



Dear Citizens of the East Troy Community School District,

There continues to be a great deal of excitement in the East Troy Community School District! We remain committed to moving toward providing a high-quality educational experience through learner-empowered environments that meet the needs and develop the talents of each and every child. We are steadfast in placing the student at the center of the learning process and recognize that we must set the right conditions through policies, practices, programs, facilities, technology, and budgeting to ensure ETCSD remains a great place to learn and work.

Although there is much to be proud of, our structural fiscal needs and maintenance needs still need to be addressed. After the unsuccessful operational referendum question last April, the district reduced \$779,000 from its budget for the 2021-22 school year. This included eliminating 6.48 full-time positions. These cuts come in addition to the \$8.2 million we have completed in budget-balancing efforts over the past 14 years.

While we are proud to maintain a balanced budget and celebrate all the great things happening in our schools, these ongoing structural deficits are having an impact on our students and staff. Ultimately, budget reductions negatively affect the quality of the programs and services we can deliver. This has an impact on our students, our community, our local businesses, and our property values.

Additionally, the 2021-23 state budget did not increase the per-pupil revenue limit. As a result, the district is projecting an additional \$400,000 deficit for the 2022-23 school year—beyond the already projected \$600,000 deficit.

Because the capital bond referendum also did not pass last April, we have needed to find other ways to fund a select number of facilities improvements. These include replacing boilers at Prairie View and our high school. However, we are limited in our ability to move forward with much-needed roof repairs, asphalt replacement, window replacement, updates to LED lighting, and more. The longer these items go unaddressed, the more expensive they will be to repair or replace in the future. We will also lose the ability to take advantage of historically low interest rates.

I encourage you to visit our district website, at www.easttroy.k12.wi.us, and or ETCSD YouTube channel to watch past and upcoming school board meetings. Doing so will allow you to learn more about the incredible things taking place in our district, along with the challenges we face together.

Our children are the most important investment we can make as a community. Thank you for being such a critical part of that story.

Sincerely,

Ted Zess, Board President
East Troy Community School District