

Special Newswire

Dear New Albany Parents and Learning Community,

We would like to share our sincere thanks with the thousands of supporters who voted and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly for this issue. We are incredibly grateful to our partners, New Albany for Kids and parent leaders Mark Wilson and Tracy Hohman for the countless hours worked to help our community understand the district need in this effort. As we have been saying for several months now, this was a big request of our community. We know it was a difficult decision.

The next weeks and months will be a time of difficult decisions but we are committed to continuing to engage you in the dialogue and the work to plan for the future. Today we are meeting with staff to help them understand the impact of this decision and to provide them with resources to respond to student, parent and community concerns. Our staff have not been faced with a situation of this magnitude before and while we are all disappointed we are working to ensure supports and to be here for one another.

As we move forward together, we will still be facing a significant deficit in coming years. We will continue to add students while implementing the board-approved reduction plan. The plan is available on the district website for community review. Despite these reductions, we will not shrink from our focus on our students or our mission and vision for them.

As we mentioned yesterday, we will look to our partners in education, The New Albany Community Foundation as they convene a Community Task Force to help us determine the next steps for the district. Recommendations generated by the Community Task Force will be an important tool for us in determining the future of our district and how we fund it.

No matter what we may face, our guiding force will be to keep the needs of our students and the mission and vision of our district at the forefront. We encourage our community to remain engaged and informed. We will provide needed updates as this dialogue continues.

Today, our district stands at a crossroads. We respect our community's decision and will continue to serve you with wholehearted commitment. With your ongoing partnership, we will engage the community in honest dialogue about the education we wish to provide for the children of New Albany.

In service to the students of New Albany,

April Domine, Superintendent

Mark Ryan, Board President