

**U.S.D. 466**  
**Scott County Schools**  
**Scott City, Kansas**

**District Office Staff:**

Jamie Rumford  
– Superintendent  
Susan Carter  
– BOE Clerk  
Deneen Wolfe  
– District Treasurer

**Board of Education:**

Chris Price – President  
Ben Taylor – Vice President  
Christine Cupp  
Mark Davis  
Eric Erven  
Lynnette Robinson  
Leann Wiechman

**Scott County**

**Elementary School:**

Shawn Roberts – Principal

**Scott County Middle  
School:**

Jana Irvin – Principal

**Scott Community**

**High School:**

Brad McCormick – Principal  
Randy Huck – Assistant  
Principal/Activities Director

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To: Chairman Ryckman, Chairman Masterson, and Members of the Committees  
Re: School Equity Funding  
Date: June 23, 2016

Each district is unique in the meeting the needs of their clientele. Similarly, each district will be unique in how the decisions you make in this Special Session will impact them. The unique qualities of Scott County Schools is that we are growing in enrollment and losing valuation of our property.

Although decisions are yet to be made, we understand districts are still looking at contributing 0.4% (\$24,000 to USD 466) of our general funds to Extraordinary Needs, and are now considering another 0.5% (\$30,000 to USD 466) to fund equity. Along with this, the total dollars in the Extraordinary Needs fund (which wasn't completely divided back out last year) is not growing and will be watered down with more applicants qualifying for its assistance. To our district, that appears to mean we will lose approximately \$55,000 in general fund authority to fix problems these Block Grants have caused, and will likely have a slim chance of getting any assistance back from the Extraordinary Needs to meet our growth and AV loss needs.

Two years ago, in a conference call, superintendents across the state heard that the Block Grant funding would take care of our needs while a new formula is crafted. We understood that if growth happens or assessed valuation drops, you would have an answer to help us get by.

Last year, Scott County Schools was awarded approximately \$86,000 in Extraordinary Needs in our general fund due to enrollment growth. Enrollment rose 3% (29 students) and we used those dollars to hire a teacher at semester to help keep class sizes small. We were also awarded another \$60,000 in Extraordinary Needs due to an 8.5% drop in assessed valuation. These dollars won't impact our budget until next year and will impact the Local Option Budget. This money will not give us any more authority to use for salary. It will only bring local taxes down.

Since the beginning of the past school year, our enrollment continues to grow. Going back to the beginning of Block Grants, we now have 5% growth in our district, and anticipate that number to grow over the summer months. Five percent is 50 students. Fifty students used to generate close to \$200,000 in the

former formula that was proven equitable. Had the former formula been in place we would have likely added two new teaching positions to our staff this past spring.

All of this being known, Scott County Schools are now looking at:

- Working with a budget that uses dollar amounts from two years ago when we were 50 students smaller
- Increasing class sizes due to lack of salary dollars in the general fund
- Raising local taxes to meet the full authority in our Local Option Budget

In that conference call two years ago, none of this was on the table.

We realize the dollars have to come from somewhere, but we contend it has already come from schools. Increased enrollment is not funded in a way that allows districts to add staff in a timely fashion to meet the needs of our students and Extraordinary Needs is funded from our budgets and is not being fully expended to meet district needs.

On behalf of the students, staff, parents, and patrons, we ask you keep the priorities KSSA presented in finding a solution.

1. Keep schools open
2. Equity for all schools; we can support any plan that fully supports equalization of LOB and Capital Outlay
3. Extraordinary needs fund must be available with expanded criteria to support all schools
4. A Clean Appropriation Bill with a single focus on equity

We also ask that you not tap into the dollars we need to hire quality staff to meet the needs of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Jamie Rumford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "L. Jamie" and the last name "Rumford" clearly visible.

L. Jamie Rumford

Superintendent of Schools