



October 17, 2022

Dear Center Cass Families:

Happy Monday! A few quick reminders:

- Temps are dropping into the 30s with the wind chill. While it is not winter yet, we had students today who shared they had cold fingers and ears during recess and PE. While it is supposed to warm back up at the end of the week, please send hats and gloves to school with your student in case they are needed.
- The News Release from the BOE meeting last week can be found [here](#). In addition, click [here](#) for my October presentation to the Board of Education. Lots of information is included on the referendum, including what happens if the referendum passes and what happens if it fails.
- There is a Community Town Hall meeting tomorrow evening at Prairieview Elementary School beginning at 6:00 pm. Please join us in person or zoom if interested. It will be a question and answer format. Questions can be submitted by visiting this [link](#).
- The State is well aware of our financial situation. They understand that approximately 90% of our funding comes from local property tax derived from the formula  $Rate \times EAV = Revenue$ . They also understand that our rate is in the bottom 1/3 of the county K8 districts (*and of the bottom third of rates we have the lowest EAV*). They also know we have been containing costs, reducing expenses, and going without services they expect a district to have in place. The gap between what other DuPage County schools spend per pupil, what the State spends per pupil, and what D66 spends per pupil continues to widen.
- The State is also aware of our hefty Health Life Safety list with little money to fix the items recommended.
- The State is also aware that if the Board would have excluded early taxes through a modified cash basis, our financial profile score would be the lowest triggering immediate state intervention via the School Code. The Board decided to not exclude the early taxes and provide the community a chance to fund their schools to the appropriate level.
- On a positive note, State organizations also see the tremendous work of our people who go above and beyond daily for students, via television news stories, newspaper articles, and statewide recognitions. Our custodian Domnick Ringo was one of 50 Educational Support Personnel in the State recognized by ISBE for his outstanding work. Nurse Jinsun Baek was named Illinois School Nurse of the Year from the Illinois Association of School Nurses. Mark Pagel was named Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association. These are a few examples of others who can see the hard work of our people. Please pass along your thanks to the best bus drivers any district could ask for during [Bus Driver](#) Appreciation Week.

Each week I talk to a new community member who is just learning about our situation. Although we live it together daily, many don't know why their current tax rate can't pay for all the District's needs. I appreciate you helping our community understand our needs. The schools belong to the community, who in turn decide the quality of their schools. If not for our community, the school would not exist. We are grateful for our community and appreciate their support. As always, please reach out if you have questions or send people my way if they need additional information.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Wise  
Superintendent