Whitehall School District
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Mike Beighley - Superintendent

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: November 3, 2026
Subject: Response to the Operational Referendum Vote

The Whitehall School District Board of Education and Administration acknowledge and respect the decision of our community regarding tonight's operational referendum vote.

We hear the voice of our community, and in accordance with the voters' decision, the District will begin work immediately to plan and execute $1.3 million to $1.5 million in necessary budget reductions for the upcoming school year.
As we move forward with these adjustments, we want to maintain full transparency regarding the financial mechanics under Wisconsin's current school funding system:

- **Direct Local Impact:** Approximately 72% of any budget reductions enacted by the District for the 2026-27 school year will return directly to local property taxpayers on the 2027–28 tax rolls.
- **State Equalization Aid Mechanics:** Under current state law, this tax increase will not provide additional funding for District operations in 2027-28. Instead, local tax dollars raised will simply offset state equalization aid losses, redirecting those funds into the state pool to support Wisconsin's other 400-plus school districts.

While reductions of this magnitude will present significant operational challenges, we will do all that we can to meet our commitment to providing meaningful learning opportunities to the District's students. We will approach these fiscal decisions thoughtfully, ethically, and with the best interests of our students and community in mind.

We thank all community members who participated in this election and engaged in the discussion surrounding the future of our schools.

WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS
Jason Molis, President ~ Byron Fields, Vice President ~ Dave Pientok, Clerk~ Emily Oates, Treasurer
Stephanie Brueggen, Member ~ Jonathan Sygulla-Member ~ Sandra Steig, Member
The Whitehall School District does not discriminate against pupils or employees in its educational programs or activities, or in employment.