



# LAKE COUNTRY SCHOOL **WILDCATS**

Hello Lake Country School Families,

On Friday, April 14, State Representative Cindi Duchow came to visit Lake Country School. Board Member Monique Henry, Board Member Jhawn Newman, and I led Representative Duchow on a tour of the school. Representative Duchow was able to interact with several teachers and learn about the great programs and learning opportunities that are happening every day here at Lake Country School.

During our tour, Representative Duchow was able to inform us about legislation that the State is hoping to be enacted. This bill is focusing on reading education and the purchase of the Science of Reading curriculum for WI public schools. Representative Duchow shared her insights on the bill referring to a presentation from the State of Mississippi. The State of Mississippi went from ranking last in the nation for reading to 19th. We are looking forward to learning more about how the State will be allocating the resources for this program.

Another topic of conversation during our tour focused on funding for education. She indicated that the State Legislature had yet to take up the education portion of the Biennial Budget, but hoped that it would be completed by June. Representative Duchow believes that there will be an increase in the per-pupil revenue limit but did not provide a dollar amount. An increase in the per-pupil revenue limit will help Lake Country School and all area district's budgets.

We discussed with Representative Duchow that the transfer of funds for special education from our general operating budget puts a significant strain on our overall financial situation and that full reimbursement from the state for high-cost claim students could help. We also explained to her that the reimbursement delay for high-cost claims puts a strain on our budget when we have to wait almost two years to see the money.

Finally, we discussed her position on school consolidation. Representative Duchow indicated that there are incentives from the State to have schools explore and pursue consolidation. We noted to Representative Duchow that consolidation would not be a sound financial decision for our district. When districts consolidate, the debt is shared. Since Lake Country School has no debt, we would not want to absorb the debt of another district.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share the story of Lake County School with Representative Duchow. We will continue to engage with our legislators, providing them with information on how they can best support education in the State of Wisconsin, and specifically how they can support Lake Country School.

Sincerely,

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