

## **KINNIKINNICK CCSD #131 FINANCES & REFERENDUM FACT SHEET**

- The Kinnikinnick C.C.S.D. has spent on average \$460, 627 out of the District reserves each year for the past five years to educate the children in the district. For the 2013-2014 school year, we are projecting a million dollar budget deficit. At this rate, we will deplete our savings in the 2016-2017 school year and will be forced to make drastic cuts to balance the budget or generate additional funds to cover the district's expenses.
- Although the district has operated conservatively and has been fiscally responsible with the taxpayers' money, the following factors are continuing to have devastating effects on our financial solvency and threaten to erode the high quality education which has defined Kinnikinnick:
  - State funding (General State Aid) has been reduced for the past three years resulting in a loss of \$882, 130.
  - State funding for transporting our students to and from school (which is required by the state) has been reduced by 42%.
  - Federal contributions to the No Child Left Behind programs have been reduced by \$97,420 in the past four years.
  - Since 2008, **a total of \$2,901,937 of federal and state revenues have been cut** that help pay for the programs that positively impact our students' education in the district. These programs include the textbook loan program, the Preschool for All grant, the Reading Improvement grant and the School Safety Block Grant.
- Over the years, Kinnikinnick CCSD #131 has attempted to tackle these financial challenges by:
  - cutting the district expenditures since 2002 while trying to minimally impact the education of our students.
  - enacting a hard freeze agreed upon by district employees on all district salaries for the 2011-12 and 2013-14 school years bringing the salary expenditures back to the 2009 budgeted levels.
  - operating efficiently with the lowest operating cost per student compared to other large elementary K-8 districts while producing similar achievement scores.
- The Board of Education is currently researching a referendum question to present to the community on the March 18, 2014 ballot to maintain the quality of education for our students and the Kinnikinnick community. Considerations that led the Board to this decision:
  - Kinnikinnick's current tax rate generates the lowest combined elementary and high school tax revenue in the region (11<sup>th</sup> out of 11).
  - Kinnikinnick hasn't passed a tax rate referendum since 1998. Two of the other three feeder schools to Hononegah have passed referendums since 1998 to increase local revenue for their schools.
  - If the referendum fails, class sizes will approach 30-35 students per class (depending on grade), and the District must consider eliminating programming not required by the State of Illinois.

Information provided by the Kinnikinnick Board of Education.