

Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15 District Dispatch –July 2018



A Publication for Community Members

From the Superintendent's Desk

Working Together “To Do What’s Best For Kids” WCUSD#15 2017-2018 Year End Review

Trust and Transparency

One of the most important aspects of my job as your Superintendent is to build trust and transparency with the local communities. During my first year as WCUSD#15 Superintendent, I worked collectively with the Board of Education and the communities in being transparent with district finances and building trust with community relationships. Trust and transparent relationships with the Village of Williamsville and the Village of Sherman communities are vital to the district's success. The school board and community depend on the Superintendent to communicate information that is accurate, understandable, and realistic for them to make sound decisions for the improvement of our school district. The school district's success depends on the community's support in providing the financial resources and trust required to maintain the expectations of a high quality educational system. With continued collaboration, input, communication, and visibility, the Board of Education and I will continue to establish trust and transparency with all stakeholders.

WCUSD#15 Board of Education Goals

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, the WCUSD#15 Board of Education developed goals to ensure quality educational opportunities to all students while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayer.

- District Finances – Annually evaluate revenue and expenses to establish 3-4 months of ALL FUND balances
- District Staff - Be competitive with salary, benefits, and total compensation package.
- District Facilities - Provide upgraded and adequate facilities for learning
- District Technology & Programs - Provide equipment, supplies, materials and professional development necessary for our staff to take our students into the 21st century.

WCUSD#15 Financial Update: Historically, the Board of Education has been excellent financial stewards of the tax payers' money. The financial decisions are based on what is best for students and how this will impact the taxpayer. Over time due to our increasing EAV, taxpayers have seen a reduction in the WCUSD#15 tax rate. For this fiscal year the district's finances have improved. The State of Illinois approved a budget and passed a new education funding formula. The State's linear schedule of payments allowed the district to end FY18 with a true balance of \$1,927,980 in ALL FUNDS and

\$906,401 in the ED FUND. This is close to one and half months of bills. The Board of Education will continue to annually evaluate revenue and expenses aligned to their goals. Looking to the future for district finances, it is very important for the district to capture new EAV increases. Under the new education funding formula, local EAV increases are the only guaranteed increase for district revenue. The continued EAV growth for the Villages of Williamsville and Sherman is very important to the financial health of WCUSD#15.

District Vision Committee

The WCUSD#15 District Vision Committee was established during the 2017-2018 school year. The District Vision Committee consisted of community members, teachers, and administrators. The meetings were held monthly to collaborate, communicate, and seek input from all stakeholders regarding the communities needs-wants-wishes. Information was provided about district finances, facilities, and programs. The District Vision Committee meeting notes are posted on the district website www.wcusd15.org. The next scheduled District Vision Committee meeting is scheduled for August 13, 6:30pm in the WJHS Cafeteria. If you are interested in attending or need additional information, please contact me.

County Schools Facility Sales Tax (CFST)

June 5, 2018, the WCUSD#15 Board of Education passed a resolution supporting Springfield District #186 and other surrounding Sangamon County Schools to place a County Schools Facility Sales Tax question on the November 6, 2018 election ballot. The CFST is a 1% sales tax placed on certain purchasable items to generate revenue to fund school facility costs for Sangamon County schools. Revenue generated from the CFST is based on student enrollment. Williamsville is estimated to receive \$1,056,000.00 annually in Sangamon County CFST revenue. The CFST is a way to generate revenue to public schools, not impact property taxes, and share the tax with people who travel and visit Sangamon County. As part of the Board of Education's priority for **Trust** and **Transparency**, the Board of Education will be passing a resolution stating specifically what the facility plan is for the new CFST.

WCUSD#15 County Facilities Sales Tax Resolution

(Information listed below was gathered from District Vision Committee and Staff input)

- Utilize the revenue to enhance School Security and Safety
- Utilize the revenue to pay off existing annual Debt Certificate payments
- Utilize the revenue for Health Life Safety expenses
- Utilize the revenue for the deferred maintenance on all District Buildings
- Utilize the revenue over time for District Facility upgrades
- Sherman Elementary School: Facility upgrades, gym expansion, remodel Pre-K wing and K-wing
- WJHS: Facility upgrades, build new 6th grade wing and remodel the old 6th grade wing to move the 5th grade to WJHS
- WHS: Facility upgrades, build new auditorium with band and chorus rooms and field house, remodel cafeteria, weight room and locker rooms
- Outside Facilities: Upgrade parking lots, athletic fields, and landscaping

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer. Just a reminder, the first day for students is August 21, 2018. August 21 and August 22 will be half-day student attendance with students dismissing at 11:00am at SES and 11:30am at WJHS and WMS.

For up to date district information, I encourage you to follow me on twitter @wvusd15supt, check our website www.wvusd15.org, and like our district Facebook page Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A BULLET!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tip Reedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tip" and last name "Reedy" clearly distinguishable.

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