



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

901 – 15th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Phone: 414-766-5011
Fax: 414-766-5005
www.sdsm.k12.wi.us

February 23, 2015

Dear South Milwaukee Families and Community,

We are writing to you to share some critical information and ask for your help. You have elected and tasked us (the School Board), to oversee the public education that our children receive. As part of that task, it is important to communicate with you when great challenges, outside of our control, limit our ability to ensure that our children are provided with an excellent education. The Governor's 2015-17 budget proposal contains some provisions that concern the Board.

The proposal to eliminate \$150 per student will reduce our revenue by \$460,000. Three years ago we cut \$1.9 million from our operating budget, primarily by reducing employee compensation and benefits. We have been cutting staff and programs over the past decade due to budgetary pressures and this additional reduction will further negatively impact our schools. We need to maintain and grow our programs, as well as attract and retain the best staff. The proposed Governor's budget greatly limits our abilities in both areas. Each year we make many difficult choices about how to spend our available dollars, similar to any business, but the challenges are becoming increasingly difficult.

We are asking you to partner with the School Board by reading the South Milwaukee Revenue Limit Story and looking through the components of the State budget on public education to consider what impact this could have on the education you want for our children and our community. All of the applicable documents can be found on the Business Office Website. (Go to District, Business Services, then Budget and Finance; or directly at: <http://www.sdsm.k12.wi.us/district/financialreports.cfm>.) We will be sure to update the website daily as new information becomes available.

Please consider contacting your legislators to let them know how you feel about the impact of the proposed budget on the South Milwaukee School District. (Contact information also on the website.) As we speak to our lawmakers, we are asking for a reasonable increase each year in the revenue limit. We believe an increase of at least \$200 per student (equates to under a 2% increase) is both a reasonable and a responsible way to provide the best quality education to our students and best return on investment for South Milwaukee taxpayers. We constantly seek continuous improvement in our schools and appreciate your commitment to great schools!

Your Partners In Public Education,

Handwritten signature of Patricia Bordak in black ink.

Patricia Bordak, Board President

Handwritten signature of John Haslam in black ink.

John Haslam, Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Molus in black ink.

Kathleen Molus, Member

Handwritten signature of Douglas Perry in black ink.

Douglas Perry, Member

Handwritten signature of Carol Dufek in black ink.

Carol Dufek, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Therese Travia in black ink.

Therese Travia, Clerk

Handwritten signature of David Maass in black ink.

David Maass, Member

Handwritten signature of Rita Olson in black ink.

Dr. Rita Olson, Superintendent