

BIRCHWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

300 South Wilson Street
Birchwood, Wisconsin 54817
One of the Top 100 Schools in America



Bobcats

January 15, 2007

Governor James Doyle
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

SUBJECT: 2007-09 STATE BUDGET FOR EDUCATION

Dear Governor Doyle,

Thank you for the strong statement in support of K-12 that you made with the last budget that you signed. As a School Board from a very poor, geographically large and property rich district, we ask that you please support efforts to significantly change the school funding formula.

With a 62% free/reduced lunch count at the elementary level, we are one of the most economically disadvantaged schools in the state outside of large metro areas. Being we have high property values we have lost 15% of our Equalized State Aid each year, for the past 10 years . . . ouch!!!

Our long-held mission statement is, "With fiscal stability, rigorous academic programs and an active, supportive community, Birchwood School will develop successful, responsible citizens." The current Equalization Aid formula has become the greatest hurdle for us to overcome in providing a quality education.

We support the following initiatives that would provide more adequate funding and hope that you would please consider them in the next two-year budget:

- Sparsity Aid – Create a new categorical aid based upon sparsity of population
- Poverty Aid – Create a new categorical aid for extremely low income schools
- SAGE – Increase the \$2,000 per pupil amount to at least \$2,500 per pupil
- Special Education Aid – Increase the percentage of state funding
- Transportation Aid – Continue to increase (many schools only saw modest increases in 2005-07)

Thank you for your consideration of these factors in the State Budget.

Sincerely for the School Board,

Allan Widiker
President



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A New Wisconsin Promise High Achievement School