

BUTTERFIELD-ODIN SCHOOL

Greetings Butterfield-Odin Resident,

Butterfield-Odin School Board is holding a Special Election November 8 asking for your support to replace the levy now in existence and will expire in 2024.

We want to invite you to come to hear in person why the School District has a levy question on the ballot.

We will have several informational forums to explain our present needs and to answer all of your questions. We had a forum in the School Gym on Wednesday, **Sept 14th**. We will have a second such forum at the Odin City Hall, again at 7 PM, Wednesday, **Sept. 21st**. We will also have a third such meeting **October 12th**, back at the school gym at 7 PM. In addition to other appearances at the Odin Café.

Why do we need to replace and renew our existing Levy?

The State has the expectation that communities will supplement what they provide School Districts with local property tax revenues. Our current 10-year Levy ends in 2024 and *has not been sufficient for us to meet out needed expenses*. When I first arrived here three years ago, our finance person indicated we needed to make changes or we would soon be in SOD (Statutory Operating Debt), bankruptcy. That said, we are not in deficit spending at the moment, thanks in part to the management of “one-time” CARES grants extended to school districts to help us out during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Butterfield-Odin to remain sustainable, we rely heavily on three main funding sources:

1. Student Enrollment
2. State and Federal Funding mostly based on Student Enrollment
3. Local Tax Levies

The State, while they provide significant and designated funds to us, has not kept up with inflation (based on inflationary analysis). If they had, we would be receiving some \$250,000 more from them and our needs would not be so great now.

We receive more State dollars if we have more students. As of now, we've gone from a high enrollment 8 years ago of 246 students (ADM's) to a low of 204 four years ago. That was a loss of \$600,000 a year. In the last three years we have increased enrollment by 20 students which has helped immensely (approx. \$300,000). Interesting fact, Butterfield-Odin has increased student enrollment while statistics are showing that many schools are actually losing students.

Our families should know we are doing quite a bit to strengthen and improve our school. This is the goal – to provide a quality education. To strengthen our core courses, the Arts, electives that teach the Trades, Cultures, Agriculture, Technology, Basic Skills,

etc. This year we will even be offering Mock Trial activities with real lawyers and a Judge for students to participate in. We are also supporting our own sports programs – which is very exciting and has boosted Butterfield-Odin pride in our students and staff. In addition, we have more support for our English Language Learners than ever before. From PreK through 12th grade, we are working very hard to assist our students to improve their literacy and math skills as we prepare them for work or college and life in the real world.

As we improve our School in so many ways, it is my expectation that we will also see more students come to our fine School and stay. Enrollment is volatile in every school system, and due to that we will always need the local tax dollars to sustain us. We have done well now to avoid going into SOD. This is a hurdle we jumped over, and we must continue our momentum of progress we have all worked so hard to accomplish!

We thank you for your continued support!

Steve Thomas, Superintendent