

Dear Governor Doyle:

The Park Falls School Board passed the following resolution at our meeting on December 18, 2006:

We, the members of the Park Falls School District Board of Education respectfully request that Jim Doyle, the Governor of Wisconsin, favorably consider the proposed budget submitted by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and send it on to the legislature essentially unchanged.

We also respectfully ask Governor Doyle to lend the weight of his office to the passage of this budget by the legislature. We believe that this budget is the bare minimum required if we are to maintain the excellent educational programs that our state takes justifiable pride in, and that our economic future so clearly depends on.

School districts all over the State of Wisconsin are suffering, districts in metropolitan areas as well as in small, rural communities like ours, for a variety of reasons having to do with funding shortfalls. The existing system of funding schools is not adequate to the needs we are facing, as we know the Governor understands.

In our case, the Park Falls School District has been remarkably frugal over the years, for which we are now being penalized. Our aids from the funding formula are minimal, and we are also held in check by caps put on our ability to raise local funding. The funding is capped, but the mandates are not.

We are dealing with increasing educational and health care expenses, like everyone else, plus transportation over a large geographical area, and all coupled with a declining enrollment.

We are anticipating having to call for a referendum to increase our funding limit within the coming year, and the record of success for such referenda in our region is not promising. We need help!

We pledge our support for the Governor's efforts on behalf of our schools, and we want to feel like we are an active part of the solution to our school problems.

Thank you, Governor Doyle, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Board of Education of the Park Falls School District

[Signed by all the board members - hard copy mailed to the Governor's office 12/22/06.]