

**Norridge School District 80**

8151 W. Lawrence Avenue

Norridge, Illinois 60706

708-583-2068

*Inspiring Educational Excellence in a Nurturing Environment*

February 21, 2018

Dear Norridge District 80 Parents/Guardians:

In fiscal year 2015-2016, the *Illinois State Board of Education* required Norridge School District 80 (NSD 80) to create a three-year deficit reduction plan to reduce our expenses by \$1.6M to balance the budget and maintain our reserves. In order to create such a plan, the Norridge School District Board of Education (the NSD 80 Board) solicited input through two community committees: one to review the facilities and the other district programs. The plan included reductions, which would take place ***over a two-year period***.

The first recommendation from both committees was to attempt to increase revenue through the passage of a referendum. Twice, the district attempted to pass a referendum to maintain our district programs by placing a question on the ballot for an extension limitation increase for the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Presidential General Election and the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Cook County Consolidated General Election. *Both times, the voters overwhelming chose not to support those referendums.*

As a result of the failed referendums, the NSD 80 Board implemented the ***first year*** of the deficit reduction plan by reducing staff and creating grade centers for the school year 2017-2018. This saved the district \$750,000.

The ***second year*** of the deficit reduction plan calls for further reductions in staff and charging fees for athletics, kindergarten and band beginning with school year 2018-19. This will save the district an additional \$850,000. Unfortunately, over the past few months the district has attempted to develop a fee-based program for band, but that has been unsuccessful.

At the January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meetings, the NSD 80 Board voted to assess fees for athletics and full-day kindergarten, reduce staff and eliminate the band program beginning in school year 2018-19. In fact, the district may be under further pressure to reduce expenditures in the future if the legislature approves either or both a property tax freeze or pension shift.

The NSD 80 Board acknowledges that this transition will not be without challenges. However, with commitment, cooperation and teamwork, the overarching goal of a quality education for ALL of our students can be met with the resources we are provided.

Respectfully,

Dr. Paul O'Malley