

**Dear Waterville Community,**

**Since my appointment as Interim part-time Superintendent by the Waterville School Board for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, I've been fortunate to have met many wonderful staff members and community patrons. Waterville is certainly a special place.**

**This spring, I've been asked by the Board to help the district with its finances and assist Business Manager Kaionni DeShazer in building a responsible school budget for 2024-25. Since March, I've done just that- using my 44 years of experience in public schools to assist her in any way possible. Kaionni is doing incredible work for someone who is a newly appointed Business Manager.**

**My official start date will be July 1. As an Interim part-time Superintendent, I intend to be in district 2-3 times each week.**

**Part of the work that I have been doing since March is to adjust staffing for the 2024-25 school year to our projected revenue for 2024-25. Student enrollment in Waterville is declining. And because the state funds all districts based primarily on student enrollment; this will be a problem. With declining enrollment, we will receive less state dollars next year. As a result, we've had to reduce our teaching staff next year by two teachers. This is so unfortunate.**

**In addition to these changes, Middle/High School Principal Jon Gasbar will become the TK-12 Principal for the next school year. District wide there will only be one full time administrator and myself at half time. In 2024-25.**

**State funding for schools is not what it should be and this funding is not aligned or consistent to our own state constitution....but this is conversation for a later date. In meetings held at the local ESD, we've learned that Waterville is not alone in it's financial struggles. There are a number of districts facing worse financial futures than what we do in Waterville.**

**With staffing adjustments and other cuts, the Waterville School District will be "leaner" next year. Yet, I'm confident we'll make it through these challenging financial times. The Waterville community is supportive and the district and its staff is resilient.**

**It's a blessing for me to have this opportunity to use my skills and experiences to help your community this next school year.**

**I look forward to meeting each of you soon.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mike Parker**