

May 8, 2023

Representative Shannon Zimmerman
State Capitol - Room 18 North
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Zimmerman,

Thank you for coming to our January 9th meeting to discuss the outlook for the legislative session. We are very thankful that you took time out of your busy schedule to share your thoughts on the need to increase K-12 per pupil funding as well as explore a penny tax that would help school districts pay for needed capital maintenance.

As the Joint Committee on Finance continues to work on budget priorities for the coming biennium, we urge you to invest in K-12 education. High rates of inflation, coupled with a frozen revenue limit and declining enrollment, have created budgetary challenges in the Hudson School District (HSD).

We hope you will be a strong voice for increasing general per pupil funding and revenue limits by \$650 in fiscal year 2024 and another \$350 in fiscal year 2025. Additionally, we urge you to support an increase in the special education reimbursement rate and to create a penny tax that would fund capital projects and building maintenance at schools.

The K-12 funding formula is particularly difficult for school districts like HSD, which have high property values and a long history of being fiscally prudent. Over the past decades, the school board has chosen to under levy at times when the funds were not needed. The operating referendum HSD had on the April ballot did not pass. This puts the district in a difficult decision where we now need to consider budget cuts that could make it harder to retain and attract quality teachers and staff, increase class sizes, and possibly cut programs, course offerings, and extracurriculars that we know are good for student outcomes.

Thank you for being a strong voice in the legislature. We hope that addressing the budgetary challenges that HSD, and other districts across the state face, will be a top priority for the Joint Committee on Finance so that we can continue to prepare our students to succeed in their post-high school career and college plans and further strengthen the economy of the St. Croix Valley and the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued service to all of us in Assembly District 30.

Sincerely,

James Johnson

Bob Baumann

Molly Powers

Rob Brown

Heather Logelin

Kate Garza

Megan Rozowski