be used to offset these budget reductions. Without the ability to exceed the revenue cap, the district will continue to face future financial challenges.

The Board was approached by the Raider Nation Community Project Group to go to referendum to upgrade our high school athletic facilities and build a new performing arts center. This group will be meeting with local businesses seeking financial support to help reduce the overall financial impact to the taxpayers. These projects would provide much needed enhancements to our athletic complex and auditorium.

Throughout 2018 we will continue to highlight the many wonderful things happening within the district, tell our story, and provide more details regarding the upcoming referendum.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to meet with any individual or group!