



## LAKE COUNTRY SCHOOL **WILDCATS**

Hello Lake Country School District Families!

It is hard to believe that we are a week away from spring break. My time at Lake Country School District has gone by fast, and this has been a tremendous time of learning for me. I have gotten to meet so many wonderful people, and I am looking forward to meeting many more. Everyone that I have met has been very welcoming and supportive of the school.

The strengths of Lake Country School District are in the people who comprise it: the students, the parents, the staff, and the community as a whole. Each day, I have the great fortune to greet students at the door as they come into school eager to learn and experience new things. Our staff continues to explore new ways to bring learning to life for our students. The parental support of our school is simply amazing. In my 22 years in education, I can say confidently that this is the best parent-supported school that I have been a part of.

As we continue to look toward the future, we have some challenges at Lake Country School District that we will overcome. Our two biggest challenges are the age of our building and our operational (financial) needs.

We have a building that is 30 years old and is in need of large-scale repair and renovation. A Capital Improvement Referendum will be needed to meet the financial costs of repair and renovation. Four years ago the Board of Education and administration, began exploring a referendum with SiteLogiQ. The process was halted due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the previous administrator's leave and the time spent finding a full-time administrator.

The Board of Education has re-engaged with SiteLogiQ to be our partner in the referendum process. SiteLogiQ will be able to provide community engagement, communications, design and building support, and logistics to our needed project. Our first goal of the referendum is to replace the 30-year-old roof. In addition, we will have the opportunity to upgrade to a more efficient HVAC system and replace windows which will reduce energy costs. We will evaluate and continue to improve our building security. Walking through the building you may have noticed hallways and classrooms need new flooring, classrooms need new furniture, and everything could use a fresh coat of paint.

Schools in the State of Wisconsin face many financial challenges when it comes to operating expenses, and unfortunately, Lake Country School District is no different. During the 2021-2023 Biennial Budget cycle, the State of Wisconsin froze K-12 public education funding. This has had a negative impact on all schools. The 2023-2025 Biennial Budget is currently being worked on at the State level. It will be some time before the State shares the details of this funding for schools. As operating expenses remain and continue to rise, we, unfortunately, must look for ways to reduce our spending trying not to compromise the strong programming offered at Lake Country School.

The Board of Education is committed to exploring all avenues to find the best possible solutions to our challenges. These are not easy discussions to have, but we are working hard to find the best possible outcomes. The goal is to continue to make sure that the Lake Country School District is viable in the future.

My door is always open for conversation around any and all topics related to Lake Country School District. We encourage you to attend all meetings at school to stay up to date on the happenings of the district. Meetings can be found on our district website calendar. Let's continue to work together to keep Lake Country School District a great place for all students and the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad E. Schraufnagel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chad E. Schraufnagel  
District Administrator