



May 12, 2023

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

Happy Friday everyone! It has been wonderful to celebrate Staff Appreciation Week the last 5 days and I want to personally share my appreciation with all of our District's employees who make Hartford Union High School a great place to work and play.

Following is a brief summary of the regularly scheduled school board meeting that was held on May 8:

- School Board
 - After the April election, the school board conducts the annual reorganization for each of the positions and committee roles that need to be filled. Following is the result of the election of officers:
 - President, Tracy Hennes
 - Vice President, James Gumm
 - Clerk, Craig Westfall
 - Treasurer, Don Pridemore
 - Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer, Ross Kirley
 - Jim Gumm and Ross Kirley will also serve on the Negotiations Committee and Don Pridemore will serve as the WASB Primary Delegate, with Tracy Hennes Serving as the alternate.
 - The school board also decided to move away from the committee structure, and rather hold board workshops throughout the year to further engage our school community.
 - A senior shout-out to Taylor Kutz, who as a member of the Class of 2023, concludes her time serving as a student board representative. Thank you Taylor for your four years of service!
- Budget
 - School districts across the state continue to monitor what is happening in Madison with the state budget. At this point, we are hopeful to know more this summer, but not having any definite answers at this time has put school districts like ours in a very precarious position as we plan for the 2023-24 school year. Here is what we know at this time:
 - Wisconsin is 48th by percent in per student spending increases from 2002-2020
 - Wisconsin is 25th in per pupil spending
 - Inflationary adjustments have been eliminated
 - Labor shortages and operational and capital expenditures have all increased rapidly while districts received no additional dollars
 - The district is currently operating with a budget deficit, and the projection for next year, depending on the state budget, is of similar concern
 - More than 60% of the districts in Wisconsin are using operational referendums as a way to address their financial challenges.
 - Our team will continue to explore any and all ways to reduce costs as well as increase revenue. If you would like to speak about ideas you may have, please send me a message.

- Prohibited Materials Policy
 - A number of community members spoke again during the public comment portion of the meeting about the agenda item regarding library reading materials practices and policies. The school board has agreed to hold a workshop in the coming weeks to delve further into this topic.

Congratulations again to the Class of 2023! We are proud of all that you have accomplished on your Oriole journey, and look forward to celebrating with you June 10 at 10:30 a.m. on Gib Mahr Field.

Thank you again for your engagement, and as always, please visit our customer service [link](#) if you, at any time, would be interested in providing feedback on the work we are doing at Hartford Union High School.

Go Orioles!



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