

# Board of Education

## Madison Metropolitan School District

**Mission of the Madison Board of Education...**to ensure an excellent public education system through responsive governance and to serve our community by developing, communicating, and monitoring sound educational policies. (BOE Approved 9/20/93)

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June 20, 2005

Dear Madison-area Legislator :

The recent action of the Joint Finance Committee, which dramatically slashes the allowable per pupil revenue limit increase, will be devastating for our children and the teaching and support staff of the Madison Metropolitan School District.

The JFC's cut to the allowable revenue limit increase lets districts increase the per pupil expenditure by about 1.4%. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Web site, inflation for the period of April 2004-April 2005 was 3.5 percent -- with energy costs for the same period running over 17 percent. It's disingenuous to purport, as the GOP leadership contends, that the increase for K-12 schools in Wisconsin is "historic," if the per pupil increase is less than half of the rate of inflation!

State law requires that districts issue staff layoff notices in the spring. The GOP proposal means the district would have to pay unemployment compensation for personnel that would have to be laid off this fall. Under *current law*, the district has already cut \$8.6 million for the 05-06 school year in order to comply with state-imposed revenue caps -- the JFC budget would require an *additional \$3.1 million cut* before the 05-06 levy is certified in October.

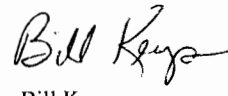
The district estimates that under *current law*, the "revenue cap gap" (the difference between what the revenue cap allows a district to spend versus the resources necessary to continue a "same services budget") for 06-07 will be \$7.5 million. The GOP proposal providing only a \$100 per pupil revenue limit increase in 06-07 will require deeper cuts. The JFC proposal also sets the per pupil increase of \$100 for perpetuity. *Since the inception of revenue limits in 1993, the district has cut over \$46.3 million and eliminated over 540 positions.*

We strongly urge you to voice our concerns when the budget comes to the floor for debate. We did not get elected to the Madison School Board to oversee the dismantling of one of the nation's premiere school districts. The opportunities available to children in the Madison community prior to revenue limits are slowly being eroded. Please do all you can to advocate for the provisions in Gov. Doyle's budget -- a budget that protected property tax payers *and* the children of our state.

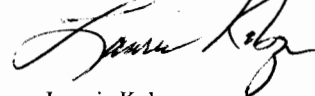
Sincerely,



Carol Carstensen, president



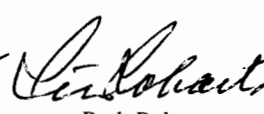
Bill Keys




Lawrie Kobza




Juan José López



Ruth Robarts



Shwaw Vang



Johnny Winston, Jr.