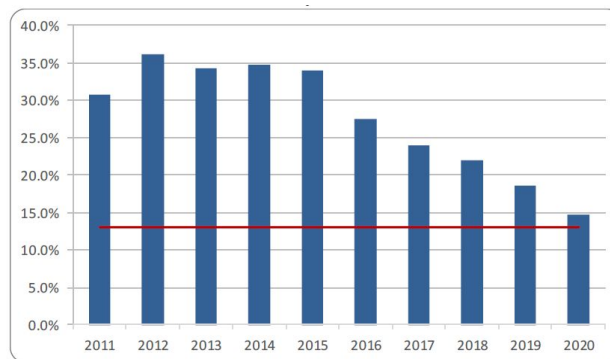


January 28, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

The District’s finance committee began working on the budget forecast for the 2021-22 school year. The overall financial health of the school district is very positive. This is attributed to rising student enrollment and the voter approved operating referendum. Also, annual audits reveal high quality accounting practices and financial decisions.

Although the District is financially healthy, the unassigned fund balance as a percentage of expenditures in the General Fund has considerably declined the past 10 years (see graph below). Unless savings are realized for the 2021-22 school year, the unassigned fund balance will decrease below the District policy of 13%. The solid red line represents the District’s fund balance policy of maintaining a minimum unassigned fund balance of 13% of General Fund expenditures.



The District’s finance committee projects a \$309,585 deficit which is 3% of the approximately \$10 million annual budget. This deficit necessitates the District to create budget savings for the 2021-22 school year.

The District is asking for input from families, staff and community members on possible budget savings (e.g., increase activities/athletic fees, reduce/eliminate XXX position). The following options are available for providing input on budget recommendations:

- Online Tool: <https://forms.gle/dXwZz3REA5vxyMbU8>
- Email: jellerbusch@barnesville.k12.mn.us
- Voicemail: Jon Ellerbusch (218) 354-2217 ext. 363
- Mail: Attn: Jon Ellerbusch, 302 3rd Street South, Barnesville, MN 56514

The administrators will present a budget recommendation to the School Board at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 22. The School Board will approve budget savings at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 15. Both meetings are open to the public.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jon P. Ellerbusch

Jon P. Ellerbusch, Ed.D.