

July 2017 District Newsletter

Dear Wittenberg-Birnamwood District Residents,

It's that time of the year where we really begin to close in on our fiscal numbers for 2017-18. Federal funding news came out recently and showed that our district was receiving a reduction from last year's allocation of \$318,158 to an amount of \$278,375. A reduction of nearly \$40,000 in Title funding creates challenges for us, in that we use much of that funding to pay for elementary teacher staffing. In addition to this news, we are still waiting on state aid and revenue limit numbers. This is very important, because as of right now we are projecting a fiscal deficit for next year of approximately \$27,000. We really need the revenue limit ceiling to be increased, or our low spending district (by mandate) will continue to face more challenging decisions regarding programming and services.

Speaking of programming, Waylon Resch (Tech Ed Metals Teacher) is working with Waukesha Bearings and they have agreed to take our three lathes up to their facility and make one good one out of the three. Right now, none of them work decently. He will be removing them this week and taking them up to Antigo. This is one of those areas where we need to continue to upgrade our tech ed equipment. If anyone is interested in further discussing our vision for upgrading the tech ed labs, or willing to take a walk-through tour, please don't hesitate to contact me and we can arrange for that to happen. We are committed to providing our students with equipment that is industry standard and best prepares them for the career and technical workforce.

The district is also beginning the installation of a significant upgrade with our phone infrastructure this summer. We will be installing new ShoreTel phones this month, replacing the old 3com units we currently have. This is quite a process, but we expect to be fully up and functional by the end of the month. So until then, if you experience static, dropped calls, or mis-transfers, know that all phone problems are being resolved!

Finally, if you know of anyone that might be interested in driving bus this coming year or substitute teaching, please refer them to our district web site for an application or have them contact Joy Hartleben at 715-253-2213 for information on applying.

The new school year will be here before we know it! Hope you all enjoyed your holiday season with family and friends and have a great rest of the summer!

Garrett Rogowski
Superintendent