

December 17, 2013

Dear Unity Point Parents and Guardians:

As you may remember, the Unity Point School District reached out to the community this past April to ask for its support of an operating referendum. Unfortunately, our attempt to pass the referendum failed. As state funding continues to dwindle, Unity Point is once again in the position to pursue a referendum that will ask taxpayers to approve an increase of 50 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. For example, a home with a market value of \$150,000, the cost to the homeowner will be an additional \$220 per year, as compared to the current tax bill payable in 2013.

The need for the referendum is imperative to the preservation of existing services at Unity Point. Since the 2011-2012 school year, Unity Point's main source of funding has been reduced by \$801,824, while daily operating costs have continued to rise.

A group of concerned citizens have formed to assist in moving the referendum efforts forward. **If you are interested in learning more, the next meeting of the Unity Point Preservation Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Unity Point Library.** The District also intends on hosting an informational meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Unity Point Library.

Your input and support is critical to the future of our school district. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 618.529.4151. For more information, you may also contact Stacey Silver Teutrine, UP Preservation Committee member at 618.751-9990 or [silver\\_stacey@hotmail.com](mailto:silver_stacey@hotmail.com). Thank you.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Lori James-Gross