



RIB LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

The School District of Rib Lake is excited to welcome back all of our students and families for the 2024-2025 school year. We have had a very busy and impactful summer, including hosting our summer school program, prepping for students to return, and diving deep into the planning phases of our capital improvement projects. Additionally, we hired a number of new staff to help propel our district forward. We would like to especially welcome Aimee Blomberg, our new middle school and high school principal. We are very excited for the impact she will make in this leadership role.

With the start of the new school year comes the annual meeting for the School District of Rib Lake. This meeting allows us to reflect on our past year, celebrate our achievements, and propose our 2024-2025 operating budget.

During our staff inservice days this summer, we were able to regroup ourselves in our mission to equip and empower students with an education that is relevant, creative, and dedicated to the development of the whole student. It is this mission that has helped guide our schools and students to amazing growth. Our elementary school remains as one of the top schools not only in our region and state, but across the nation. This summer, the U.S. Department of Education reached out to learn more about our impact with early education students in a rural setting, and we were honored to share with them what makes Rib Lake Elementary so special.

Our middle school also continues to be rated as *Exceeds Expectations* by the state. Additionally, the middle school was awarded the U.S. News & World Reports Best Middle Schools distinction and was ranked higher than any other middle school in our region. At the high school, we continue to expand dual credit opportunities for our students. Last year, students earned a total of 365 college credits, an increase of 90 credits, or 33%, from the year prior. This allowed our students to save a total of \$55,116.35 in college tuition. Meanwhile, our athletics and activity programs continue to flourish with our band, choir, and forensics team representing us very well across the state. Our National Honor Society, student council, and e-sports programs are also leaving a lasting impact on our students and community. Finally, our athletic programs also

NOTICE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the School District of Rib Lake that the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting of said District for the transaction of business will be held in the Rib Lake Elementary music room on the first Monday of October, being October 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Please be advised that it is anticipated that more than one half of the board members will be in attendance.



RIB LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-2025

(715) 427-3222 | **District Office**
(715) 427-3220 | **High School**
(715) 427-5446 | **Middle School**
(715) 427-5818 | **Elementary School**

Schools: **4** (includes RVA)
Support Staff: **28**
Administration: **3**
Professional Staff: **45**
PK-12 Enrollment: **534** students

ADMINISTRATOR NOTE CONTINUED...

continue to thrive and this year, for the first time in 36 years, our Rib Lake Redmen will compete as their own football team.

Since April's election, we have been busy working with our design and construction partners to advance the plans for our referendum projects. The projects identified in the referendum are being fully designed, which means we are working through architectural, civil, structural, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing scope for the new addition and the renovation areas. With each round of design, more details are defined and the budget is verified. We are targeting early 2025 for the construction bidding phase, where we will encourage as much local involvement in our projects as possible. This great work is thanks to you! Without the support of our community, we would not be able to maintain our facilities for years to come, reinvigorate our spaces to better serve our students both in academics and extracurriculars, and improve the safety and security of our district. Please check our website for continued updates on the referendum progress.

The proposed 2024-2025 budget is currently preliminary and subject to change as state aid is finalized later this month. The School District of Rib Lake is, has historically been, and remains to be a low revenue limit school district, meaning the district can raise the tax levy at the lowest amount possible for a school district per student. The budget will not be finalized until the end of October once actual equalization aid, student enrollment count, and the levy is finalized. Based on preliminary numbers, the district does expect an increase in equalization aid of around \$315,000, and the passed referendum will increase the debt service levy roughly \$500,000. Property value is also growing this year on average of 10.7% across the district. Due to all of these factors, the district will see an estimated increase in total tax levy of \$550,000 and an estimated increase in mill rate of \$0.74 per \$1,000 of property value to a 2024-2025 mill rate of \$7.01 per \$1,000 of property value. The complete budget breakdown can be seen in this newsletter, and I encourage anyone within our district to come to our annual meeting and share their thoughts with the school board and me.

Travis Grubbs, District Administrator

2024-25 PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY

Values are preliminary and will change when state aid is finalized later this month.

^amount per \$1,000 of property value

Table with 5 columns: Category, 2022-23 Audited, 2023-24 Pre Audit, 2024-25 Proposed Budget, Budget Difference from 2023-24 to 2024-25. Rows include Levy for General Fund (Fund 10), Levy for Debt Service Fund 39, Levy for Community Service Fund (Fund 80), Total All Fund Tax Levy, Mill Rate, Equalized Value, Total Fund 10 Expenditures, and Fund Balance.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL CELL PHONE POLICY UPDATE

The Board approved rule adjustments to our middle and high school student handbooks pertaining to cell phones, smartwatches, and wireless earbuds for the 2024-2025 school year. These devices will not be allowed from 7:45 AM to 3:24 PM in the middle school and should be kept in lockers during this time. At the high school, students may not have these devices during any class period times, but may have the device during passing periods and during lunch. The device can be kept in a locker during class period times.



RIB LAKE COMMUNITY PROGRAM UPDATE

In the 2023-2024 school year, the Rib Lake Community Program (RLCP) offered a number of classes and opportunities for our community members. This included artistic classes, volleyball and pickleball leagues, exercise classes, walking programs, and even a CAD design class.

Classes will once again be offered in these areas and more. If there is an activity you would like to see or if you would like to host a class, please contact Tanya Berger, Rib Lake Community Program Coordinator, at (715) 427-3220 or tberger@riblake.k12.wi.us.

WISCONSIN SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

The School District of Rib Lake extends its deepest appreciation to our local school board leaders during the month of October. We salute these public servants whose commitment and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible:

- Stacy Tlusty, Board President
- Rollie Thums, Vice President
- Nicole Glenzer, Clerk
- Amanda Treffinger, Treasurer
- Karah Grzanna
- Nicole Scheller
- Peter Meyer



Design Update

Since April's election, we have been busy working with our design and construction partners to advance the plans for our referendum projects.

Capital Maintenance: Discussion and decision regarding work to be managed by District maintenance staff or the construction manager, Findorff.

Building Design: Detailed engineering design for renovated or new construction area, discuss interior finishes, and create 3D renderings.

Site Design: District site survey completed, geotechnical borings and ground water monitors placed, and discussion on parking and traffic flow for the middle and high school.

This great work is thanks to you! Without the support of our community, we would not be able to maintain our facilities for years to come, reinvigorate our spaces to better serve our students both academics and extracurriculars, while also improving the safety and security of our district.

Schedule



PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

The School District of Rib Lake envisions students developing their skills through personal growth and valuing their learning, which will ultimately lead to personal success and a meaningful life.

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

The School District of Rib Lake equips and empowers students with an education that is relevant, creative, and dedicated to the development of the whole student.

FUND 73 IRREVOCABLE TRUST

This fund was established in the 2020-2021 school year to help fund employee benefit plans and defined contribution retirement plans. The long-term goal of this fund is to have a fully funded program to cover these costs through regular contributions. The current funding amount is \$172,759.

FUND 46 LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Board established a Fund 46 Long-Term Improvement Fund in 2015-2016 in order to keep facilities' maintenance and repairs at the forefront. This fund has grown to approximately \$464,000. The Board can access this fund to cover non-budgeted mechanical issues or to help offset high-cost projects.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the District that no person may be illegally discriminated against by reason of age, race, religion, creed, color, disability, pregnancy, marital status, sex, citizenship, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, or any other factor prohibited by state or federal law.

RIB LAKE FITNESS CENTER

The fitness center is open 5:30 AM to 9:00 PM Monday through Sunday. If you are interested in joining the fitness center, please contact JoAnne Peterson in the district office at (715) 427-3222 or jpeterson@riblake.k12.wi.us. This past February, the Board also approved the fitness center being free to all Rib Lake School District residents starting January 1, 2025. Current pricing is in effect until then with a single membership of \$50 per year and a family membership of \$90 per year.

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

This is just a reminder that the district creates and distributes a newsletter to all Rib Lake School District (RLSD) stakeholders 2-3 times each year. These newsletters reach all mailing addresses within the RLSD boundaries. Additional information is communicated regularly to parents through the schools' monthly newsletter (which is posted on the school website), our Facebook page, and direct emails.

SCHOOL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Rib Lake School District website has lunch menus, school calendars, and other relevant information and stores our board meeting agendas and past meeting minutes. Our school website can be found at www.riblake.k12.wi.us.

Scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook and receive updates about the District, athletics, and more! Otherwise, you can find us by searching @rlsdpride on Facebook.

