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Date: October 19, 2020  
To: Members, Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration  
From: Brian Marchant, Chairman  
Re: Informational Response to Committee Request

This communication is in response to the request of the Select Committee to explain the impact of a potential 16% reduction in Wyoming school funding for Crook #1.

The Wyoming School Foundation Program provides school districts with the necessary instructional and operational resources to provide each Wyoming student with an equal opportunity to receive a proper education. A 16% reduction in resources represents approximately \$4.5 million to the Crook County School District #1 and would affect every department. Approximately 80% of the CCSD#1 budget is dedicated to employees, the majority of whom are hired to work with students. Such a significant decrease in funding would necessitate a reduction in staffing - as many as 42 certified teachers.

Fewer teachers will impact CCSD#1's ability to continue its high level of educational opportunities. CCSD#1 would have larger class sizes, with a higher teacher/student ratio. The classroom setting would be further compromised if support personnel are cut. Fewer funds will be available for materials as well, decreasing the investments in curriculum materials and staff development and reducing overall operational capacity. Examples of the programs that would be impacted by decreasing funding include summer school and extended day opportunities, extracurricular activities, fine arts, advanced student programs, and a variety of course offerings. The necessary cuts would severely impact our students. In the past when cuts have been necessary, the board has worked very hard to make the cuts the furthest from students as possible; but with the magnitude of these cuts, this will simply not be possible.

Crook County is currently experiencing challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. A loss of school funding, including a reduction due to declining enrollment, will severely affect its communities. CCSD#1 is one of the largest employers in the county. A



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reduction in school funding will have a direct effect to the entire county and its localities, which are already struggling with the effects of decreased revenue.

The CCSD#1 Board of Trustees understands the current uncertainty of Wyoming's economy. Board members are willing to contemplate all reasonable options which would support school funding. CCSD#1 wants to continue to provide optimal resources to its students. The Wyoming Legislature has the power to replace the funding that has been lost over the past few years; local school boards do not. CCSD#1 board members have heard multiple times over the past few years that we cannot cut our way out of the fiscal downturn. If that is the case, why are we still having the same discussion?

CCSD#1 appreciates the opportunity to give input. Its goal is to continue to meet the needs of all students and fulfill their basket of goods. This board will continue to support the legislative decisions and work with our constituents to ensure the continuation of education for our students in the years to come. "It is never wrong to do the right thing." - *Mark Twain.*



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