

My name is Louise Fischer and I am the Business Manager at Shawano School District. Over the last four years, I have supported several of Governor Walker's initiatives as deep down I knew they were good for my school district or the state at that point of time. I have deep concerns about this budget in its current form.

Using the current budget numbers with zero increase in the revenue limit, Shawano's structural deficit amounts to over \$600,000 for fiscal year 15-16. In addition, the per pupil categorical aid was totally eliminated in year one. This categorical aid was implemented in the last state budget to address the small increase on the revenue limit worksheet given districts then. In a nutshell, our structural deficit ballooned from a difficult \$600,000 to an inconceivable \$960,000.

As 3/4 of our budget is comprised of personnel costs, it can be assumed ¾ of our budget reductions need to be in personnel. Our administration team compiled a list of potential budget reductions that will impact approximately 25 personnel. I speak for my administrative team when I say the process was gut wrenching when determining whose lives these decisions impact, not only in staff layoffs but in student achievement.

It has been reported the budget in its current form will save the taxpayer \$10-15. Honestly, are any of us going to hold this budget, the Governor or you in high regard because it saved us the cost of a Friday night fish fry? This \$10 is insignificant to the taxpayer and devastating to a school district. I cannot comprehend how cutting public school funding this deeply benefits anyone.

The voucher system takes money from public schools. My personal contention is private schools, when receiving my taxpayer dollars, need to be held accountable, adhering to all the same standards, including open records that public schools need to adhere to and accept ALL students, no matter their needs, that wish to attend private school.

Governor Walker's proposal eliminates the Local Government Property Investment Fund. In my tenure, I have requested proposals from private insurance carriers several times. Insurance premiums with private carriers were always higher than the premiums offered from the property fund. Based on past quotes, insurance coverage may cost our district an additional \$10,000 annually.

I ask you to support public education not only with words but with money. First, restore the first year of the per pupil categorical aid to the original intent of the legislation two years ago. Secondly, private schools have the option of accepting public money. If they choose to accept taxpayer dollars, they have to be held to the same standards as public education. Lastly, unless there is data that supports the LGPIF is losing money, please continue to offer districts this option for insurance coverage.

Thank you for listening and for working for the benefit of our students and the great state we call home.

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