

Board Meeting – Statement from the X Public Schools Board of Education

The X Public Schools Board of Education would like to welcome those who are joining us this evening. We respect and appreciate those individuals who exercised their right to share their opinions publicly.

It is important for our parents, students, staff and community to know that the entire board is unified in our decisions regarding bargaining matters within the district. While we rely on the leadership of Superintendent X, the board's actions reflect the will of the entire board and are based on the best interests of the children who attend our schools.

We also want all of you to know that we very much value and respect the great job our educators do within our classrooms each day. Our teachers play a critical role in educating the children in our community. They are shaping our future.

As you all know public schools are wrestling with an unprecedented funding crisis. The people who sit at this table did not cause this crisis. The teachers did not cause this crisis. The superintendent did not cause this crisis. Lansing has chosen to raid the school aid fund and shift dollars away from public schools at a time when health care and retirement costs are skyrocketing, expenses for fuel and utilities are uncontrollable, and dips in enrollment Statewide further erode revenues.

The district has spent nearly a year and a half bargaining with the district's unions. If you are wondering why a contract has not been agreed upon, so are we. The X district's financial stability is at stake. Although our policy dictates a 10% minimum fund balance, the board's last offer would reduce the district's fund balance to almost 5% by June 30, 2013.

Today there are X school districts under the direction of an Emergency Financial Manager. This is a place we do not want to go.

While we agree that our teachers deserve the highest pay and benefits possible, by law we must balance the budget. Our bargaining efforts will continue to reflect this. As the board of education we urge all of you to join us in sending the message to lawmakers in Lansing to fund public schools adequately. This is the only action that will stop this funding crisis and stop lengthy and costly negotiations.

Board President
Vice President
Secretary Mary
Treasurer

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee