

To: The WRED Board
From: Rick Hege
RE: Budget revote and deficit spending

June 11, 2020

First of all, you should consider this a note from a member of the public/voter.

Second, I am relying on minutes for my information and believe I have the facts correct but may not. If I am in error, I wish to apologize in advance.

As we all know the elementary portion of the budget failed at yesterday's public vote. Yes, I understand the issues with the spilt budget but, never the less, you are going to have to warn a new vote on that portion. You may present the public with the same number, a number that is less, or a number that is more. That is, of course, your option entirely. But, there is one little issue that does complicate this in terms of full public accountability, your decision on May 18 to deficit spend for a new teacher which just so happens to be an elementary school teacher.

While there were no dollar amounts mentioned in the minutes of that meeting, this position will not be inexpensive and should be properly accounted for in whatever budget you present for the new vote. If you do not, the public is not being given the whole picture. You have made the decision. Now that you have been given the opportunity, because of the failed vote on a portion of the budget, you should own up to it and make it part of the budget. Going in to a year with an *intentional* deficit is not great policy.

Bill, Laurie, or any of you may be thinking along the same lines but I wanted to make sure that this was dealt with and not make any assumptions since you are going to need to get things accomplished in a very timely manner. I would rather mention it now before you discuss what to do and warn the next vote even if someone else might be thinking along the same lines.

There is one other issue that does not impact the budget, a vote to combine the two budgets in to one in future years. I know this has been discussed and that the decision has to be put to a public vote but doing this on election day as previously discussed, or even doing it on primary day, will be a huge burden on those of us who participate in the election process, a process that is going to be even more complicated this year. Believe me, there is a great deal of work that goes in to these major elections and adding just one more piece, especially if the ballots have to be co-mingled, will really tax the system. Since you are going to have to have a budget vote anyway, I would suggest also having the vote on combining the budgets on the same day. This would sure make a lot of people's lives easier in the long run. That is just a suggestion from one who spent way more time than necessary counting ballots last night.

Thank you for your time.

Rick Hege