

District Newsletter- August 2017

Dear Wittenberg-Birnamwood District Residents,

2016-2017 proved to be a very busy year here at Wittenberg-Birnamwood! With the start of the new school year approaching fast, I am excited to share that our community involvement in the district listening sessions and town hall meetings was met with great support and participation. Everything from the condition of all things related to buildings and grounds, to academics, to the financial position our district is currently and predicted to be in was discussed. I would like to thank our many stakeholders for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend, become more informed, and ultimately take away factual information that will help assist in creating generative conversation about the future of Wittenberg-Birnamwood Schools.

All of this work has laid the foundation for a district-wide survey that will be sent to all residents the week of September 18th. Please take time to read and fill out this survey which highlights all of the major components of our discussions the past two years. There are two separate matters included in the survey. One addresses the need for an operational referendum, which provides funding to run (operate) the school district, while the other explains the details of a capital referendum, which provides funding to update the school buildings and grounds. These are two very separate items.

It is important for all to know that no decisions regarding the contents of the survey, including approval to move to any kind of referendum, have been made at any level in the school system at this point. The Board of Education values and looks forward to the feedback they will be receiving from each of you through your responses in the survey.

As we continue to long range plan with the best interests of our students in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District at the forefront, I am excited and highly optimistic that whatever decisions that are made as a result of your feedback will be done so with well-planned intention and purpose. Our facilities are aging and our programs continue to be afforded to our students and community members at a very minimal cost. The status of school finance in Wisconsin is not changing to the degree that allows our low spending district the ability to continue offering the necessary services we want for our children. It is important to hear exactly what our stakeholders prioritize and want for our students for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Garrett Rogowski
Superintendent