



SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 3, 2017

Sumter School District received a clean, unmodified opinion on the 2015-2016 audit report; however, the budget was overspent by roughly five percent of the total budget. Since that time, many positive things have occurred to prevent this from ever happening again and to move forward as a district.

The Sumter School District Board of Trustees and our Superintendent have taken this financial situation very seriously. The Board immediately hired an outside financial consultant to investigate why this happened and to recommend measures to prevent it in the future. The Superintendent and the consultant have made prudent cuts and streamlined operations in order to run more efficiently.

Positions have been cut both in the schools and district office. Travel has been cut except when required by grants or programs. Supply and substitute budgets have been cut. Working together, we have taken ambitious steps to ensure our financial house is in order. Recent reports from the consultant have indicated that the measures taken during the second half of this school year should allow us to come in just under budget. The 2017-18 budget is being prepared now. Contracts have been returned, and the district is now in a position to ensure our personnel are in place for next year.

From our administrators to our teachers to all the support staff working in our schools and district office, our employees show remarkable resilience and flexibility. They are working tirelessly to weather the financial storm and along with the Board, they look forward to better times ahead. This Board could not ask for a better group of employees than we have in Sumter School District; they have our respect and our gratitude. The students are thriving and continue to receive the high quality education and the level of care and compassion to which they have become accustomed.

This Board and administration are committed to increasing the educational experiences for our children while increasing the efficiency of our operations. We pledge to explore every avenue to be fiscally responsible while keeping our students and their welfare our top priority. We welcome input from and partnerships with all aspects of the community from our teachers, parents, and students to our business, industry, military, and faith-based community partners.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held at Oakland Primary School on May 8 at 6:00 p.m. and will include a public budget hearing. The Board welcomes community attendance and input. In the meantime, we invite you to visit our website at www.Sumterschools.net, where you will find a myriad of information about the district and links to all of the schools. Like us on Facebook to see daily information about all the good things going on in Sumter School District. Together, we will emerge stronger and better by working collectively for a positive outcome.

Daryl F. McGhaney
Chairman of the Board of Trustees