

From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead There is no shortage of committees that one could belong to these days. All of them carry out important work, typically for the good of others, and often require a good deal of volunteer hours in already busy schedules.

The recently appointed Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the school district is such a group that has volunteered to explore important financial issues the district is facing. As an advisory committee they have five tasks;

1. Learn the financial needs of the district in maintenance/facilities, curriculum and operations.
2. Share the information with the community.
3. Gather feedback from the community.
4. Use the information and feedback to create reasonable solutions.
5. Advise the school board on these solutions.

Twelve community members have agreed to come together for the purpose of completing these tasks. This is no small assignment as they have had to learn about school finance, school law, facility maintenance plans, operational budgets, curriculum categories, and architectural language to name only a few. In essence, it is like taking a college course on education without getting the credits, and in hindsight, is probably more than they bargained for.

While the committee works to gather information on these issues, the community also plays a vital role in this work. Your feedback and input will be essential to their process of finding the most reasonable financial solutions for the future of our district. Many citizens may have seen articles from the CAC in past weeks either in the newspaper or sent home to parents. This communication will continue, but I would also encourage cable viewers to tune into WDEE channel 4 to see video tapes of the meetings or consider attending a CAC meeting to hear committee discussions. All of these sources provide a glimpse of the work this committee is doing.

In the coming weeks, a community survey will be created to gather feedback from all Deerfield school district residents. Your voice is important and will be needed for future referendum planning. In the mean time, I encourage community members to visit the district website at deerfield.k12.wi.us to learn more about the CAC's work, contact one of the committee members (Gary Borgrud, Nathan Brown, Meg Tolmie, Angie Haag, Eric Nelson, Sue Erickson, Lesa Herms, Laurie Steen, John Polzin, Patti Knapp, Laura Larson, Alan Mikkelson) or email the committee at cac@deerfield.k12.wi.us.

I firmly believe that strong schools build strong communities, and Deerfield has long been exceptional for community involvement in our schools. Your continued involvement will help the committee complete their work and help the school board plan for the future of our district.