*******FOR RELEASE*******

CHS TO CONSIDER REVENUE LIMIT EXEMPTION FOR ENERGY

2009 Wisconsin Act 28, the 2009-11 biennial budget bill, created a revenue limit exemption that allows school districts to increase their revenue limit by the amount spent by the district in that school year on energy efficiency measures and renewable energy products that result in the avoidance of, or reduction in, energy costs.

In order for school boards of the school districts to consider this one time exemption, among the steps they must follow include:

1) Identify the specific new expenditures.
2) Identify the performance indicators to measure the cost savings that will occur as a result of the expenditures. A cost savings analysis is required.
3) Identify the period of time in which the expenditure will be recovered by the cost savings.
4) Pass a resolution with specific information by November 1st in the school year in which a tax is to be levied for the expenditure.
5) At the end of each school year that is identified in the Resolution with reductions to payback the initial expenditure, the district will prepare an addendum to the budget summary that reports the results of the energy savings incurred as a result of the expenditure.

The January 2009 successful referendum that was passed for Central High School included a major overall and retrofitting of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) controls. Camosy, as our general contractor, sub-contracted the Trane Corporation to oversee this project. The scope of the overall referendum for the HVAC upgrades was $477,000.00.

This past summer Trane has been in the building retrofitting all control systems. These new systems will provide steady temperature settings throughout the building which in the past has not been the case. In some classrooms, students and staff would be very cold. In other rooms, the heating reaches extreme temperatures. Air quality suffered due to old non-functioning controls that would stick open or closed, creating uncomfortable conditions for everyone.

Trane has provided for the District a complete outline of the savings that Central will realize due to these new controls being installed. Their *conservative* estimate shows that the District will have a payback in energy savings that will *exceed* the original expenditure in four years or less. Of course, any negative potential variables beyond the control of the estimates could include unexpected severe cold temperatures and/or spikes in natural gas prices.

At this year's Annual Meeting for Central on October 20th, the Board of Education will consider this one time exemption. This exemption has already been considered by other districts in Southeastern Wisconsin. Two districts that already passed Resolutions include the Whitnall School District and the Germantown School District.

When asked about the potential savings these new controls will have for the District, Superintendent Scott Pierce commented that, "the cost savings that Trane identified for the District are significant. In the first year alone, according to Trane's calculations, Central could realize over $137,000 in reduced energy costs."

By the District taking this one time levy exemption, the District would have additional funds. Pierce stated that, "should the board decide to pass this resolution and levy this additional expenditure, it would be my recommendation that these additional funds be targeted to go back into the project that provided us these new controls: the building project."

Central still needs to address the completion of their road project connecting the new entrance to Highway 83. The Department of Transportation determined that the only acceptable configuration for that entrance must include a roundabout with costs that far exceed what the District had budgeted in the referendum for that intersection.