

Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15 District Dispatch - November 2017



A Publication for Community Members

From the Superintendent's Desk

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

Education is a long-term investment, and an investment for the future. Our two Villages investment is the children of WCUSD#15. We owe them the opportunity to chase their dreams and become model citizens for the future. We believe all people benefit from an educated society. The challenge is WCUSD#15 has limited options to increase educational opportunities for students. As the future unfolds, and education changes, any additional educational investments will take voter approval. The stakeholders in the two villages of Sherman and Williamsville can increase the investments.

Historically, the WCUSD#15 Board of Education have been good financial stewards being fiscally responsible to the local taxpayers. Due to lack of consistent state funding the past several years, the district has been deficit spending and depleting fund balances. Annually the Superintendent and the Board of Education evaluate the revenue and expenditures. Financial cuts, reductions, and additions are based on the needs of the students and what is best financially for the district. For WCUSD#15 to continue the excellent services we provide to all our students and employees, we need to continue to evaluate programs, tighten our belt, and consider future revenue options.

Potential options to increase WCUSD#15 Revenues: Increasing revenues for WCUSD#15 will take voter approval. Due to Property Tax Extension Limitation Law – PTELL Tax Caps, lack of fund balances, and a Zero Debt Service Extension Base, we cannot borrow money or increase revenue without voter approval. Listed below are a few informational options WCUSD#15 could consider in the future. Over the next several weeks, I will be submitting a series of detailed articles outlining the options below.

Limiting Rate Referendum – voter approval would increase the limiting tax rate to permanently increase revenue in the district's operating funds.

Debt Service Extension Base Referendum – voter approval would create the ability for the district to borrow money, similar to a line of credit, to be used for operating funds.

Working Cash Bond Referendum – voter approval would create the ability to borrow money for the working cash fund to be used to generate revenue for the districts operating funds.

Building Bond Referendum – voter approval would allow the district to borrow money for facility improvements, upgrades, remodels, and new building construction.

County \$.01 Sales Tax Referendum – county voter approval would generate county sales tax revenue dispersed to county school districts based on student enrollment. The revenue can only be used for facilities, operations, and maintenance.

WCUSD#15 Bond and Debt Tax Rate is \$.94 with bonds set to expire in 2022. When the bonds expire in 2022, WCUSD#15 will lose \$.94 from the total tax rate. Considering the revenue options listed above and funding them with the \$.94 rate by a voter approved referendum, the local tax payer could see no increase in their tax rate, and possibly would see the overall tax rate decrease due to increased property Equalized Assessed Valuation - EAV.

WCUSD#15 \$4.51 tax rate ranks 13/19 in Sangamon County Area Districts. WCUSD#15 tax rate has been decreasing due to increasing EAV.

If the two villages feel like they want to improve the opportunities for students, programs, and facilities and continue to make Williamsville and Sherman destination communities, now is the time to plan and consider what we want WCUSD#15 to look like in the next 5-10-20 years.

WCUSD #15 Vision Committee is a group we are creating consisting of community members, teachers, parents, administrators, and school board members. The committee will work collectively to develop a vision and goals for the district. The committee will seek input and collaboration on what our stakeholders want WCUSD#15 to look like in the next 5-10-20 years. The vision and goals developed from this group will be communicated to the Board of Education and may be aligned to the future financial planning for the district. If you are interested in participating on the District Vision Committee, please email me at reedy@wcusd15.org.

It takes all of us to invest in KIDS!

For up to date district information, I encourage you to follow me on twitter [@wcusd15supt](https://twitter.com/wcusd15supt), check our website www.wcusd15.org, and like our district Facebook page Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15. If you have any questions, please contact me.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A BULLET!

Tip Reedy
reedy@wcusd15.org
(217) 566-2014
[@wcusd15supt](https://twitter.com/wcusd15supt)