

I hope this letter finds you well. This letter updates you about two areas: our summer school program and the budget process. Both are central to our mission of delivering high-quality education to all students in Edgar School District.

### **Summer School Update**

This year, we successfully continued the summer school program, providing students with valuable opportunities to reinforce their learning and explore new subjects, from cooking to coding to chess. When students remain engaged in learning, and learning is fun, they have a much easier transition back to school.

Swimming is a popular class offered for second through eighth-grade students. Courses like Babysitting 101 and Hunter's Safety prepare students for activities outside of school while classes like Adventures in Reading and Math reinforce academic skills. There are also classes in fitness and playing games like chess, Minecraft, board games, and Esports. The Summer School program is traditionally well-received by students and parents alike, and we are pleased to see nearly 80% of Edgar's students participate in one or more summer school classes. Summer School continues through July 18.

### **Budget Process Update**

Through fiscally responsible practices, our District strives to maintain a steady tax levy while operating within our budget. I am pleased to share that the mill rate is projected to decrease to \$5.12 and we project an overall \$300,000 decrease in the tax levy due to the 2011 building referendum debt being paid off last fiscal year. We, however, continue to face tough challenges from external forces, including laws governing district finances and state decisions that limit our revenue. This is despite funds received from our positive open enrollment and voter-approved operating referendum.

We have a fiscal responsibility to be vigilant and adaptive in our financial planning. While the annual meeting was held on June 26, we are still finalizing the 2024-25 annual operating budget and will do so until final state numbers are confirmed in October. Here are the budget highlights shared at the Annual meeting:

## **Maintained Programming**

The school district has a non-recurring operating referendum that helps the District maintain educational programs for students. We are grateful for community support in this way. Despite financial challenges, the budget supports several key programs and initiatives, including:

- Ensuring optimal student-to-teacher ratios for effective learning.
- Ensuring each student has access to the necessary technology for learning.
- Offering a broad range of elective courses to cater to varied interests and career paths.
- Providing an array of extracurricular activities to support student growth beyond the classroom.
- Investing in our educators to enhance their skills and instructional practices.
- Tailoring learning experiences to meet the individual needs of our younger students.
- Supporting the mental and emotional well-being of our students.

## **Meeting educational needs**

In addition to maintaining existing programs, we allocated limited resources to high-demand areas, including:

- Career preparation:
  - Enhancing our offerings in business education.
  - Expanding our curriculum to include more hands-on, practical courses.
- Supporting our English language learners more effectively.
- Expanding our early childhood education offerings.

We remain dedicated to providing a supportive educational environment for all students and we are proud of the work we achieved in the budget process. Your continued support and engagement are invaluable. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.