

Special Committee on Review of State School Aid Formula

Senator Luther Olsen, Chair

Representatives: Davis, Fields, Mursau, Strachota, Towns,
Vruwink and Williams

Senators: Darling, Erpenbach and Lassa

Public Members: Andrews, Berry, Borch, Burnett, Gaier,
Hendrickson, Lang, Nate, Reschovsky and
Welch

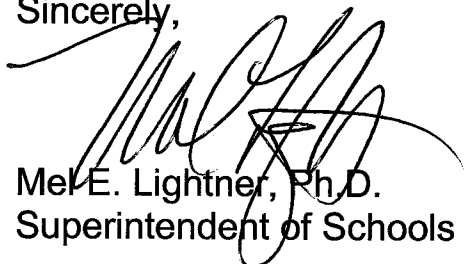
Introduction

The Kimberly Area School District is part of what is commonly referred to as the "Fox Cities". Bordering the east side of Appleton, the district consists of 17 square miles and has the Fox River as the northern border and Lake Winnebago as the southern border.

Municipalities contained within the district include all of the Village of Kimberly, and portions of the Village of Combined Locks, City of Appleton and Townships of Buchanan and Harrison. The district prides itself on high student achievement and low spending. Student enrollment has increased since 1988.

Despite high enrollment growth the district faces unique budget challenges due to its desire to manage the district in a fiscally responsible manner. We hope that the information we present will provide committee members insight to the fact that our district desires budget flexibility in order to meet the educational needs of our children.

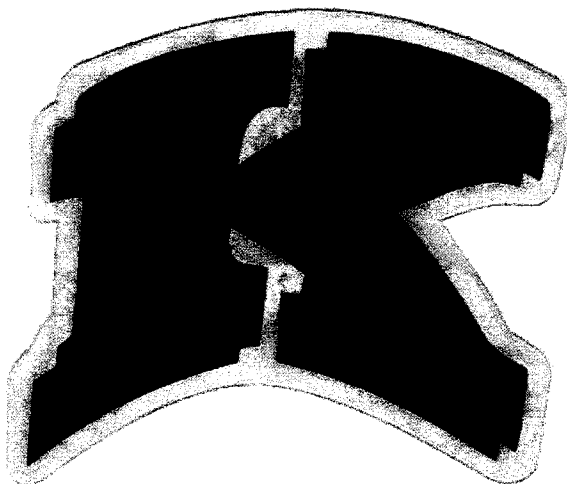
Sincerely,



Mel E. Lightner, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Gary Kvasnica
Director of Business Services



- **2004-05 per student expenditures (comparative expenditures – “School Facts 05” Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance) were \$7,367 which is in the bottom 10% of Wisconsin school districts (see attached)**

- **2005-06 Student Achievement Data (see attached)**
The district initiated “**Mission Possible - Raise Student Achievement**” in 1997 in response to the accountability movement, state standards and the realization that the level of student achievement was low. The district allocated resources to reduce class sizes and to train educators. Student achievement has risen considerably (see attached).

- **Enrollment Growth**
The student enrollment in the Kimberly Area School District has grown from 1582 FTE students in 1988 to 4211 FTE students in 2006 (see attached).

- **Referendums**
 - The citizens of the Kimberly Area School District have approved the following building referendums
 - April 1995 – \$6.9 million - new elementary school, addition to existing high school.
 - April 1999 - \$26.55 million - new high school, convert high school to middle school, gymnasium additions to two elementary schools
 - November 2004 - \$24.68 million - expansion of high school, conversion of elementary school to an intermediate school, build a combination elementary and intermediate school (two schools under one roof with shared spaces)
 - The district did not ask the citizens to exceed the revenue cap for operational costs in any of the aforementioned referendums

- **Cost Containment Efforts**
 - Health Insurance
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Outsourcing
 - Post Retirement Benefit Funding and Reduction (see attached memo)
 - Elimination of Programs
 - Elimination of Positions

- **Budget Prioritization**

- In the Kimberly Area School District, we do not plan a budget, we budget our plans
 - Staffing
 - Capital Improvements
 - Technology
 - Transportation

The Need for Budget Flexibility

Although the Kimberly Area School District has exhibited sound fiscal practices, engaged in proper planning and has controlled expenditures, in the future we will face the need to have the flexibility to increase expenditures in order to protect our taxpayers from unnecessary costs and to maintain our allocation of budget dollars toward student learning.

Soon a 50-year old boiler in one of our elementary schools will need to be replaced. The estimated cost is \$750,000. The district could borrow that amount and pay it over a period of time, perhaps 10 years. That payment would need to fall under the revenue cap. That money could be utilized on student learning, maintaining adequate student/teacher ratios, instructional materials, etc.

Rather, the Board of Education could have the authority to levy for all (\$750,000) or part of the amount. It would eliminate or reduce the need to pay unnecessary interest rates.

The Kimberly Area School District has a general operating budget of approximately \$34,000,000. If the Board of Education were given the authority to exceed the revenue cap by anywhere from 1% to 3% for a year or a number of years, it would provide much needed revenue for capital improvement projects. In this case, the boiler would be replaced by a high efficiency heating system thereby spending less on utility costs.

Board members are duly elected to represent the citizens and taxpayers of the school district. By allowing them to exceed the revenue cap for capital improvement and building maintenance projects it will protect the investment that taxpayers have already made.

DISTRICT		PER STUDENT EXPENDITURES 2004-05 BUDGET										FUND		
		Instruction		Capital						Comparative Exp.		Endin		
Type	Name	Total	Sal. & Fringe	Pupil Serv.	Instr. Supp.	Admin.	Bldg. Grds.	Pupil Trans.	Exp./Debt	Total Exp.	Amt.		K-12 % St. Avg. (+/-)	(\$000)
K-8 DISTRICT AVG.		5,969	5,241	358	478	954	954	419	943	10,515	8,713			
UHS DISTRICT AVG.		6,156	5,406	544	449	890	1,307	411	1,149	11,430	9,346		3	
K-12 DISTRICT AVG.		6,069	5,434	441	501	778	944	408	710	10,347	8,734		3	
K-12 AVG. MINUS MPS		5,966	5,414	431	476	761	956	383	752	10,220	8,590		2	
K-12	Horicon	6,286	5,166	276	356	684	771	370	937	9,965	8,373	7	-4.1	1
K-12	Hortonville	5,401	4,655	318	382	641	701	550	1,143	9,375	7,443	10	-14.8	3
K-12	Howards Grove	5,483	4,943	366	296	912	913	516	964	9,744	7,970	9	-8.7	1
K-12	Howard-Suamico	5,011	4,552	308	390	644	782	334	851	9,443	7,135	10	-18.3	4
K-12	Hudson	5,350	4,781	401	377	589	790	375	765	9,334	7,507	10	-14.0	15
K-12	Hurley	5,678	5,312	429	273	1,082	1,180	984	732	10,920	8,642	5	-1.1	1
K-12	Hustisford	6,793	5,295	398	498	1,042	988	648	586	11,278	9,719	2	11.3	
K-12	Independence	5,705	4,762	531	355	1,211	1,003	833	2,180	12,270	8,805	4	0.8	
K-12	Iola-Scandinavia	5,043	4,503	308	339	1,134	1,193	360	883	9,510	8,017	8	-8.2	1
K-12	Iowa-Grant	6,368	5,815	372	588	938	819	514	956	10,757	9,085	3	4.0	1
K-12	Ithaca	6,180	5,337	434	523	943	1,098	686	683	10,890	9,179	3	5.1	
K-12	Janesville	5,874	5,444	564	425	547	1,130	181	401	9,631	8,540	5	-2.2	19
K-12	Jefferson	5,825	5,327	407	504	852	802	380	492	9,606	8,391	6	-3.9	2
K-12	Johnson Creek	6,574	5,977	425	396	1,067	893	334	515	10,553	9,355	2	7.1	
K-12	Juda	5,868	4,746	390	465	843	1,059	317	1,462	11,008	8,624	5	-1.3	
K-12	Kaukauna Area	5,623	5,096	421	423	638	802	328	825	9,474	7,908	9	-9.5	5
K-12	Kenosha	6,237	5,857	571	530	613	991	266	541	10,033	8,941	4	2.4	1
K-12	Kettle Moraine	5,828	5,410	401	339	692	726	501	961	10,171	7,986	9	-8.6	
K-12	Kewaskum	5,664	4,875	314	325	840	965	477	685	9,600	8,109	8	-7.2	2
K-12	Kewaunee	5,567	5,051	353	437	756	1,004	525	1,141	10,247	8,117	8	-7.1	
K-12	Kickapoo Area	6,054	5,450	384	292	1,037	889	717	1,004	11,017	8,656	5	-0.9	
K-12	Kiel Area	5,290	4,776	371	588	837	1,115	426	914	9,823	8,202	7	-6.1	2
*K-12	Kimberly	5,109	4,623	435	450	645	727	241	1,047	9,178	7,367	10	-15.7	4
K-12	Kohler	6,677	6,033	376	554	1,084	1,065	157	1,400	11,535	9,756	2	11.7	
K-12	La Crosse	7,042	6,424	562	780	734	873	326	317	11,137	9,992	1	14.4	2

