Kidder County Public School District#1

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January 16, 2026

Dear senior parents,

This letter is to inform you that we have decided that we will not be attending the national We the People contest in Washington DC in April. The trip was from April 16 – 20, with students actually in Washington DC for 3 days (April 17, 18 and 19).

After considering many various aspects of this trip, at this time we can't commit to the financial obligation of this trip. We the People contracts with a national travel agency, and the cost of the trip for Kidder County is $104,400, which includes a $7,500 participation fee they charge us simply to compete.

The state of North Dakota would provide us $20,000, and our We the People account currently has $8,000 in it, but that still leaves a balance of $76,400 to raise. If we would be attending, we must pay 66% ($50,424) of this cost by January 30th.

We simply do not have the resources to raise this amount of money in this short amount of time.

I also want to let you know that in 2020 (and 2018), Kidder County was the state We the People champions, and we were planning on attending the national competition until COVID cancelled it. However, the cost of this trip from 2020 to 2026 has INCREASED 72%, making it nearly impossible to afford.

With all of this bad news, I also want to focus on the great news, and that is your child, and the rest of the senior class, did AWESOME at the state contest, and I believe have learned many valuable lessons about how our constitution works and how it has evolved over the last 250 years. Mrs. Kallenbach does a great job with this program, and we couldn't be prouder of our seniors for everything that they have accomplished.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me and we can visit. Thank you, and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Rick Diegel

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