

# ELGIN/NEW LEIPZIG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #49

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Daniel R Ludvigson, Superintendent, Ele. Principal



Home of the Coyotes

Terry T. Bentz, Secondary Principal

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## **HB 1388 Testimony**

Chairman Owens and members of the committee, for the record my name is Daniel Ludvigson, Superintendent of Elgin/New Leipzig Public School and North Dakota Association of School Administrators Legislative Focus Group finance committee member. I am here to speak in support of HB 1388.

The Elgin/New Leipzig Public School district levies for 70 general fund mils, 12 miscellaneous mils, and the 15 building fund mils which is the maximum we have the authority to levy in each of these categories. We are a transition minimum school with a declining enrollment. Even with the changes this bill makes to the funding formula we are still projecting roughly a \$100,000 drop in our state per pupil aid. Our baseline rate is \$11,122.76. Going into this year we had roughly 166 students but are now down to around 157 students. We have lost families to homeschooling and at least six of those students have indicated they do not intend to return in the next school year. We have made cuts but increasing costs means that reductions in overall spending have been difficult.

Bill HB 1388 softens the blow we would receive from losing the transition minimum payment. Despite our declining enrollment we still need our staff. Our elementary grades with 8 students still need a teacher the same as those classes with 16. Districts the size I serve have limitations in the efficiencies they can achieve. I presently serve as the elementary principal, 504 coordinator, and MTSS coordinator in addition to my duties as a superintendent. Several of my staff have multiple hats and are often asked constantly to do more with less.

I would like the legislature to consider still including a per pupil payment increase. I know that right now schools are receiving significant amount of federal aid. We have been using that aid to address deferred maintenance that qualifies under ESSER. We have slated roughly \$160,000 in improvements in indoor air quality. We are looking at another \$440,000 in addition to this. We presently have \$618,504.15 in callable debt for a boiler project we undertook over five years ago. ESSER dollars are a one-time influx of money which we will look at one-time expenses to use it towards. With the decreases in our pupil count due to natural decline and families leaving us during the pandemic our regular operating revenue is declining. This would give my board serious qualms about providing raises to staff, as this isn't revenue we can count on in the future.

I thank the legislature for taking a look at how to help those transition minimum schools that stand to lose a substantial amount of funding. Without consideration for pupil weights we'd stand to lose even more funding.

### **Data**

Transition Minimum Decrease 19-20 to 20-21 - \$131, 034.95

Weight Per Pupil Increase – 1.2744 to 1.3 – adds 4.654 students or \$46,710.91 value

*The mission of the Elgin/New Leipzig Public School District is to provide a positive and safe environment that promotes lifelong learning to all individuals.*