

February 2015

 Dear Bloomfield Hills Schools Families,

It is usually this time of year that I stand back and marvel at the tremendous efforts of our district students and staff. With spring weather approaching, it won't be long before my schedule is packed with delightful events ranging from exhibitions to award shows.

We have incredible, personal and wide-ranging opportunities in our district. Attending these spring events, I am reminded of just how fortunate we are to be able to provide a plethora of services and resources.

Understanding that we'd like to continue to provide these rich opportunities, it's important to note with deep concern that wave after wave of annual state funding cuts continue to 'crash our shores,' relentlessly eroding the revenue we so desperately need. I'm very proud of the way our district has thus far been able to weather the storm by working together collaboratively, creatively, sacrificially, and proactively.

Unfortunately, it appears that those responsible for funding our schools have decided that there are more pressing priorities. State funding cuts, combined with a larger than expected drop in enrollment; have created for BHS a tough financial year and a tough road ahead. This year, we made some mid-year adjustments to help reduce the deficit. We took "nibbles" from all across the district, trying not to impact the daily classroom experience in the process.

However, in building the budget for next year we project a deficit of over \$4 million for 2015-16, and our "nibbles" need to be somewhat larger. We have identified \$2.4 million in budget reductions. This still leaves us with a \$2 million deficit with more budget-balancing actions required over the coming months, but it's a good start toward getting our budget back into equilibrium.

As we move forward, we will need to explore new revenue-generating ideas. Additional reductions will likely be necessary unless other factors (legislative action, increased enrollment, etc.) assist us with our budget challenges. Unfortunately, it appears that we will not see an increase from the state any time soon and student enrollment in our district is not expected to increase in the coming years.

The good news is that, despite our budget challenges, Bloomfield Hills Schools remain in an incredibly positive position. We continue to offer exceptional programs and resources to our students, our class-size ratios are excellent and we continue to provide our learners with a uniquely personal, highly engaging experience.

However, state funding cuts to schools cannot continue as they have now for nearly a decade without consequence to our budget and our programs. If this trend disturbs you as much as it does me, I urge you to advocate with lawmakers for reasonable school funding. You can start by registering for [legislative](#)

[alerts](#) to keep you informed and facilitate communication with our governmental officials. Let them know how their decisions are affecting your schools and your children.

I urge you to ask lawmakers specifically for the following over the next few weeks:

- Ensure that no district receives a funding decrease in the coming year (BHS is scheduled for a \$25 per pupil cut.)
- Provide at-risk funding to all eligible students (BHS is currently ineligible for any at-risk funds for our students.)
- Remind them that we are receiving less funding per pupil today than we did almost a decade ago. Ask them how any enterprise can sustain such a trend without eventually affecting services?

Thank you in advance for your support. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via our new "Ask Rob" section of the website: www.bloomfield.org/AskRob . Also, please consider joining our Master Property Planning Process. This process has a direct relationship with our budget and the opportunities we provide across the district: www.bloomfield.org/MPP .

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Glass, Superintendent