



"Where Excellence is Expected"



Gillett School District

208 West Main Street P.O. Box 227 Gillett, WI 54124-0227

Joint Finance Committee (3-18-15)

Good Morning.

My name is Todd Carlson and I am the Superintendent for the Gillett School District, a small school district just north of Green Bay.

Over the next couple of days you will be listening to a lot of testimony regarding the negative impact continued education reductions will have on public school districts across the state.

Gillett is no different, if the proposed budget stays as presented we are looking at an approximate half-million dollar budget shortfall, in a small school district.

What does that mean?

Well, public school education is a people business. There is countless research that shows a leading factor to children receiving a quality education is having a quality teacher. Our children need quality trained professionals. With reductions and freezes and no room for inflationary costs, it's going to mean, fewer professionals in the classrooms and fewer opportunities for children.

Just the other day I was meeting with one of our best teachers, he has a son who is a junior and much like his Dad, a high quality person, a great student. In our discussion he told me that his son would like to go into education and be a teacher, and this boy would be a fantastic teacher. His father talked him out of it. Increased accountability, the lack of support, the lack of funding, and the lack of respect is catching up to us. We are creating an environment where education is no longer attracting the brightest and the best.

One thing I would like you to take away from this testimony and one thing I would really like you to remember and think about.

It was not that long ago when education was seen as an investment in Wisconsin and we understood what it meant to our future. It seems now, education has turned, and it's being seen more as an expense rather than the investment that it needs to be. We grow with quality education, it's the investment we need to make.

Thank you for your time.

Todd Carlson - District Administrator
Steve Linssen - Secondary Principal

Curt Angeli - Elementary Principal
Kim Klister - Special Education Director