



# School District of Osceola

## Mark Luebker Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 128  
331 Middle School Drive  
Osceola, WI 54020  
715-294-4140  
Fax: 715-294-2428

## Board of Education

Craig Brunclik, President  
Timm Johnson, Vice President  
Rosanne Anderson, Treasurer  
Pete Kammerud, Clerk  
Brooke Kulzer, Director

April 15, 2019  
Joint Finance Testimony  
UW River Falls, Wi.

Good morning ( afternoon )

My name is Timm Johnson. I am retiring from the Osceola School Board with 36 years of service and the opportunity to be the Board President for 34 of the 36 years. I am very proud of our school state report card that puts us in the top 5% in the state & #1 of 39 schools in CESA 11. We currently have 2 students at MIT in Boston & recent graduates of Stanford & West Point. Not too bad for a high school with 525 students.

I am going to share two major changes that have occurred over those 36 years of service to the Osceola community.

The first is the dramatic & unfortunate change in the family structure that is resulting in severe social & emotional issues in our students, and others across the state. At a recent CESA 11 meeting in Turtle Lake, one of the Head Start co directors shared that in the recent 3 months, there was a 400% increase in children placed into foster homes in Polk, St. Croix, & Pierce Co. The reality is that the number of children went from 90 to 360 in that time frame that were removed from their parents. We are seeing severe behavior issues resulting in the need to have additional outside resources available throughout the District.

We need additional state aid for staff to address both academic & behavior issues. In 5 days ( April 20,2019) the Columbine shooting occurred 20 years ago, and after that shooting I never felt the need for a police officer in our schools. I now believe we need a school resource officer in our schools.

From my election in 1983 until 2017 our school held 11 different votes on new buildings, building additions, purchase of property, & update an athletic complex. 9 of those were successful on the first vote and passage occurred on the 2nd vote. Even with our academic success, we are a low spending district of \$9,395.05 per student with one of the lowest mill rate in the area,. Unfortunately, our community did not support operational referendums in 2017 and 2019., The current funding process is not equitable across the state. Property tax payers are being asked to fund more of school funding, & our taxpayers are rejecting any request to do so in Osceola. We are now experiencing more anti tax anti education sentiment than ever in my 36 years.

I was on the Osceola School Board when the. levy cap was instituted with the caveat that the State of Wisconsin would pay 2/3 of the cost of education. It is. time the state meets that promise.

Education is the bedrock of democracy and the means of opportunity for our students to improve their socio economic status.

Thank you,  
Timm Johnson  
Osceola School Board  
johnsont@osceolak12.org

**Home of the  
Chieftains**

Osceola High School – 1111 Oak Ridge Drive – 715-294-2127  
Osceola Middle School – 1029 Oak Ridge Drive – 715-294-4180  
Osceola Intermediate School – 949 Education Avenue – 715-294-2800  
Osceola Elementary School – 250 Tenth Avenue East – 715-294-3457  
Transportation – 501 Simmon Drive – 715-294-3456  
[www.osceola.k12.wi.us](http://www.osceola.k12.wi.us)





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