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

We are just a few days away from Election Day on November 5, and are so very grateful for the organizations in recent months who have provided us an opportunity to inform the residents across our 225 square miles about the \$25.8 million referendum that was unanimously approved by our district's school board to appear on the ballot next Tuesday.

Here are the highlights from the regular Board of Education meeting held on October 28:

- Since last school year, district staff has been working to address a projected deficit in the area of \$1.5 million, and made significant progress in closing the deficit through reduction/consolidation of administrative, coaching, teaching and support staff positions. Other steps to reduce costs included new agreements with our transportation provider and the City of Hartford who provides our school resource officer, reducing overtime, reducing department supply and equipment budgets, and unfortunately reducing employee benefits. This work resulted in the board approving this past Monday night a final budget with a deficit of \$45,802.79.
- A team of staff presented 9th and 10th grade reading and math data and outlined how the data will be used to support student growth in these areas. We continue to see a significant number of incoming 9th graders who are not reading at grade level, and as a result, we need to be more intentional in how we are serving these students.
- I shared an update on the district calendar for the 2025-26 school year, and over the course of the next few weeks, will be working collaboratively with our K-8 Hartford area districts to prepare for sharing a draft calendar with the school board at the November meeting. As you may know, we have asked for, and been granted a waiver to start the school year early the past two years. As we plan for 2025-26, we also want to be sure whether we may qualify for a waiver or not and will have more clarity on that after November 5.
- Principal Ms. Kelly Lam shared Pre-ACT results with the board, as well some work that both students and staff will be doing to reflect and further analyze the results.

Lastly, please consider exercising your right to vote on November 5 and having your voice heard. Please click [here](#) to see all of the information regarding the district's upcoming referendum. As evident by the 137 school referendum questions on the ballot November 5, we are not alone. I appreciated the opportunity to speak on the broken school funding formula and what it means for all Wisconsin school districts during [this recent interview with host Steve Scaffidi on 620 WTMJ](#).

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.

Go Orioles!

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