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February 27, 2025

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

I share my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the overwhelming support shown to our HUHS community and the family with the passing of Technical Education and Engineering Teacher Mr. Matt Kerhin. Thank you to those who came together to offer thoughts, prayers, assistance, and resources during this difficult time.

Here are the highlights from the regular Board of Education meeting held on February 24:

- Mr. Daren Sievers, School Perceptions Project Manager, shared the results from our most recent stakeholder surveys, year three for the district providing this feedback opportunity to students, staff, and parents. Highlights include:
  - Student Surveys
    - Growth in all four indexes, including Connection, Learning, Environment, and Experience
    - Growth in 18 of the 23 questions asked
  - Staff Surveys
    - Growth in 29 of the 34 questions asked
    - Growth in all five indexes, including Academics, Engagement, Support, Student Experience, and Staff Experience
    - Increase of 3% in staff recommending HUHS as a place of employment
  - Parent Surveys
    - Top five areas of growth show an increase from 3.43% to 5.57% and include:
      - Satisfaction with their student's learning
      - High academic expectations
      - Updates on student progress
      - Understanding how to support student learning
      - Having at least one staff member they feel comfortable reaching out to with an idea or concern
    - Increase of 1.81% in parents recommending HUHS to others

We thank you again for participating in this feedback opportunity and you can view the entire presentation of these survey results by clicking [here](#).

- The school board approved the sale of \$14,000,000 of Municipal Bonds to finance the first portion of the referendum construction costs. The remaining \$11,800,000 bonds will be sold next year at this time to finance the remaining construction costs. The district retained its AA Bond Rating from Standard and Poors. The Bond Rating and the competitive bid process netted the district bonds that have a 4.16% interest rate. This is well below the 5.25% estimate from July. The lower interest rate will save the district over \$3,600,000 in interest payments.
- The school board approved an ad hoc committee to support the facility improvement projects stemming from the successful referendum in November 2024. This committee will include a variety of stakeholders that will engage in updates and discussions and report back to the board regarding this work. Further, I provided an update regarding the preliminary phases and timeline for this work, as well

as a status update since CG Schmidt was brought on as the construction management firm to join with Bray Architects in moving these improvements forward. To stay updated on the progress of the referendum work, please visit this [page](#) available on our website.

- With much appreciation to our supporters at Semler Insurance, Stortz Custom Homes, and Zuern Building Products, four new dugouts were approved to be constructed at the two softball diamonds at Lincoln Fields across the street from the high school. Because of the generosity of those above, the contribution of district dollars is \$20,000 out of the total cost of almost \$90,000 for these necessary upgrades. The remaining cost will be covered by fundraised dollars.
- Associate Principal Desiree Rahmlow presented the At-Risk Plan, the district's roadmap to serve those students in jeopardy of not graduating. Ms. Rahmlow shared the goals in using these alternative pathways are to meet students where they are, maintain a school connection, and increase graduation rates. We utilize a number of on-campus and off-campus opportunities to ensure we are meeting the goals I spoke about above.

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!



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