## RICHFIELD JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

SCHOOL BOARD

Blair Rogacki (2017) Brian Gallitz (2017) Howard Wolf (2016) Paul Propst (2016) Dawn Sericati (2018) RICHFIELD ELEMENTARY

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4908 Monches Road Colgate, WI 53017 262-628-1778 Fax: 262-628-9959 ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Tara Villalobos District Administrator

Mrs. Susan Saric Staff Services Principal Mr. Jeffrey Schmidt Student Services Principal

## www.richfield.k12.wi.us

November 9, 2015

Dear Parent,

For generations students have come to the Richfield and Friess Lake School Districts and received an excellent educational foundation. However, the educational landscape has experienced unprecedented change over the course of the last few years. We believe that each district is independently well-positioned to face the challenges and opportunities observed in education today. At the same time, we also believe it makes sense to take another look at what advantages might be obtained by consolidating. Therefore, the District Administrators and Board Presidents of the Friess Lake School District and Richfield Joint School District No. 1, met on Friday, November 6, 2015, for an exploratory discussion on restructuring. We believe that this discussion is the responsible one to have when thinking about the needs and interests of our students, parents, and community.

On the surface, the discussion of consolidation is one that makes sense: both districts reside in the Village of Richfield, both districts have similar curricula offerings, both districts are in excellent fiscal shape, and students in both districts often interact with each other outside of school through community offerings. These common characteristics brought us together to discuss the possibility of exploring a consolidation study. Each district administrator and board president will be sharing the information from our meeting at their next board meeting. We concluded that a necessary next step is a preliminary financial review to be completed by our business administrators. This preliminary review should help to determine some key financial implications posed by a potential consolidation. This information would be essential in determining whether or not to proceed any further in the exploration of a consolidation.

In the interim, we will continue to provide an educational experience that grows our students academically, socially and emotionally, leading to an educational experience that is rich with opportunity to develop higher level thinking, problem solving, and leadership. We appreciate your trust and support in our school districts, and will continue to keep you updated with any developments.

Yours in Education,

John Engstrom District Administrator, Friess Lake School

Ellen Duhamel Board President Friess Lake School

Ellen M. Duhame

Tara Villalobos District Administrator

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Richfield Joint School District No. 1

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Blair Rogacki Board President

Richfield Joint School District No. 1