



LAKE COUNTRY SCHOOL **WILDCATS**

Hello Lake Country School Families,

During the spring, there have been many discussions, board meetings, and presentations focused on school finance and funding, and how it relates to Lake Country and the school district's operations. Unfortunately in the State of Wisconsin, budget shortfalls for school districts have become an all too common occurrence, and Lake Country is no exception. Because of these budget shortfalls, school boards have the unenviable task of making decisions that impact school staffing to help balance budgets.

In mid-March, a community presentation on Lake Country School's budget projections was held, and the community had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about how school funding works. It was at this meeting that Ms. Kelly Hoesly began a fundraising effort to help support the school, hopeful that enough money could be raised so that there would be no staff reductions. It has been an amazing effort from the community, and as of April 24, approximately \$105,000 has raised. While a recommendation was voted on by the Board of Education to reduce staff for budgetary reasons, the money raised will offset the need for further staff reductions for the 2023-2024 school year.

If we look around at some of our neighboring schools, we see Superintendents leaving districts, significant cuts to budgets, and issues with school boards. Lake Country School is in a much better position. The efforts of the community, the district teachers and staff, and the Lake Country Board of Education are an example of everyone coming together to find a way to work together for the betterment of the District and ultimately the betterment of the students.

We will be pursuing a referendum in April of 2024 in order to upgrade our facilities and to ensure that we have a solid financial ground to operate for years to come. We will need everyone in the community to be engaged and help tell the story of Lake Country School. I believe that we can become a model for other communities to follow that shows how a community of committed and caring people can come together for the purpose of providing the best education and opportunities for the children living and growing up in today's world.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad E. Schraufnagel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chad E. Schraufnagel
District Administrator
Lake Country School District