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Parents, Staff, and Friends of the Hartford Union High School District,

As elves, candy canes, reindeer, Christmas trees and even a few Santas are spotted throughout the HUHS hallways today, we know the magic of the holiday season is just around the chimney, I mean corner. There is so much to celebrate in the Hartford Union High School District, and there is no better time than these upcoming days to reflect on all that makes our district so special.

Here are the highlights from the regular Board of Education meeting held on December 16:

- Michelle Walter from Baker Tilly reviewed the 2023-24 school district audit and offered a “clean” opinion which is the highest level of assurance a school district can receive from an auditor. Kudos to Mr. Rob Nelson, Executive Director of Business Services and Human Resources, and the business office staff for their work each day to assure accuracy and transparency with our district’s finances.
- Mr. Rob Nelson shared the district's budget projections for 2025-26, showing at this point a projected deficit of approximately \$500,000. The budgets for both 2025-26 and 2026-27 are part of the new state biennium, therefore school districts do not know at this time the impact on school funding of the upcoming state budget conversations. These are crucial conversations in Madison that could significantly impact state funding for public education, and I hope you monitor and engage with your local lawmakers to assure public education is a priority in the state budget.
- The district’s Emergency Operations Plan was approved by the board. Dr. Stacy Gahan, Director of Student Services and Tracy Peterson, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, do a great job ensuring that our safety plans are coordinated with the leaders of our local police and fire departments and provide the foundation to drive our preparation and response should a safety incident challenge the security and welfare of our students and staff.
- The board approved a trip to Spain to occur in the Spring or Summer of 2026. This exciting opportunity would be coordinated and chaperoned by district Spanish teachers and available for current high school students who have completed or will be taking next year either Spanish 3, 4, or 5. Please contact Ms. Rife or Ms. Ruiz if you know a student who is interested in learning more.

As always, I appreciate your engagement in the work of our district and if you ever have a question or would like to discuss something further, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Please also remember our customer service [link](#) if you, at any time, would be interested in providing feedback, or have a question about the work we are doing at Hartford Union High School.

Take care of yourself, and each other, and I wish you a healthy, happy, and joyous holiday season!

Mr. Jeffrey A. Walters, Superintendent
Hartford Union High School District