

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO THE DEERFIELD INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
From Deerfield Community School District
For questions, please contact Superintendent Michelle Jensen

February 7, 2020

Citizen Advisory Committee to discuss possible referendum for Deerfield Schools

The Deerfield School Board recently appointed a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to advise the board on the needs of the district's schools. The community members who have volunteered to serve are: Jeff Albedyll, Jeremiah Fink, Sarah Hart, Scott Hole, Lonnie Mack, Eric Nelson, Tyler Peterson, Jeff Salkowski, Ron Schwoerer, Dave Shea and Derek Strehlow.

The limited time funding secured through the 2016 referendum that allowed the school district to exceed the revenue cap for four years will end on June 30, 2020. The district asked the CAC to discuss and advise the board on the possibility of another referendum to allow the district to again exceed the state mandated revenue caps to continue renovations and improvements to our school facilities and fill funding gaps.

To be clear, the Deerfield Community School District has a long history of fiscal responsibility and stewardship, but the district is still anticipating a budget shortfall of \$290,780.00 for the 2020-2021 school year if a referendum is not approved by the community. Each school district receives tax funding for every full time student that attends school in their district. That amount per student has been basically stagnant since 2008, while costs continue to rise. In addition to rising costs, there is a need to continually improve curriculum, update and replace technology, increase security, replace classroom supplies, and make improvements to the buildings.

The current 2016 -2020 referendum had both an operating and capital aspect. Some of the projects completed due to the referendum include safety upgrades, an addition to the high school to house a fitness center, remodeling the stadium to include new bleachers, press box and concessions building that includes bathrooms.

The committee convened for the first time on February 4th in the DHS FACE room and met with Superintendent Michelle Jensen and Business Manager Doreen Treuden to get a historical perspective on the Deerfield School District's finances, to better understand sources of school funding, and discuss the role of the committee. The CAC will hold meetings for the next several months to help with the creation of a community survey, review and collect feedback from the community, and make recommendations to the school board for another potential referendum.

The next meetings are scheduled for February 19th at 6:30pm and February 25th at 5:30pm, both in the DHS FACE room. The public is welcome to attend any of the meetings. If you have questions or concerns you would like to share, please reach out to any of the committee members or email the committee at cac@deerfield.k12.wi.us. In addition, updates will be shared in The Independent, WDEE, the Deerfield Schools website, and the Deerfield School Facebook Page.

At the next meeting on February 19th the committee will tour the elementary and middle/high school facilities to discuss immediate and long term needs. Anyone interested in attending should meet at the front entrance of the high school at 6:30 pm.