## TOWN OF ST. JOSEPH ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN

1337 County Road V Hudson, WI 54016 715/549-6235 <u>clerk@tn.stjoseph.wi.gov</u> https://townofstjoseph.com

September 12, 2025

Dr Nick Ouellette Chief Executive Officer Superintendent 644 Brakke Drive Hudson, WI 54016 Hudson School Board of Education Hudson School District 644 Brakke Drive Hudson, WI 54016

RE: Houlton Elementary School

Dear Dr Ouellette and members of the Hudson School Board of Education:

As we have in the past, the Town Board of the Town of St Joseph would like to continue to express our support for the Houlton Elementary School. It is an integral part of this community, has served the Hudson area for more than 75 years, has provided an excellent education for the children of this community and is central to the Town of St. Joseph.

We are adamant in our opposition to the closing of this school and ask that you explore all possible alternatives to that plan. The residents of the Town of St Joseph have expressed their strong opposition to the closing of this school. As with most taxpayers, we challenge you and the board to consider any and all avenues to meet the budget deficit. Closing this school should be at the bottom of that list.

The residents of the Town of St Joseph property values will be decreasing if this school is closed. Property values are based on available infrastructure, and a lack of an elementary school will reduce those values. Fewer people will be moving to the Town without this school. Have you considered how the diminished fair market value will affect the district finances in your consideration of the closing of this school?

With the Town having the most land available for homesites in the school district, we encourage you to consider what can be done to ensure that this school continues to serve this community. The school and staff have provided an excellent education to the residents of the Town over the years, and we are hopeful that it will continue to do so in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Theresa Johnson, Town Chair

Attested:

Teri Kelly, Clerk/Treasure