Debra Thompson

From:	Joni Johnson <jonimichelle@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, May 9, 2024 8:07 PM
To:	Assembly
Subject:	please fund PCSD to the maximum level possible

Dear Assembly Members and Mayor,

Please do approve funding for the school district at the maximum level possible. It feels a bit like stating the obvious as I write this, stating what you already know full well. Bear with me as I go ahead and highlight a few reasons why.

- I care a lot about our school and the role that the school plays in our life. I have a 7th grader and am anxious about what the future PHS might look like. My kids have been the impetus behind many decisions that I have made, professionally or where we live, and will continue to be.
- The school has been fiscally conservative and is still in an untenable position due to inflation, rising insurance costs and flat state funding.
- Education and providing a safe place for kids is super important, both for student development as well as for developing the future workforce.
- The school has traditionally attracted families to town, and most definitely has kept families in town. The tight labor market in Petersburg will not be helped out by an unraveling school district.
- The school has traditionally been a place that has been able to retain top tier teachers, the people that are the reason behind having an exceptional school district. These highly skilled professionals deserve our support.
- I of course really want my 7th grade son to have the same opportunities that his older brother was provided. Whether this can happen here in Petersburg remains to be seen as the district tries to put together the puzzle pieces and the politics remain unfavorable.

The governor has created a mess through flat funding and now holding the increase in BSA (albeit inadequate) hostage, please support the school district as much as you possibly can -- both through funding the school to the max cap as well as by continuing to advocate for our schools at the state.

Thanks kindly, joni