

SIDNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
“We hold tomorrow in our hands.”

Board of Directors

Heidi Lowthorp – President
Alisha Ettleman – Vice-President
Erika Graham
Larry Holt
Michael Daly
Janet Lemrick – Board Secretary
Jennifer Maher – Board Treasurer

Gregg Cruickshank
Superintendent
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Board of Directors Strategy Session

Sunday, January 24, 2016 – 6:45 p.m.

Board Room – 2754 Knox Road

Negotiations with the Sidney Education Association will be discussed.

The meeting is exempt from Iowa Open Meeting Law.

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 24 – 7 p.m.

Board Room – 2754 Knox Road

1. **Call meeting to order and determine a quorum**
2. **Recognition of guests and public comment** – the Board may allow up to 5 minutes for citizens to discuss school matters with the Board. More time may be granted at the discretion of the Board. Discussing personnel matters relating to performance and evaluation are prohibited by the Board. Such matters shall be appropriately considered by the administration and resolved according to Board Policy and Iowa Administrative Code.
3. **Approve agenda**
4. **Approve minutes** – December regular meeting
5. **Consider bills to be paid**
6. **Financials**

7. **Audiences**
Commencement – Michelle Beard and Mallory Beard
Sidney Hometown Pride – Steve Meyer
Affordable Care Act – Lisa Daniels/Benefit Professionals

8. **Reports**
Elementary Principal/Curriculum Director
Junior High-High School Principal
Superintendent

9. **Discussion**
 - a. Sharing, partnerships, programs
 - b. Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL)
 - c. Budget concepts and fundamentals
 - d. Open House
 - e. Affordable Care Act

10. **Discussion/action**
 - a. Vocational Agriculture program/staffing

11. **Action**
 - a. Resignation of personnel
 - b. Employment of personnel

12. **Board comment**
13. **Celebrations**
14. **Adjournment**

Strategy session

- The Sidney Education Association (SEA) initial proposal will be shared. More information on the health insurance quote and the Affordable Care Act impact will be shared by Lisa Daniels in open session. For all employees (certified and classified) currently insured the district's obligation is \$181,733.64. The estimated obligation for the March 1, 2016 renewal is \$192,674.76. This is a 6.0% increase. This does not include classified staff that may be eligible to participate because of the stipulations in the Affordable Care Act.
- Libby Weber, SEA Head Negotiator, will attend the strategy session to explain the language proposal.

Financials – first semester billing for regular education open enrollment and shared services. Special education open enrollment is a separate billing and Jennifer will be sending those out in the next couple of weeks. This revenue will be reflected on the fund balance sheet for the February meeting.

Essex	Open Enrollment, Spanish	\$11,056.00
Farragut	Open Enrollment, Spanish, Ag/Auto Shop Rental	\$72,089.01
Fremont-Mills	Open Enrollment, Transportation, Nurse, Family Consumer Sci., Ind. Tech., K-6 Art, Business Ed., Shared Teachers	\$114,884.49
East Mills	Operations	\$6,267.60
Hamburg	Open Enrollment	\$117,771.00
Shenandoah	Open Enrollment	\$6,366.00
South Page	Spanish, Superintendent	\$55,450.30
	Total	\$383,884.40

Audiences

- Mallory Beard is a home school student who over time has gradually transitioned to taking more classes at Sidney. She is projected to complete 19 credits at Sidney at the end of this year. Five of those credits are for concurrent enrollment (college and high school credit) courses. This year she took seven classes at school first semester and is taking five classes second semester. She is going to take the Home School equivalent to the GED (Grade Equivalency Diploma) and plans to enter the military. She is also going to share her home school course of study for review. Mallory wants to participate in the commencement ceremony and receive a certificate of attendance. **Enclosed** is the Board Policy on commencement. This is the first request from a home school student since I've worked in the district (2004). It has been practice for foreign exchange students, who are classified as seniors based on transcripts from their home school, to participate in graduation and receive a certificate of attendance. There is time for consideration and a decision may be made at a future meeting.
- Steve Meyer will share information about Sidney Hometown Pride and a request to use the elementary for an event this summer.
- Lisa Daniels from Benefit Professionals will share information on the impact of the Affordable Care Act to the district, and the health insurance renewal quote effective March 1, 2016. Mrs. Daniels met with Director Holt, Director Daly, Libby Weber, Janet Lemrick, Jennifer Maher, and me on January 21.

Elementary Principal/Curriculum Director – will be emailed and hard copies will be shared at the meeting.

Junior High/High School Principal – enclosed.

Superintendent

- **Equity site visit** – as of January 22 the report from the Iowa Department of Education has not been received.
- **Farragut redistricting** – as of January 22 there is no news to report. The Iowa Department of Education set a self-imposed deadline of February 15. Dr. Plugge is hopeful it will be completed by the end of January. Parents will have 45 days from the date redistricting is set to file open enrollment applications.
- **Supplemental State Aid** will be debated this week at the Statehouse. Early proposals – Republicans 2%, Democrats 4%, and the Governor 2.45%.
- **Legislation/advocacy - enclosed:**
 - *A summary of the Governor's proposal to extend the sunset on the State Penny from 2029 to 2049 and an article from the January 15 Omaha World-Herald. In exchange for the extension the Governor wants to divert some of the future revenue increase to water quality programs.
 - *An email from Director Ryan Wise on a legislative delay to implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessment.
 - *An article from the Des Moines Register about the absence of funding in the Governor's budget for required intensive early literacy programs.
 - *An editorial published in the Register by Waukee Superintendent David Wilkerson. Waukee is the fastest growing district in the state and is proposing making \$1million of cuts in their General Fund for 2016/17. It is accompanied by some educational statistics published by the Register in October.
 - *An editorial published in the World-Herald from a superintendent in Nebraska. York is similar in size to Harlan.
 - *Information from IASB on an advocacy workshop at Council Bluffs on February 17.

Discussion

Sharing, partnerships, and programs

- **Enclosed** is the sharing document developed by Corner Conference Superintendents.
- **Vocational Agriculture** – information was shared last month regarding Mr. Nelson's and Mr. Jamison's classes and compensation. Classes are offered five periods a day at Sidney this year. It seems feasible to employ a full-time Vocational Agriculture teacher for 2016/17. It is for the Board's consideration and possible action later in the meeting. Mr. Nelson has indicated he will apply for the position. Dr. Herrick and Mr. Jamison are aware of the possible action by the Board.
- **Auto**
 1. The Shenandoah Board has an interest in hosting part of the program on site. As previously shared Fremont-Mills is interested in allowing students to attend classes at Sidney or Shenandoah. Dr. Herrick said they are not interested in hosting part of the program at Fremont - Mills. Other schools in the area may be interested in sending students to Sidney or Shenandoah.

2. Shenandoah will need to renovate facilities to host. No decision has been made on renovation by the Shenandoah Board. Shenandoah Superintendent Kerri Nelson and I are going to visit with teacher Robert Urton Tuesday, January 26.
- **Equipment for Vocational Agriculture and Auto** – it is uncertain how equipment from the Farragut district will be sold, auctioned, or distributed. Some of the equipment is controlled by the Perkins Consortium which is managed through Green Hills AEA. Information will be shared as it becomes available. State Penny and PPEL are non General Fund sources that may be used to purchase equipment.
 - **Spanish** – Riverside is giving serious consideration to joining Sidney, Essex, and South Page for 2016/17.
 - **Communication with Fremont-Mills**
 1. Fremont-Mills has been the primary sharing partner with Sidney for several years.
 2. Some of the sharing agreements have been in existence for a few to several years (K – 12 Art, Industrial Arts/Computer Drafting, Family Consumer Science, Elementary Guidance, Nurse, Transportation Director, Wrestling, Golf, Cross Country), and some for one to a few years and were not renewed by mutual agreement due to changes in enrollment, staffing, or other considerations in one or both districts (K – 12 PE, Accounts Payable/Business Services, K – 6 Vocal Music, and possibly Vocational Agriculture).
 3. Last year the boards did not have an annual meeting to review sharing and their partnership. Are you interested? Dr. Herrick and I have talked about it. Sometime mid to late March might be a good time.
 - **Library and technology (this was shared in December)**
 1. Mr. Lang is the primary technology coordinator and teaches 2 periods of Algebra 2. Mrs. Clayton provides technology support 1 day a week and is also the district's certified teacher librarian.
 2. There was discussion last summer about the district financially assisting Mr. Lang to get the teacher librarian endorsement. The cost is approximately \$10,000 for tuition. Mr. Lang has indicated an interest in pursuing the endorsement.
 3. Mrs. Clayton has indicated an interest in continuing to work part-time past 2015/16. Her license expires June 30, 2016. However, it is a pretty simple process to extend her license.
 - **Discussions with the Hamburg Board (this was shared in December)** – Director Lowthorp and Director Ettleman met with Dave Mincer and Reva Benefiel on December 15.
 - Any other subjects for discussion regarding sharing, partnerships, and programs? Staffing is somewhat in limbo until redistricting is settled and enrollment trends and numbers become clearer.

Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL) - enclosed

- **A copy** of the original debt service schedule for the general obligation bonds on the JH/HS.
- **A copy** of the debt service schedule after the refinancing of the bonds in 2011. There was also a refinancing in the early 2000's . I have not been able to find information on that refinance.

- The last six payments on the refinance are a combined \$127,415.17 less than the original schedule (\$1,663,807.50 - \$1,536,392.33).
- The debt will be retired June 1, 2017.
- **Information** from the Department of Education website.
- **A handout** of a PowerPoint which shares information and compares Sidney to similar schools. A Voter-Approved PPEL would have generated \$177,346 for 2015/16.
- **Results** of Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy elections from 2011 – 2015.

Budget concepts and fundamentals

- **Enclosed** is information from Larry Sigel at Iowa School Finance Information Services.
- This is a good review as budget preparation nears.
- *Information on property valuations, scenarios for Supplemental State Aid, budget authority projections, and other relevant information will be shared with the Board before the February 15 meeting and included in the February 15 packet. Until Farragut is redistricted accurate valuations and SSA projections based on certified enrollment will not be known. Lisa Oakley at the Iowa Department of Management will do those calculations.*

Open House

- Is there Board interest in hosting an Open House K – 12 or 7 – 12 as redistricting draws closer and with it open enrollment deadlines?

Affordable Care Act

- Any further discussion from Mrs. Daniels' presentation?
- Mrs. Daniels is visiting with classified staff who are eligible for health insurance coverage on Monday, January 25 at 8 a.m. at the elementary.

Discussion/action

Vocational Agriculture program/staffing

- Further discussion on staffing for the Vocational Agriculture program for 2016/17?
- **If the Board so chooses, a motion** is needed to advertise for and hire a full-time Vocational Agriculture instructor for 2016/17.

Action

Resignation of personnel (letters enclosed)

- Melissa Godfread, Counselor/School Based Interventionist. **Motion to approve.**
- Nicole Fox, 5th and 6th Grade Social Studies/Science Teacher effective the end of the 2015/16 school year. **Motion to approve.**
- Melinda Spencer, High School Wrestling Cheer Coach/Color Guard Instructor effective the end of the 2015/16 school year. **Motion to approve.**

Employment of personnel

- Kelli Urton, 7-12 Guidance Counselor/School Based Interventionist. **Motion to approve pending completion of a background check and Iowa license being issued.**
- Jeannine Rook, Part-time Cook. **Motion to approve**

Board Comment

Celebrations

Adjournment

Minutes

**Sidney Community School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Sunday, December 20, 2015 7:00 p.m. 2754 Knox Road**

Call meeting to order and determine quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Heidi Lowthorp. Directors present were Heidi Lowthorp, Alisha Ettleman, Erika Graham, Larry Holt and Mike Daly. Also present were Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank, 7-12 Principal Bill Huntington, PK-6 Principal Linda Spencer, Business Manager Jennifer Maher and Board Secretary Janet Lemrick.

Recognition of guests

There were 15 guests present.

Approve agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Director Ettleman with second by Director Daly. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Approve minutes

Motion to approve the amended regular meeting minutes of November 16 was made by Director Graham with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Consider bills to be paid

Motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Director Daly with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Financials

Motion to approve the financial reported as presented was made by Director Graham with second by Director Ettleman. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Audiences

Student Early Graduation

Halie Apperson, Junior, and Kolton Birkby, Senior stated their reasons for early graduation.

State Representative

David Sieck, State Representative from Glenwood, visited with the Board concerning educational funding and state assessment.

Vocational Ag/Automotive

Dave Nelson described the curriculum in the Ag Management and Ag Mechanics classes. Thirteen (13) Sidney students are enrolled combined in those classes. Twenty-one (21) Sidney students are enrolled combined in the Welding and Ag 1 classes taught by Doug Jamison. Robert Urton described the curriculum in the Automotives classes. Nineteen (19) Sidney students are enrolled in the Automotives classes.

Computer Science

Mrs. Shanno, Math and Technology Instructor, visited with the Board about the computer coding and programming curriculum that the elementary and junior high are currently using in her classes. She asked the Board to consider investing in the "Code RED" Education software to provide the 7-12 grades an opportunity to experience computer coding as a possible career choice.

Administrator's reports

Mrs. Spencer presented the PK-6/Curriculum report.

Mr. Huntington presented the 7-12 report

Mr. Cruickshank presented the Superintendent report.

- Equity Site Visit- the informal exit report went well. The official report will be available within 45 days of visit.
- iPad Proposal – a final estimate of costs and needs is not yet available. The Board would like to wait until the Equity Report is available before approving further purchases.
- RSAI – Mr. Cruickshank updated the Board on RSAI activities.
- AIM (Agriculture, Industry and Manufacturing) Career Conference-Mrs. Godfread and Mr. Davis attended with 17 High School students.
- Iowa Athletic Council Proposal on the Scholarship Rule-Mr. Cruickshank updated the Board on a proposal to make this rule more equitable statewide.
- Iowa School Report Card – Mr. Cruickshank explained the criteria upon which the ratings were determined.
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)- this act replaces the No Child Left Behind Act. It transfers more accountability for school performance from the federal level to the state level.
- Green Hills AEA – Mr. Cruickshank reviewed the opportunities and programs that the AEA provides the school district.

Discussion

Sharing, partnerships, and programming

Sharing by Corner Conference

The Board reviewed the sharing of resources done between the Corner Conference schools.

Vocational Ag and Auto

The Board discussed what these programs may look like for the 2016-17 school year.

Library and Technology

Mrs. Clayton has expressed an interest in continuing as the Librarian for another year. Mr. Lang is willing to take the necessary classes to be certified as a Librarian. The classes will take 2-3 years for completion.

Art

Elementary and High School Art is currently shared with Fremont-Mills. Both schools would like to continue this arrangement.

Redistricting of Farragut School

The Department of Education is still working on the redistricting process.

Discussions with the Hamburg Board

Directors Lowthorp and Ettleman met with Hamburg Board members Mincer and Benefiel. Both schools are open to continued discussions regarding partnerships and sharing.

Affordable Care Act

Due to the Affordable Care Act, the school may need to offer insurance to support staff. More information will be shared at the January meeting by Lisa Daniels of Benefit Professionals. They manage the district's health insurance program.

Teacher Leadership and Compensation

Sidney Schools in conjunction with South Page Schools has been approved for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation monies for the 2016-17 school year. This will allow the schools to hire from within one full time instructional coaches in K-8 Literacy and one full-time instructional coach in K-12 STEM to collaborate with teachers and principals in both districts. In addition Model Mentor teachers and Building Leadership Team teachers will receive compensation for their participation in these areas.

Action

Early Graduation

Motion to approve the early graduation requests for Senior Kolton Birkby and Junior Halie Apperson was made by Director Ettleman with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Resignation of personnel

Resignation of personnel

Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Alissa Moreland, Administrative Assistant/Study Hall Monitor, was made by Director Graham with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Motion to accept with regrets the resignation of Kathy Matthews, Part-time Cook, was made by Director Ettleman with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Sidney Education Association

Motion to recognize the Sidney Education Association as the collective bargaining group for the certified staff was made by Director Ettleman with second by Director Daly. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Motion to appoint Director Daly and Director Holt the Board Negotiations Team was made by Director Ettleman with second by Director Graham. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Board Comment

A letter from Julie Whitehead concerning the method of pay for long-term subs was discussed. Starting base salaries with other schools will be researched to determine if changes should be made.

The Board would like to continue efforts to pour a sidewalk from the town to the high school.

The gravel parking lot located at the east end of the JH/HS needs to have an entrance lane sectioned off so cars don't block access to the lot.

Celebrations

Congratulations to the following students participating in the UNO Music Festival in January: Sarah Daly-Soprano 1, Dakota Lang-Soprano 1, Lindie Strickley-Alto1, Presley Hardy-Alto 1, Jaden Daffer-Alto1, Cary Lang-Tenor 2, Cameron Whitehead-Bass 1, Jake Smith-Bass 1, Genna Crom-Flute, Dylan Lucas-Trumpet.

SWIBA Honor Band participant will be Genna Crom-2nd chair Flute.

Lexy Larson on selection to the Des Moines Register 1st Team All-State Volleyball. Mackenzie Daffer on selection as Honorable Mention.

High School received \$1500 grant from Farm Credit Services to support agriculture.

Elementary received \$1400 from United Faith Church to use to fund study trips for students.

Thank you to the Vocal and Instrument departments, Mrs. Zavadil, Mrs. Lewis and the students for showcasing their many talents at the Elementary and Secondary Winter Music Concerts.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. was made by Director Daly with second by Director Ettleman. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

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Next regular scheduled meeting will be January 18, 2016

Payroll/Accounts Payable

SIDNEY SCHOOL BOARD REPORT OF EXPENDITURES

SIDNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CLAIMS PAID IN

January-2016

Accounts Payable

Payroll	
Salaries/Wages	270,235.09
District Expense Insurance	16,094.61
IPEERS	23,838.22
Medicare/Social Security	20,010.98
District Total	<u>330,178.90</u>

General	73,353.95
Lunch Fund	17,389.57
Activity Fund	8,338.98
School House	8,746.13
District Total	<u>107,828.63</u>

SIDNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD REPORT FOR

January-2016

Fund 10 OPERATING FUND

AGRIVISION	167.24
ATCHISON HOLT ELECTRIC	6,897.12
BARRETT, PAT	160.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	235.92
BMO HARRIS MASTERCARD	18,801.68
CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE	5,400.00
CITY OF SIDNEY	642.73
COLONIAL THEATRE	130.00
CONTINUUM ENERGY	1,520.22
DAMRAU, KRISTY	176.00
DECKER INC	25.95
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE	400.00
DES MOINES STAMP MFG CO	68.60
EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS	3,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3	3,449.60
EDUCATIONAL TRANSITIONS PUBLIC	1,500.00
GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA	170.56
GIFTED EDUCATION SOLUTIONS,	174.56
GLENWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	9,336.78
GODFREAD, MELISSA	40.00
GREEDY CONSTRUCTION	38.25
HANKINS OUTDOOR POWER, TIRE &	15.00
HANNAH, SNEED	288.00
HARLAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	40.00
HENNEMAN AUTO PARTS	412.78
HENNEMAN SNOW REMOVAL	225.00
HILLS PLUMBING AND HEATING	80.74
HOLT GAS COMPANY	2,765.14
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT	275.15
IOWA ASSOCIATION SCHOOL BOARDS	1,229.00
IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK	169.66
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	378.00
IOWA SCHOOL FINANCE	42.00
JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS	97.60
JEFF & DEB NORTON	2,496.00
JOHNSON LAW PLC	75.00
JUREY, SALLY	30.00
KONICA MINOLTA	97.63
KOZISEK, CHELSEY	26.48
LEADER SERVICES	2.89
LEAH, NEY	6.00
LOPEZ, GABRIEL	192.00
MAHER, JENNIFER	28.50
MARTIN BROTHERS DIST	172.26
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC	26.66
MENARDS	128.80
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	1,966.50
MITCHELL, ERIKA	269.38
MONROE ENTERPRISES	1,118.95
NEBRASKA-IOWA DOOR SERVICES	156.00
NISHNA PRODUCTIONS INC	1,418.40
RICHARDSON SANITATION	505.00
SCHOOL BUS SALES	95.36
SHORE MOTOR COMPANY	29.05
SIDNEY ARGUS HERALD	276.43
SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING	72.00
SPIRAL COMMUNICATIONS	1,230.47
TRUCK CENTER COMPANIES	157.35
WEHLING, SHANNON	12.48
WINDSTREAM	3,911.08

FUND 61 SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND

ANDERSON ERICKSON DAIRY CO	1,294.85
KECK INC	1,817.92
MARTIN BROTHERS DIST	7,771.06
SIDNEY CSD GENERAL FUND	6,323.04
VALLEY NEWS PUBLICATIONS	182.70

Fund Total: 17,389.57
Checking Account#2 Total: \$17,389.57

Fund 22 MANAGEMENT

AEA267	230.60
Fund Total:	<u>\$230.60</u>

Fund 36 PPEL

ALCOVE CONTRACTING SERVICES,	6,200.00
Fund Total:	<u>\$6,200.00</u>

Fund 33 LOSST

JMC COMPUTER SERVICE	586.50
MALCOM ELECTRIC	625.03
MONROE ENTERPRISES	1,104.00
Fund Total:	<u>\$2,315.53</u>

Fund 40 DEBT SERVICE

Fund Total:	<u>0.00</u>
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Checking Account#4 Total: \$8,746.13

Fund Total: 73,353.95
Checking Account Total: \$73,353.95

Fund 21 STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND

BMO HARRIS MASTERCARD	924.49
BROTHERS, KEITH	100.00
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA	1,254.00
CARPENTER, RAY	105.00
CASEYS GENERAL STORE	892.50
GRAPHIC EDGE	924.18
HARTIGAN, TOM	105.00
HASH, JAMES	160.00
HOBBIE, MATT	200.00
HOLM, TOM	105.00
HOWARD CLOTHING	130.00
IOWA BASKETBALL COACHES	110.00
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSO.	97.00
IRVIN, MICHAEL	100.00
JENSEN, KENT	105.00
KENNENDY, JOHN	105.00
LINDSEY, RICH	105.00
MARTIN BROTHERS DIST	632.23
MCELROY, DOUG	105.00
MONROE, JACKIE	99.70
NAHNSEN, JOHN	105.00
PATTEN, LARRY	105.00
PEPSI COLA COMPANY	394.88
PERRY, DENNIS	60.00
PORTER,	100.00
ROCK PORT HIGH SCHOOL	110.00
SHELDON, DUSTIN	25.00
SHENANDOAH HIGH SCHOOL	160.00
SHENANDOAH MEDICIAL CENTER	90.00
SINNET, JEFF	105.00
SINNET, PAUL	105.00
SORENSEN, JON	105.00
STANBROUGH, JASON	105.00
TAYLOR, BRYCE	105.00
WHITEHEAD, CAMERON	40.00
WIEGEL, SHANE	105.00
WILLIAMS, JUSTIN	160.00

Fund Total:	8,338.98
Checking Account #3 Total:	<u>\$8,338.98</u>

Checking 1

AGRIVISION
 ATCHISON HOLT ELECTRIC
 BARRETT, PAT
 BLACK HILLS ENERGY
 BMO HARRIS MASTERCARD
 CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE
 CITY OF SIDNEY
 COLONIAL THEATRE
 CONTINUUM ENERGY
 DAMRAU, KRISTY
 DECKER INC
 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
 DES MOINES STAMP MFG CO
 EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS
 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #3
 EDUCATIONAL TRANSITIONS PUBLIC
 GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEBRASKA
 GIFTED EDUCATION SOLUTIONS,
 GLENWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL
 GODFREED, MELISSA
 GREEDY CONSTRUCTION
 HANKINS OUTDOOR POWER, TIRE &
 HANNAH, SNEED
 HARLAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
 HENNEMAN AUTO PARTS
 HENNEMAN SNOW REMOVAL
 HILLS PLUMBING AND HEATING
 HOLT GAS COMPANY
 HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
 IOWA ASSOCIATION SCHOOL BOARDS
 IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
 IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES
 IOWA SCHOOL FINANCE
 JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS
 JEFF & DEB NORTON
 JOHNSON LAW PLC
 JUREY, SALLY
 KONICA MINOLTA
 KOZISEK, CHELSEY
 LEADER SERVICES
 LEAH, NEY
 LOPEZ, GABRIEL
 MAHER, JENNIFER
 MARTIN BROTHERS DIST
 MATHESON TRI-GAS INC
 MENARDS
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY
 MITCHELL, ERIKA
 MONROE ENTERPRISES
 NEBRASKA-IOWA DOOR SERVICES
 NISHNA PRODUCTIONS INC
 RICHARDSON SANITATION
 SCHOOL BUS SALES
 SHORE MOTOR COMPANY
 SIDNEY ARGUS HERALD
 SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING
 SPIRAL COMMUNICATIONS
 TRUCK CENTER COMPANIES
 WEHLING, SHANNON
 WINDSTREAM

TRANSPORTATION SUPPLIES 167.24
 SERVICE 6,897.12
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 160.00
 SERVICE 235.92
 PCARDS 18,801.68
 BEING A READER - EARLY LIT 5,400.00
 WATER 642.73
 ELEM MOVIE TRIP 130.00
 SERVICE 1,520.22
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 176.00
 PLASTIC SOCKET 25.95
 ANNUAL ADMIN FEE 400.00
 STAMP INK 68.60
 CODE RED SOFTWARE (REAP) 3,500.00
 SPED SERVICES 3,449.60
 JAN SERVICE 1,500.00
 ADVERTISING 170.56
 TAG SERVICES 174.56
 APEX PROGRAM 9,336.78
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 40.00
 2 X 1/8 FLAT 38.25
 TIRE REPAIRS 15.00
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 288.00
 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL 40.00
 TRANSPORTATION SUPPLIES 412.78
 SNOW REMOVAL 225.00
 MOTOR 80.74
 FUEL 2,765.14
 TEXTBOOKS 275.15
 ISFLC/DUES 1,229.00
 ICN SERVICE 169.66
 CHAIRS FOR PREK 378.00
 BACKGROUND CHECKS 42.00
 W-2'S 97.60
 NOV & DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 2,496.00
 LEGAL SERVICES 75.00
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 30.00
 MAINTENANCE 97.63
 SUPPLY REIMBURSEMENT 26.48
 MEDICAID SERVICES 2.89
 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 6.00
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 192.00
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 28.50
 FOOD ACCOUNT 172.26
 SUPPLIES 26.66
 IND ARTS SUPPLIES 128.80
 SERVICE 1,966.50
 DEC MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT 269.38
 ELECTRIC RANGE - PERKINS GRANT 1,118.95
 SUPPLIES 156.00
 WORK ACTIVITY 1,418.40
 GARBAGE SERVICE 505.00
 TRANSPORTATION SUPPLIES 95.36
 NOZZLE - TRANSPORTATION 29.05
 ADVERTISING 276.43
 SPED TRANSPORTATION 72.00
 PHONE 1,230.47
 TRANSPORTATION SUPPLIES 157.35
 REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUPPLIES 12.48
 INSTALLMENT 2 OF 3 3,911.08

73,353.95
 73,353.95

Checking 2

ANDERSON ERICKSON DAIRY CO	MILK	1,294.85
KECK INC	COMMODITIES	1,817.92
MARTIN BROTHERS DIST	FOOD	7,771.06
SIDNEY CSD GENERAL FUND	JAN NUTRITION PAYROLL	6,323.04
VALLEY NEWS PUBLICATIONS	ADVERTISING	182.70

17,389.57

17,389.57

Checking 3

BMO HARRIS MASTERCARD	PCARDS	924.49
BROTHERS, KEITH	BBALL OFFICAL 010516	100.00
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA	BPA MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,254.00
CARPENTER, RAY	BBALL OFFICAL 121815	105.00
CASEYS GENERAL STORE	JR CLASS CASEYS CARDS	892.50
GRAPHIC EDGE	BPA HOODIES	924.18
HARTIGAN, TOM	BBALL OFFICAL 122215	105.00
HASH, JAMES	BBALL OFFICAL 010516	160.00
HOBBIE, MATT	WRESTLING OFFICAL 121515 011216	200.00
HOLM, TOM	BBALL OFFICAL 122215	105.00
HOWARD CLOTHING	JH OFFICALS SHIRT	130.00
IOWA BASKETBALL COACHES	MEMBERSHIP	110.00
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSO.	SPEECH DUES	97.00
IRVIN, MICHAEL	WRESTLING OFFICAL 011216	100.00
JENSEN, KENT	BBALL OFFICAL 121115	105.00
KENNENDY, JOHN	BBALL OFFICAL 121815	105.00
LINDSEY, RICH	BBALL OFFICAL	105.00
MARTIN BROTHERS DIST	FOOD	632.23
MCELROY, DOUG	BBALL OFFICAL 011216	105.00
MONROE, JACKIE	JR CLASS BOUGHT CANDY	99.70
NAHNSEN, JOHN	BBALL OFFICAL	105.00
PATTEN, LARRY	BBALL OFFICAL 122215	105.00
PEPSI COLA COMPANY	POP	394.88
PERRY, DENNIS	BBALL OFFICAL 122215	60.00
PORTER,	WRESTLING OFFICAL 121515	100.00
ROCK PORT HIGH SCHOOL	WRESTLING ENTRY FEE	110.00
SHELDON, DUSTIN	JH BBALL OFFICAL	25.00
SHENANDOAH HIGH SCHOOL	WRESTLING ENTRY FEE	160.00
SHENANDOAH MEDICIAL CENTER	BODY FAT TESTING WRESTLING	90.00
SINNET, JEFF	BBALL OFFICAL 121115	105.00
SINNET, PAUL	BBALL OFFICAL 121115	105.00
SORENSEN, JON	BBALL OFFICAL 121815	105.00
STANBROUGH, JASON	BBALL OFFICAL 011216	105.00
TAYLOR, BRYCE	BBALL OFFICAL	105.00
WHITEHEAD, CAMERON	JH BBALL OFFICAL	40.00
WIEGEL, SHANE	BBALL OFFICAL 011216	105.00
WILLIAMS, JUSTIN	BBALL OFFICAL 010516	160.00

8,338.98

8,338.98

Checking 4

AEA267	MACBOOK REPAIRS	230.60
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230.60

Checking 4

ALCOVE CONTRACTING SERVICES,	ELM GYM REPAIRS	6,200.00
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6,200.00

Checking 4

JMC COMPUTER SERVICE	MESSAGE CENTER SOFTWARE	586.50
MALCOM ELECTRIC	PARKING LOT LIGHT	625.03
MONROE ENTERPRISES	HOT WATER PUMP	1,104.00

2,315.53

8,746.13

Vendor ID: BMOHARRIS Vendor Name: BMO HARRIS MASTERCARD

Entry Date	GL Month	Status	Invoice Number	Purchase Order Number	Requisition Numbers	Checking Account ID	Check Number	Check Date	Posted	Void
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 - LARSEN			3		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 21 0000 1000 910 8016 618										
Description: SAMS - POP										
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 CLAYTON			1		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 10 3000 2410 000 0000 531										
Description: UPS - POSTAGE										
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 ELM OFFI			1		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 10 0000 1000 100 1112 618										
Description: AMAZON - ELL SUPPLIES										
COA Number: 10 1900 1000 100 0000 618										
Description: PETSMART - 5TH GRADE SCIENCE SUPPLIES										
COA Number: 10 1900 1000 100 0000 618										
Description: USI LAMINATING - LAMINATING SUPPLIES										
COA Number: 10 1900 1000 100 0000 618										
Description: WALMART - 5TH GRADE SCIENCE SUPPLIES										
COA Number: 10 1900 1000 217 3303 618										
Description: AMAZON - SPED 3 SUPPLIES										
COA Number: 10 1900 1000 217 3303 618										
Description: AMAZON - SPED 3 SUPPLIES										
COA Number: 10 1900 2410 000 0000 531										
Description: USPS - POSTAGE										
494.21										
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 ELM OFFI			3		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 21 0000 1000 910 8015 618										
Description: SHIRTSWORKS - WRESTLING CHEER										
320.00										
320.00										
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 HUNTINGT			1		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 10 0000 1000 320 4531 652										
Description: MITER SAW AND STAND - PERKINS GRANT										
802.99										
802.99										
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 MAHER			1		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 10 0000 1000 100 0000 565										
Description: IWCC - 2015 FALL SEMESER COLLEGE CLASSES										
13,916.00										
917.80										
Description: RIEMAN - SUPPLIES & REPAIRS										
77.30										
Description: INTEREST										
4.54										
Description: USPS - POSTAGE										
14.96										
Description: APPLEBEES - ISFLC MTG										
14.71										
Description: OKOBOJI GRILL - ISFLC MTG										
248.56										
Description: PRAIRIE MEADOWS HOTEL - ISFLC MTG										
426.58										
Description: CAPITAL SANITARY - CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES										
400.94										
Description: MEYER LAB - SUPPLIES										
514.55										
Description: NEBRASKA SCIENTIFIC - SCIENCE SUPPLIES										
16,535.94										
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 SECO OFF			1		01/19/2016	P	
COA Number: 10 3000 1000 100 0000 618										
Description: AMAZON - HS ENGLISH BOOKS										
248.75										
COA Number: 10 3000 1000 100 0000 618										
Description: QUILL - PAPER										
572.20										
COA Number: 10 3000 1000 211 3301 618										
Description: AMAZON - SPED 1 WORKBOOK										
15.62										

Vendor ID: BMOHARRIS Vendor Name: BMO HARRIS MASTERCARD

Entry Date	GL Month	Status	Invoice Number	Purchase Order Number	Requisition Numbers	Checking Account ID	Check Number	Check Date	Posted	Void	
COA Number:	10 3000	2231	100 0000 618		PAYPAL - JR MUSIC	13.50					
COA Number:	10 3000	2410	000 0000 531		USPS - POSTAGE	7.65					
COA Number:	10 3000	2410	000 0000 618		AMAZON - OFFICE SUPPLIES	21.95					
COA Number:	10 3000	2410	000 0000 618		QUILL - OFFICE SUPPLIES	54.70					
						<u>934.37</u>					
01/19/2016	01/2016	INV	010816 SECO OFF				3	01/19/2016		P	
COA Number:	21 0000	1000	910 8010 618		USPS - JR CLASS	7.64					
COA Number:	21 0000	1000	910 8010 618		WALMART - JR CLASS	160.92					
COA Number:	21 0000	1000	950 7006 618		WALMART - HS STUDENT COUNCIL	103.88					
COA Number:	21 0000	1000	950 7007 618		TARGET - JH STUDENT COUNCIL	42.96					
						<u>315.40</u>					
							Total:		INV		
									INV		
											19,726.17

State Aid



Iowa Department of Education



Payments to Department of Education Subrecipients

To change the display, select a different Sort by, Funding, Fiscal Year, or Warrant Issued Date and click the 'GO' button.

Sort by: Date then Funding ▾	Select Funding: All ▾	Select Fiscal Year: All ▾	Warrants issued between 1/14/2016 and 1/14/2016	Go	EXIT
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Sidney Comm School District-00002131478					
Warrant Date	Fiscal Year	Funding	Comment	Uniform Financial Accounting Source Code	Amount
1/14/2016	2016	School Foundation Aid	State Aid	Various	\$174,635.00
TOTAL					\$174,635.00

Please contact [Brad Albers](#) or [Jeff Berger](#) with questions regarding deposits on this website.

If your deposit is not displayed on this website, it was not a disbursement by the Department of Education. Contact the Department of Administrative Services for more information.



Iowa Department of Education



Payments to Department of Education Subrecipients

To change the display, select a different Sort by, Funding, Fiscal Year, or Warrant Issued Date and click the 'GO' button.

Sort by: Date then Funding ▾	Select Funding: All ▾	Select Fiscal Year: All ▾	Warrants issued between 12/21/2015 and 12/21/2015	Go	EXIT
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Sidney Comm School District-00002131478					
Warrant Date	Fiscal Year	Funding	Comment	Uniform Financial Accounting Source Code	Amount
12/21/2015	2016	F&N - Breakfast Program	SNBRK	4552	\$2,153.88
12/21/2015	2016	Food And Nutrition-Program	PERF04	4553	\$291.36
12/21/2015	2016	Food And Nutrition-Program	SCT04	4553	\$1,408.24
12/21/2015	2016	Food And Nutrition-Program	SCT11	4553	\$6,532.42
TOTAL					\$10,385.90

Please contact [Brad Albers](#) or [Jeff Berger](#) with questions regarding deposits on this website.

If your deposit is not displayed on this website, it was not a disbursement by the Department of Education. Contact the Department of Administrative Services for more information.

Nutrition

MONTH OF December-2015

Monthly Financial Statement

Sidney Community Schools
Hot Lunch Fund

Beginning Cash Balance ----- \$20,284.94

<u>INCOME</u>		
Student Lunches and Breakfasts	\$ 4,348.90	
Adult Lunches and Breakfasts	\$406.85	
Federal & State Reimbursement	\$10,385.90	
Interest	\$0.20	
Ala Carte - Milk	\$89.25	
Ala Carte	\$1,144.30	
Rebates	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,375.40	
TOTAL AVAILABLE		\$36,660.34

<u>CASH EXPENDITURES</u>		
Food	\$4,264.41	
Milk	\$1,684.22	
Commodities	\$0.00	
Soap & Consumable Supplies	\$1,398.50	
Equipment and Repair	\$0.00	
Salaries	\$6,615.62	
Other	\$0.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$13,962.75

End of Month Balance ----- \$22,697.59

**\$15,000 loan from Gen

BALANCE SHEET

December-2015 December-2014

December-2014

GENERAL FUND:

CASH ACCOUNT

BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	49,608.75	
INTEREST	11.72	
RECEIPTS	1,279.64	
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	400,000.00	
ACCTS PAYABLE	(73,982.29)	
PAYROLL	(327,950.06)	
AEA FLOWTHRU	0.00	
BALANCE END OF MONTH	<u>48,967.76</u>	19,225.76

ISJIT INVESTMENT	194,367.17	
INTEREST	0.91	
RECEIPTS	270,860.75	
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	(195,703.17)	
BALANCE END OF MONTH	<u>269,525.66</u>	315,832.20

CASH BOX	50.00	50.00
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SAVINGS

BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	528,708.68	
INTEREST	74.44	
RECEIPTS	212,663.00	
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	(412,638.31)	
BALANCE END OF MONTH	<u>328,807.81</u>	386,351.57

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	647,351.23	721,459.53
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LUNCH FUND:

CASH ACCOUNT

BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	20,284.94	
INTEREST	0.20	
RECEIPTS	23,081.17	
PAYROLL TO GENERAL FUND	(6,615.62)	
ACCTS PAYABLE	(14,053.10)	
BALANCE END OF THE MONTH	<u>22,697.59</u>	
<u>CASH ON HAND</u>	0.00	
TOTAL LUNCH FUND	22,697.59	18,272.36

ACTIVITY FUND:

CASH ACCOUNT

BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	5,130.18	
INTEREST	0.10	
RECEIPTS	21,921.45	
FROM CASH ON HAND	0.00	
ACCTS PAYABLE	(21,388.53)	
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	0.00	
	<u>5,663.20</u>	5,000.06
<u>CASH ON HAND</u>	750.00	750.00

INVESTMENTS

BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	61,405.72	
INTEREST	5.42	
RECEIPTS	15,101.63	
FROM CASH ON HAND	0.00	
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	(20,785.80)	
BALANCE END OF MONTH	<u>55,726.97</u>	40,193.08
TOTAL ACTIVITY FUND	62,140.17	45,943.14

SCHOOLHOUSE FUNDS

CASH ACCOUNT

	MANG-22	PEEL-36	LOSST-33	(DEBT SERVICE - 40) BONDS	QZAB
BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	0.00	0.00	5,000.07	0.00	0.00
INTEREST	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00
RECEIPTS	2,705.95	1,014.68	5,201.40	0.00	0.00
ACCTS PAYABLE	(870.95)	(1,014.68)	(5,201.47)	0.00	0.00
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>1,835.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,000.08</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

INVESTMENTS

BALANCE FIRST OF MONTH	137,743.10	44,820.97	255,203.91	113,467.33	0.00
INTEREST	29.24	9.36	58.11	0.00	0.00
RECEIPTS	773.93	333.92	23,926.09	1,681.58	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	(5,335.00)	0.00
INTERFUND TRANSFERS(DEBT)	0.00	(1,014.68)	0.00	0.00	0.00
WITHDRAWALS OR TRANSFERS	(679.95)	0.00	(5,201.40)	0.00	0.00
BALANCE END OF MONTH	<u>137,866.32</u>	<u>44,149.57</u>	<u>273,986.71</u>	<u>109,813.91</u>	<u>0.00</u>

TOTAL SCHOOLHOUSE FUNDS	139,701.32	44,149.57	278,986.79	109,813.91	0.00
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December-2014	103,680.45	24,917.39	327,213.28	135,712.75	0.00
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GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	1,304,840.58				
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December-2014	1,377,198.90		572,651.59		
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Audience

Code No. 505.7

COMMENCEMENT

Students who have met the requirements for graduation will be allowed to participate in the commencement proceedings provided they abide by the proceedings organized by the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the principal to solicit input from each graduating class regarding the proceedings for their commencement.

Students who have not met the requirements for graduation will not be allowed to participate in the commencement proceedings. The students will be encouraged to finish the requirements for graduation here in Sidney High School. Other options, which are in the best interests of the student, may be explored.

Failure of a student to participate in commencement will not be a reason for withholding the student's final progress report or diploma certifying the student's completion of high school.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.3, .14 (1995).
281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7); .5.

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement

Approved 4/8/96

Reviewed 1/11/99
1/21/08
1/21/13

Revised 2/8/99

JH/HS Principal Report

SIDNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS "We hold tomorrow in our hands."

Board of Directors

Heidi Lowthorp – President
Alisha Ettleman – Vice-President
Erika Graham
Bradley Johnson
Larry Holt
Janet Lemrick – Board Secretary
Jennifer Maher – Board Treasurer

Gregg Cruickshank
Superintendent
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January Board of Directors Report 2016

Conference Expansion: On January 20th there was a meeting in Griswold concerning Corner Conference expansion Article and meeting minutes attached.

Finals, and semester report cards.

A review of the Scary Guy, presentation.

Weekly Junior High Study Hall: Students who are failing will be kept after school Tuesday – Thursday. Accommodation aimed at encouraging students to get their work turned in on a timely basis and provide help to those who are struggling.

Recognition

Southwest Iowa Honor Choir, Performed at Iowa Western
Autumn Graham
Jake Smith
Dakota Lang
Cary Lang
Jared Crom
Genna Crom

KMA recognized Lexy Larsen as the player of the game for the Sidney vs Fremont Mills game.

Girls Basketball made the finals of the Corner Conference Basketball Tournament.

Small SWI schools explore realignment

Kevin White,

kevin.white@nonpareilonline.com | Posted: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 11:00 pm

GRISWOLD – Declining enrollments in rural Iowa classrooms have forced school officials into protect-and-preserve mode. Another example came Wednesday.

Representatives from 15 western Iowa school districts gathered at the Griswold Community Building to discuss the benefits of conference realignment.

Fremont-Mills principal and activities director Jeremy Christiansen has been at the forefront of the movement. He spearheaded a nearly two-hour discussion with a variety of school administrators, board members, community members and activities directors from four leagues.

“My goal for Fremont-Mills is to continue to be progressive, and give us a stable environment – activities, educationally, athletically,” he said. “You’ve got to think of your situation before you think of others’. I thought it went well. Today was very informational. Nothing set in stone by any means. But I think it sparked some conversation and some thoughts.”

Christiansen’s theme of the discussion was, “What is your ‘Why?’” He acknowledged that every school district’s situation is unique, and that variables like finances, geography, athletic competitiveness and academic sharing, among others, could influence a school’s level of interest and desire to move forward. But with the continued closings and shared arrangements of school districts, Christiansen believes it’s important to remain proactive.

Wednesday’s discussion centered on the potential formation of a new conference. However, the expansion of a current league also could be a possibility. Representatives from the Corner, Western Iowa, Pride of Iowa and Rolling Valley conferences were present. Schools invited were those with either declining enrollment or enrollment that’s stagnant in a league where others’ numbers are rising.

Griswold principal T.J. Dunphy has volunteered to join Christiansen in visiting other communities to discuss potential realignment. While there’s been no formal vote, Dunphy “would definitely say there’s a strong interest” at his school in pursuing a league with like-minded members.

In the most recent enrollment numbers used for girls basketball classification, Griswold was the ninth-largest school in the 10-team Western Iowa Conference. Among the 17 schools invited to Wednesday’s meeting (East Mills and Clarinda Academy did not attend), Griswold’s three-grade enrollment is second-largest at 136.

Dunphy said Griswold has always enjoyed a good relationship with the WIC, but a look at a potential

new home is “just what’s best for Griswold right now.”

From Council Bluffs, Heartland Christian elementary principal Justin Steinmetz and activities director Larry Gray attended the meeting. Steinmetz, who also coaches football and track, said the school’s elementary enrollment numbers are on the rise and that the school enjoys its affiliation with the Corner Conference. It’s important, he added, to be aware of the concerns that affect all small schools.

Christiansen retrieved numbers from 14 of the invited schools to project their future enrollments using current seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders. Ten of the 14 schools had projected figures in a relatively tight window between 89 to 113 students.

If enough schools are interested in forming a new league, it is unclear when operations for that league would begin. Christiansen said 2017-18 “would be great if we can make it happen.” It is also possible that if a group of charter members forms a new league in 2017-18, others would be invited to join in future years.

The next step is for school representatives to return and gauge interest in their districts and communities. One of the challenges for schools is trying to make a decision without knowing the decisions of similar-sized schools in their areas.

Christiansen asked the schools to respond to him via email by March 31, stating either that they are in – pending whatever stipulations satisfy them – or out. After that, more meetings will be scheduled involving those who are still interested.

Note:

Schools represented at Wednesday’s meeting in Griswold: Audubon, Bedford, CAM, Coon Rapids-Bayard, Exira-EHK, Essex, Fremont-Mills, Griswold, Heartland Christian, Lenox, Riverside, Sidney, South Page, Southwest Valley, Stanton.

Joining Conference Meeting
At Griswold Community Building
January 20, 2016

Agenda - Presentation

1. Attendance - South Page, FM, Griswold, SWV, Heartland Christian, Sidney, Essex, Lenox, Bedford, Coon Rapids-Bayard, Riverside, Audubon, CAM, Exira-EK, Stanton,
 - a. Principals, AD, Superintendents, Community Members, Board members,
2. Enrollment are changing from current high school students to upcoming high school students in 3 year.
3. Common Calendar or dates - could share cost for the PD with bringing in trainers.
 - a. Content area teachers could share ideas
4. Operational Sharing - helps generate the funding for schools without moving teachers or students.
 - a. Questions - Have the Corner School met their Cap of 21 students for all schools
5. Next steps -
 - a. Meeting within districts with the admin team and community
 - b. District meetings with the coaches, parents, board, Community
6. Questions
 - a. What is the starting point for conference?
 - i. Thinking 2017 possible - if we can make it happen
 - b. State says need to be approved - by April 1, 2016 for the 17-18 school year.
 - c. What if not everyone is interested? That's okay.
 - d. IF 10-12 schools decide to go forward with - Would the conference have to approve to allow other schools into conference? Vote through the conference.
 - e. Have their been thoughts about staying at the Corner Conference and adding to current? - Yes we have thought and would be okay to stay.
 - f. Wrestling - No one follows a conference schedule for wrestling except for conference tournament. Pride has some dual dates but not just scheduled by the conference.
 - g. Jr. High and JV Activities - Easier to schedule with a conference but not always can it be done.
 - i. How many districts can do JH, Fres, JV, V levels?
 - ii. Pride of Iowa - can mostly do JV and Varsity games same nights.
 - iii. Some games are full and some are ½ games depends on school and their numbers.
 - h. Board members may want to have an assurance of what the conference is going to look like? What can we do to make this happen for them?
 - i. Is there a set number of schools that were going forward?
 - j. Is there a number that we would make a division for the conference?
 - i. 12-14 schools would be a good division.
 - k. Could you have sister conference for scheduling to help with transportation?
 - i. Would be possible or a super conference?

Superintendent Report

In a press conference Tuesday, Gov. Branstad announced his proposal to extend the sunset of the state penny for school infrastructure, the SAVE program, from its current sunset scheduled for Dec. 31, 2029, an additional 20 years through 2049. The proposal dedicates the first \$10 million of growth in the state penny sales tax revenue to the SAVE fund for school infrastructure. In today's dollars, that is the equivalent of about 2.1% revenue growth compared to the REC growth estimate of 3.1% for FY 2016. Any additional growth would be diverted as a dedicated funding source for water quality. We estimate little if any funding available for water quality in FY 2017 due to the Department of Revenue changes to the definition of business sales tax exemptions, effective July 1, 2016, negatively impacting FY 2017 revenue growth. Coverage of reactions in the Des Moines Register is found [here](#).

Analysis of this proposal breaks down into two time periods:

- Through 2029, when current law requires sunset of the penny, this proposal diverts growth to water quality that would otherwise go to schools. If sales tax revenues grow an average 3% through that period, the cumulative amount of diversion would exceed \$400 million.
- From 2029 through 2049, when current law provides no revenue for the SAVE fund, this proposal would provide over \$13 Billion in new revenue for school infrastructure, technology, buses and property tax relief, including a longer bonding period that schools can access to invest in school construction.
- [Here's a link](#) to an estimate of the impact that Larry put together – allowing you to select the sales tax revenue growth rate. This is just an initial estimate. Impact on school funding will depend on specific details that are not yet clear, such as what happens if revenues actually decline? What estimate of revenue growth is used throughout the duration of the extension? What happens to enrollment, since the funds are distributed to schools per pupil? This estimate does not assume any future legislative action to either expand or contract the sales tax base. For example, applying sales tax to services would increase revenues and further exemptions for any purpose (such as the recent Department of Revenue definition changes impacting business exemptions) would lower revenues.

Several education organizations support repeal of the sunset, or at a minimum, extending the state penny so schools can continue to access longer term bonding capacity without having to turn to property taxes for school infrastructure, equipment and bus purchases. Although there are differences of opinion on whether a diversion or sharing of the revenue is necessary politically in order to get the penny extended, we find this a great opportunity for school leaders to continue the dialogue on the need for extending the penny:

- Thank the Senate for passing a bi-partisan bill last year. [SF 477](#) was approved by the full Senate, 37 to 13, during the 2015 Session. The bill would extend the State Penny Sunset until Dec. 31, 2049. The bill was assigned directly to the House Ways and Means Committee, bypassing any consideration by the House Education Committee. Talk to House Ways and Means Committee members to generate support for that bill.

- Thank the Governor for recognizing the need for at least 20 more years of the sales tax to support school infrastructure, equipment and property tax relief.
- Express concern about the significant diversion of state penny resources in the Governor's proposal, especially given low levels of funding and the veto of \$55 million last summer. Look forward to further efforts to find a consensus solution that meets the needs of public school infrastructure, technology, equipment and buses long into the future, beyond 2029.

Don't hesitate to contact us at ISFIS with additional questions,

margaret.buckton@isfis.net

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MORE MIDLANDS NEWS

IOWA

Branstad promotes water quality plan that would tap school tax

He says sharing sales tax revenue could derail a lawsuit that threatens to 'tear the state apart'

By DAVID HENDEE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A looming battle between rural Iowa and Des Moines could be avoided if the Iowa Legislature approves a plan that would tap a slice of existing sales tax revenue for water quality programs, Gov. Terry Branstad said Thursday.

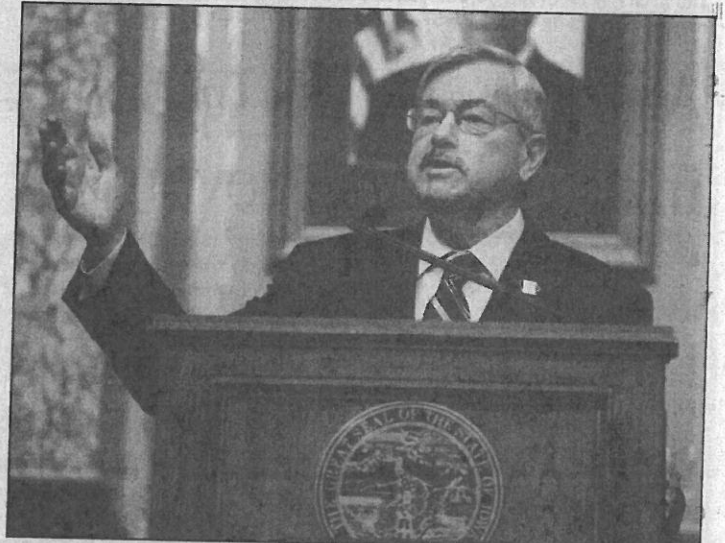
The governor touted his proposal to share sales tax funding that now is directed only at improving school infrastructure. He said that could derail a lawsuit in the Iowa Supreme Court that threatens to create unnecessary fault lines between urban and rural Iowans.

"That's not healthy for our state. It would tear the state apart," Branstad said during a meeting with The World-Herald editorial board.

Among the water quality issues facing Iowa is a Des Moines Water Works lawsuit seeking damages from drainage districts in three northern counties for nitrate-laden drinking water. The lawsuit, filed nearly a year ago, alleges that drainage districts in Sac, Buena Vista and Calhoun Counties are conduits that enable high levels of nitrates to move from farm fields into the Raccoon River. The river is one of two sources of drinking water for 500,000 Des Moines-area residents.

Branstad said he hoped that providing more funding for his science-based strategy to reduce nitrates and other crop nutrients from polluting water would demonstrate that there is no need for the lawsuit.

The governor's proposal, announced last week, involves extending the penny sales tax for school infrastructure 20



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Terry Branstad delivers his Condition of the State address Tuesday. Branstad said Thursday of his water quality plan: "This is probably the biggest and boldest of any initiative I've ever proposed."

years beyond its 2029 expiration date. Iowa schools have received more than \$3.2 billion for infrastructure since 2008.

Under the proposal, schools would be guaranteed a \$10 million annual increase as sales tax revenues climb. The \$468 million projected for fiscal year 2017 would climb to \$788 million in 2049. It would provide \$20.7 billion total for schools.

Branstad said the 20-year extension would give school districts critically needed funding for building projects and would provide property taxpayers more confidence that their taxes will not be increased to meet education building needs.

Using the remaining sales tax growth for water programs would provide an estimated \$4.7 billion during the period, the governor said.

The money would support programs to reduce pollution coming from farm fields, feedlots and communities without sewers. The state launched an initiative in 2013 to achieve a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorous losses to waters, but it is not adequately funded. Branstad said

"This is probably the biggest and boldest of any initiative I've ever proposed, because it's far-reaching and addresses two big issues: school infrastructure and water quality," Branstad said. "And it does it without raising taxes. It just extends the existing sales tax."

The Iowa School Board Association has noted that the proposal would result in a potential loss of \$400 million in revenue for school districts through fiscal 2029. Association officials say they will work with the governor and legislative leaders to craft a proposal that best meets the needs public schools. The association represents 336 school districts.

Branstad said he understands that schools would prefer not to share the tax revenue. He said he is open to refining the proposal to improve it. The governor is organizing a coalition of schools superintendents, agricultural organizations, business groups, municipalities and others to persuade the Legislature to approve the plan.

Contact the writer:



Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Update on Assessment

1 message

Wise, Ryan [IDOE] <Ryan.Wise@iowa.gov>

Mon, Jan 11, 2016 at 5:11 PM

Dear Superintendents,

I'm writing with an important update on Iowa's work to put in place a new state assessment in math and reading.

The administrative rules proposed by the State Board of Education (IAC 281.12) to implement the Smarter Balanced Assessments beginning in 2017 were put on hold this past Friday, when the proposed rules came up for a second review before the Legislature's Administrative Rules Review Committee. These reviews are a required part of administrative rules adoption.

After raising questions about the State Board's legal authority to adopt a state accountability assessment, the committee voted unanimously in favor of a session delay on the proposed rules. A session delay means that the effective date of the rules implementing the Smarter Balanced Assessments will be delayed until the end of the 2016 legislative session, unless legislators take action on assessment during the session.

Putting in place a state assessment that accurately measures how students are progressing toward our state standards is a critical part of our work to prepare Iowa students for success in college and in the workforce. And according to Iowa Code, a new assessment must be in place in schools by the 2016-17 school year.

I'm deeply grateful to members of the Assessment Task Force and to State Board members, who invested a combined two years into a thoughtful, fair process to select a new assessment.

I will continue to keep you informed of developments on this issue. Thanks for all you do for Iowa's learners.

Sincerely,

Ryan

Ryan Wise, Ed.L.D.
Director
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes Office Building, 2nd Floor
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
Office: (515) 281-3436

Branstad warned of education 'disaster' without funding



Mackenzie Ryan, mryan@dmreg.com 6:47 a.m. CST January 22, 2016



(Photo: Mackenzie Ryan / The Des Moines Register)

Iowa education leaders warned Gov. Terry Branstad Thursday that failing to fund a mandated summer reading program would create a "disaster" in 2017, when the state will begin holding back third-graders who are poor readers.

As many as 8,000 Iowa third-graders are expected to be substantially deficient in reading in May 2017, when the law takes effect, and could be forced to repeat the grade.

The law, part of the state's [education reform initiatives](#) ([/story/news/education/2015/04/20/iowa-education-reform/26100329/](#)), will allow those students to progress to fourth grade if they attend a high-quality summer reading program — if those programs exist.

The Department of Education requested \$9 million for school districts to fund the programs, but Branstad did not include any money for them in his budget proposal.

In Des Moines, hundreds of students could be forced to repeat third grade, said Rob Barron, chair of the Des Moines School Board.

"Reform without resources is ultimately a failure," he said. "And we can't fail these students."

District leaders also fear the law could turn into an "unfunded mandate," forcing districts to cut already lean budgets to pay for the program.

"I think that appropriate funding is absolutely going to be required," said Ralph Johanson, president of the Davenport School Board. "Without it, we are going to be holding kids back, there's no question."

Branstad said he plans to ask state lawmakers at the beginning of the 2017 session for the money, and later he told the media that the funding was never intended to be available until that summer.

In addition, Branstad said he's working to raise about \$1 million in private donations to serve as a stop-gap measure to fund several pilot programs this summer.

"This shows a strong, good-faith effort to do it, even if we don't have state dollars," he said.

'Impending disaster'

Iowa Board of Education members warned that while they're committed to the reform initiative, the lack of funding could be a "disaster."

"We're concerned about the impending disaster that's going to occur in May of 2017," state board member Mike May said. "It's going to be one that we're all going to be blamed for."

The law is intended to help struggling readers during a critical year, where students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Some studies show third-graders who struggle in reading are more likely to drop out of high school.

And by May of 2017, every Iowa school district is required to provide a researched-based summer program for any third-grader substantially behind in reading. Although, schools may request a one-time delay of implementing the program.

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Board member Mary Ellen Miller suggested delaying the law's implementation, which would give time for the economy to rebound and funding to be found.

"I don't have a lot of optimism for this next year, frankly, in terms of economic improvement," she said.

But Branstad said that was premature. "If we get to 2017 and the economy's gotten worse and we don't have it, then your point is a good one," he said. "But I don't think that's a decision to be made this year."

Living within means

Branstad defended his proposed budget, saying he wants state lawmakers to live within their means and not approve a budget just "to get through the election."

"I'm just trying to find a way to do something that's sustainable and doesn't dig us into a big hole, like we saw in the previous administration that led to across-the-board cuts," he said.

Branstad cited the avian flu, as well as the low corn and soybean prices and the stock market downturn, among factors that affected Iowa's economy and his budget.

And he noted his recommended 2.45 percent increase of state aid for schools, which he called "a significant amount of additional funds in a very difficult economic time."

In addition, there's \$53 million to continue to roll out the state's teacher leadership program. It pays for instructional coaches in Iowa schools and is a hallmark of the governor's education reform initiatives.

In explaining his decision-making, Branstad said he wanted to prevent a drawn-out fight over school funding, which dragged into the summer last year.

"I had a lot of sleepless nights trying to figure out how to do this," Branstad said.



Gov. Terry Branstad sits with The Des Moines Register editorial board to outline his legislative agenda and answer questions about his initiatives in office.

State of Iowa schools

The Iowa Department of Education released its annual Condition of Education report on Thursday, which offers a comprehensive look at the state's schools, from academics to college readiness to staffing trends.

- **Enrollment:** Almost 481,000 students are now in Iowa's public schools.
- **Diversity:** About 22 percent of students are now Hispanic, black or other minority groups.
- **Class size:** Second-grade class sizes reached a 15-year high, averaging slightly more than 21 students per class.
- **Academics:** Fourth-graders showed improvements on reading tests, with about 76 percent on grade level.
- **Graduation:** More students are graduating high school, just more than 90 percent of the Class of 2014.

- **After graduation:** About 80 percent of graduates intend to pursue college or career training after high school, down slightly from 82 percent in 2010.
- **Salaries:** Teacher pay increased an average of 2.7 percent to \$55,356, while superintendent salaries grew an average of 5 percent, to \$138,485.

The full report can be found on the department's [website \(http://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2015ConditionOfEducation.pdf\)](http://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2015ConditionOfEducation.pdf).
(<https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2015ConditionOfEducation.pdf>)



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It's a myth that schools are getting worse

David Wilkerson 6:38 p.m. CST January 11, 2016



(Photo: Special to the Register)

As we enter the 2016 Iowa legislative session, it's time to face the facts, not perpetuate myths. One particular myth has been repeated and manipulated to meet the political needs of those spreading it. That myth is "We keep throwing more money at public education and we keep getting poorer results." Sometimes when you repeat something enough, people begin to assume it's really true. *Here is what is really true about public education achievement levels and state funding for education in Iowa.*

A higher percentage of Iowa students now take the ACT test than at any point in our history. Iowa's average 2015 ACT composite score of 22.2 ranks third in the country. The national average composite score was 21.0.

Iowa leads the nation in providing opportunities for high school students to get a jump start on their college education during high school. Iowa leads the country in the percentage of students under age 18 enrolled in community colleges via high school programs. The number of high school students enrolled in community colleges rose to a record high of 42,996 in fiscal year 2014. Year-to-year growth was 6.8 percent.

The number of schools in Iowa offering Advanced Placement opportunities and the number of Iowa students taking AP exams has increased substantially since 2001. In 2001 5,995 exams were taken by Iowa students. In 2014 that number was 18,860. Despite the increase in the number of exams, student performance remains high. In 2014, the percentage of exams with a score of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale was 62.7 percent. Nationally, students earning a score of 3 or higher is 58.7 percent. A score of 3 can earn the student college credit in the course.

Iowa's fourth-grade National Assessment of Educational Progress math test scale score in 1992 was 230. In 2013 it was 246. Our results in reading are flat in that same time frame at 225 and 224, but they have not gotten "worse." While Iowa has not shown the growth in NAEP tests over that time frame that other states have shown, a great deal of that could be attributed to the fact that we did not set any state standards back when other states were doing so. We were late to the standards movement.

During the 2013-14 school year, the state conducted a pilot of the Program for International Student Assessment test in six high schools across the state. This test is widely considered the standard for international comparisons of high school achievement. Those schools would have finished between fourth and sixth in the international standings of the 65 industrialized nations that administer the test.

Iowa continues to lead the nation in high school graduation rates. Data show that 90.5 percent of Iowa's seniors graduate from high school compared with an 82.3 percent national average. By the way, in 1960, the nation's graduation rate was barely 73 percent.



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Iowa is much more inclusive and much more diverse than it was in previous decades. Our poverty rate has increased. Our minority population has increased. We now educate more than 28,000 English Language Learners; in 1995 that number was 4,849. That population of students alone is doubling every 10 years.

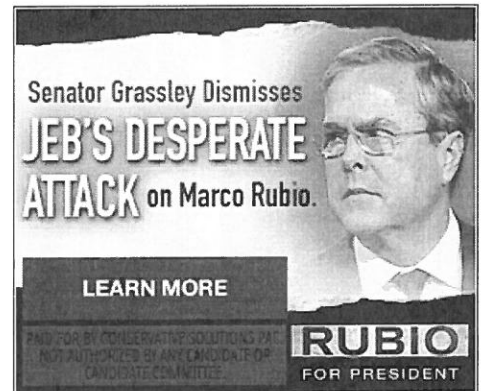
Yet in spite of these successes, school funding in Iowa, according to a U.S. News & World Report article published in December 2015, is only .04 percent higher than it was in 2008 when adjusted for inflation. The consequences of inadequate funding won't be seen this year, or next. The impact will be seen over a 10-year period, and by then it is too late, because Johnny only gets one shot at the learning he should have gotten in second grade.

Schools continue to be looked to as the panacea for all of society's ills (bullying, obesity, etc.), in addition to our core mission of education. As the legislature begins the difficult conversations around state aid to schools, schools aren't asking for exorbitant pie-in-the-sky funding levels. We're simply asking our legislators to make education a priority again and to fund education at a level commensurate with the valuable investment it is.

Education is as important as increased gas taxes and decreased commercial property taxes. And please, stop perpetuating the myth that Iowa's schools are getting worse. We ask more of students today than at any point in our history. Students *and* teachers are performing at high levels. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to the service of our students. We ask our legislators to do the same.

David J. Wilkerson is superintendent of Waukee Community Schools. Contact: dwickerson@waukeeschools.org

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[Jeb Bush gets a call on his Apple Watch during Des Moines Register editorial board meeting](#)

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23:45

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MORE STORIES

Iowa schools: Are they better or worse off?



Mackenzie Ryan, mryan@dmreg.com 6:31 a.m. CDT October 19, 2015



(Photo: File photo)

How do Iowa students today compare with those 20 years ago?

The Des Moines Register took a look, comparing school funding, academics and student demographics.

Academics

Fourth-grade reading

- **1992:** Fourth in nation

- **2013:** Eighth in nation**

Fourth-grade math

- **1992:** Second in nation
- **2013:** Fifth in nation

Eighth-grade math

- **1996:** First in nation
- **2013:** 10th in nation

Graduates pursuing post-secondary education or training

- **1996:** 72 percent
- **2014:** 81 percent

Dropouts in grades 7-12

- **1996-07:** 2 percent
- **2012-13:** 1.9 percent

Students

Public school enrollment

- **1993-94:** 497,000 students (non-public enrollment, 45,000 students)
- **2013-14:** 478,000 students (non-public enrollment, 32,000 students)

Minority public school students

- **1997-98:** 8.2 percent of students (Non-public schools, 4 percent)
- **2013-14:** 20 percent of students (Non-public schools, 13 percent)

Students learning English in public schools

- **1993-94:** 3,785, or 0.8 percent, of students
- **2014-15:** 26,990, or 5.3 percent, of students

Students receiving free or reduced lunch, an indicator of poverty, in public schools

- **1993:** 120,847, or 25.4 percent
- **2014-15:** 195,817, or 41 percent

School district size

- **1997-98:** 11 percent of students attended districts with fewer than 600 students; 54 percent attended districts with fewer than 2,500 students
- **2013-14:** 12 percent of students attended districts with fewer than 600 students; 49 percent attended districts with fewer than 2,500 students

Funding

Iowa public school appropriations

- **1993-94:** \$1.3 billion of state aid to school districts (\$2.2 billion in today's dollars*)
- **2013-14:** \$2.7 billion

Portion of the state's general fund

- **1993-94:** 37.8 percent
- **2013-14:** 41.9 percent

Per-pupil state public school cost

- **1994:** \$3,406 per student (\$5,617 per student in today's dollars)
- **2015-16:** \$6,446 per student

Per-pupil expenses

- **1993:** \$5,070 per student (\$8,361 per student in today's dollars)
- **2013:** \$10,313 per student

Average teacher salary

- **1993:** \$30,760, 32nd in nation (\$50,730 in today's dollars)
- **2013:** \$52,032, 25th in nation

DATABASE: Iowa school funding by district (<http://db.desmoinesregister.com/school-funding-data>)

**Inflation adjustments using the Consumer Price Index.*

***Rankings include multiple tied scores*

Sources: Iowa Department of Education compiled statistics; The Des Moines Register archives; U.S. Census Bureau; NAEP state average scale scores by grade and subject, rankings have multiple tied scores; Condition of Education reports from the Iowa Department of Education

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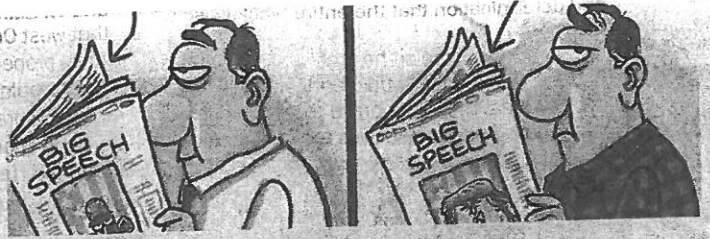
MORE ON SCHOOL FUNDING:

- [Advocates already gearing up for school funding fight \(/story/news/education/2015/10/19/advocates-already-gearing-up-school-funding-fight/73451546/\)](#)
- [School supporters pushing early for more funding \(/story/news/education/2015/10/18/school-lobbying-funding/73998598/\)](#)
- [School funding increases tied to specific programs \(/story/news/education/2015/10/18/school-earmarks/73998590/\)](#)
- [Schools face tough funding choices \(/story/news/education/2015/10/18/school-funding-decisions/73998226/\)](#)

the very top.”

The very ire that Obama and Haley want to contain is thus being fed by economic forces that progressives and social democrats around the world are having great difficulty taming or redirecting.

This frustration is aggra-



MIDLANDS VOICES

Public schools should not be viewed as the enemy

BY MIKE LUCAS

The writer is superintendent of the York Public Schools.

I've sat back over the last two years or so, watching and listening as public education took a beating from folks around our great state. I can't take it anymore.

I've seen and heard some organizations take cheap shots at us for spending and "under-delivering." Heck, even some of our elected officials in the State Capitol view public education as a burden.

As a career educator who didn't grow up in Nebraska but has been here since 2000, I have come to love and appreciate what our great public school system offers:

» Did you know that over 86 percent of Nebraska public high school students took the ACT in 2014? Their average composite score of 21.7 is the highest in the nation for states that had 80 percent or more of their students taking that college entrance exam.

» Did you know that Nebraska has one of the best high school graduation rates in the nation, with nearly 90 percent of our seniors graduating?

Now, we hear about how our spending is "out of control" and we're the culprit for obscenely high property taxes. Well, we have spending lids and tax levy lids that we are mandated to adhere to. Many of our districts absolutely do have an over-reliance on local property taxes — and you would have to think that one of the main reasons is that Nebraska ranks 49th in the nation for the percentage of its state budget that goes towards K-12 public education.

In 1998-99, 32 percent of the state's general fund was spent on K-12 educational aid. During this 2015-16 fiscal year, that has plummeted to 27.6 percent. It is projected to be even lower in 2016-17.

If K-12 aid made up the same percentage of the budget today as it did in 1999, the state's general fund support would be more than \$187 million higher than it is now.

Most states provide significantly more state aid to K-12 schools. In fact, Nebraska would have to increase state aid to K-12 education by more than \$700 million just to reach the national average.

Here in York, we've seen our state aid go from \$3.7 million a few years ago to \$1.56 million this year. We are projected to lose another \$1 million for 2016-17 and receive just \$560,000 in state aid. All the while, our total revenue, which includes state aid, federal monies, special education reimbursement, etc., has only increased by an annual average of just over 2 percent. We have to increase local property taxes just to make up for the huge losses in state aid.

Local school districts are very watchful of their spending. They have public board meetings every month where bills are discussed and approved.

Here in York, our spending is so "out of control" that it has grown by an average of 1.8 percent over the last six years. What other organizations, businesses or institutes can say the same?

Right at 33 percent of our spending increase has been for grant-funded programming

that we've added over the past size years for preschool, children living in poverty and before/after school programming. If we didn't have these student needs, we wouldn't have increased our spending.

We have lots of room for improvement in every public school district in this state. We will always be a "work in progress." It just sickens me that people who have never walked a step in the shoes of our dedicated teachers, support staff and administrators get to continually put us down.

Come visit a high-needs special education room and help care for severely disabled students who can't go to the bathroom on their own. Come visit a preschool or kindergarten room and help provide meaningful instruction for youngsters who haven't eaten since they left your classroom at 3:15 p.m. yesterday. Come deal with the mental health issues we have in our middle and high schools. Come deal with more and more unfunded mandates and school-accountability laws. We do it every day and love it — and can't wait to do it again tomorrow.

What services do our critics want us to cut? What are we providing for our students that is so out of line?

We'll hear an awful lot in this legislative session about how under-performing our state's public schools are. Folks will be pushing charter schools and vouchers, spending lids, and all kinds of measures that paint public education as the enemy.

We're not. Come visit us and see for yourselves.



Gregg Cruickshank <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Action Advocacy Workshops - Coming to a Town Near You

1 message

Iowa Association of School Boards <jhulen@ia-sb.org>
Reply-To: Iowa Association of School Boards <jhulen@ia-sb.org>
To: Gregg <gcruickshank@sidney.k12.ia.us>

Tue, Jan 12, 2016 at 2:32 PM

News from IASB Advocacy Team

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Advocacy Alert

Action Advocacy Workshops - [Register Now](#)

Good Afternoon,

IASB will be holding their action advocacy workshops over the next several weeks at various locations across the state. These **free** workshops will help school board members become better advocates, no matter their level of experience. We have designed two tracks; for rookie advocates and for more experienced advocates.

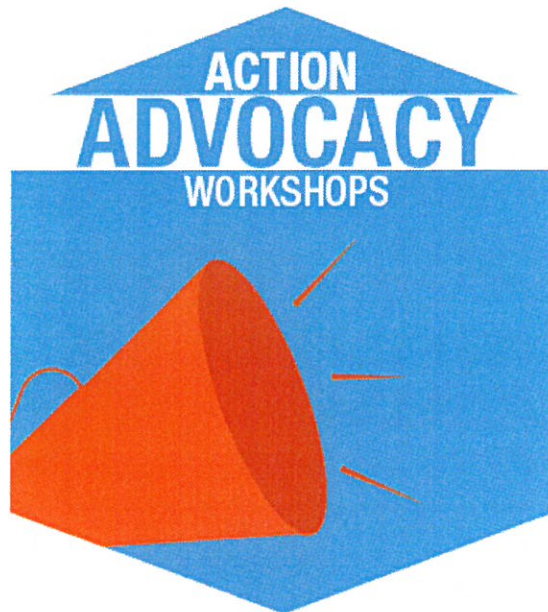
IASB lobbyist Emily Piper will give an up-to-date report about what is happening under the golden dome, as well as insight into other important issues before legislators. We have invited area legislators to attend these meetings and a number have stated their willingness to attend, as their schedules allow.

Below is a list of upcoming advocacy workshops and a link to [IASB's workshop registration page](#). [More information can be found here](#). We hope to see you there!

Dates:

- Jan. 13th – 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Sioux City**
 - Sioux City CSD Educational Service Center, 627 4th Street
- Jan. 14th – 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Waverly**
 - Waverly-Shell Rock Senior High School, 1405 4th Avenue SW
- Feb. 11th – 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Waukee**

- Waukee Community School
District Office, 560 SE
University Ave
- Feb. 17th – 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Council Bluffs
 - Thomas Jefferson High
School, 2501 W Broadway



[Register for your workshop now!](#)

For more information please contact:

Phil Jeneary, government relations director, Iowa Association of School Boards, pjeneary@ia-sb.org

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Discussion a

East Mills	Fremont-Mills	Sidney	Stanton	Essex	South Page	Nishnabotna
Spanish - Fremont-Mills	Spanish - East Mills	Spanish - Essex, Nishnabotna, Essex	Ag - Red Oak	Ag - Nishnabotna	K - 12 PE - Essex	Auto - Sidney and South Page
Librarian - Sidney	K - 12 Art - Sidney	K - 12 Art - Fremont-Mills	Ind. Arts - Red Oak	Librarian - Nishnabotna	Welding/CAD - Essex	Ag - Sidney and Essex
Nurse - Stanton and Essex	Ind Arts/CAD - Sidney	Ind Arts/CAD - Fremont-Mills	Art - South Page	K - 12 PE- South Page	Spanish - Sidney, Nishnabotna, Essex	Librarian-Essex
	Family Consumer Science - Sidney	Family Consumer Science - Fremont-Mills	Talented and Gifted - South Page, Essex	Spanish - Sidney, Nishnabotna, South Page	Auto - Nishnabotna, Sidney	Guidance - Essex
	Ag - Sidney	Ag - Fremont-Mills, Nishnabotna	Library - South Page	Ind Arts - South Page	Art - Stanton	Spanish - Sidney, South Page, Essex
	Nurse - Sidney	Nurse - Fremont-Mills	Nurse - East Mills	Nurse - East Mills	Talented and Gifted- Essex and Stanton	
		Auto - Nishnabotna, South Page		Talented and Gifted -South Page, Stanton	Library - Stanton	
					Family Consumer Science - West Nodaway, MO	

Discussion
b

SIDNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
\$3,300,000

DEBT SERVICE AND TAX LEVY REPORT

DATE	PRINCIPAL	COUPON	INTEREST	PERIOD TOTAL	FISCAL TOTAL	NET LEVY	MILL IMPACT	ASSESSED VALUATION
6/1/98	95,000.00	5.200000	166,495.68	261,495.68	261,495.68	261,495.68	3.138998	83,305,465.00
12/1/98			84,146.25	84,146.25				
6/1/99	100,000.00	5.200000	84,146.25	184,146.25	268,292.50	268,292.50	3.220587	83,305,465.00
12/1/99			81,546.25	81,546.25				
6/1/00	105,000.00	5.200000	81,546.25	186,546.25	268,092.50	268,092.50	3.218186	83,305,465.00
12/1/00			78,816.25	78,816.25				
6/1/01	110,000.00	5.250000	78,816.25	188,816.25	267,632.50	267,632.50	3.212664	83,305,465.00
12/1/01			75,928.75	75,928.75				
6/1/02	115,000.00	5.250000	75,928.75	190,928.75	266,857.50	266,857.50	3.203361	83,305,465.00
12/1/02			72,910.00	72,910.00				
6/1/03	120,000.00	5.250000	72,910.00	192,910.00	265,820.00	265,820.00	3.190907	83,305,465.00
12/1/03			69,760.00	69,760.00				
6/1/04	130,000.00	5.250000	69,760.00	199,760.00	269,520.00	269,520.00	3.235322	83,305,465.00
12/1/04			66,347.50	66,347.50				
6/1/05	135,000.00	5.250000	66,347.50	201,347.50	267,695.00	267,695.00	3.213415	83,305,465.00
12/1/05			62,803.75	62,803.75				
6/1/06	145,000.00	5.250000	62,803.75	207,803.75	270,607.50	270,607.50	3.248376	83,305,465.00
12/1/06			58,997.50	58,997.50				
6/1/07	150,000.00	5.250000	58,997.50	208,997.50	267,995.00	267,995.00	3.217016	83,305,465.00
12/1/07			55,060.00	55,060.00				
6/1/08	160,000.00	5.250000	55,060.00	215,060.00	270,120.00	270,120.00	3.242524	83,305,465.00
12/1/08			50,860.00	50,860.00				
6/1/09	170,000.00	5.250000	50,860.00	220,860.00	271,720.00	271,720.00	3.261731	83,305,465.00
12/1/09			46,397.50	46,397.50				
6/1/10	180,000.00	5.250000	46,397.50	226,397.50	272,795.00	272,795.00	3.274635	83,305,465.00
12/1/10			41,672.50	41,672.50				
6/1/11	190,000.00	5.250000	41,672.50	231,672.50	273,345.00	273,345.00	3.281237	83,305,465.00
12/1/11			36,685.00	36,685.00				
6/1/12	200,000.00	5.250000	36,685.00	236,685.00	273,370.00	273,370.00	3.281537	83,305,465.00
12/1/12			31,435.00	31,435.00				
6/1/13	215,000.00	5.250000	31,435.00	246,435.00	277,870.00	277,870.00	3.335555	83,305,465.00
12/1/13			25,791.25	25,791.25				
6/1/14	225,000.00	5.250000	25,791.25	250,791.25	276,582.50	276,582.50	3.320100	83,305,465.00
12/1/14			19,885.00	19,885.00				
6/1/15	240,000.00	5.250000	19,885.00	259,885.00	279,770.00	279,770.00	3.358363	83,305,465.00
12/1/15			13,585.00	13,585.00				
6/1/16	250,000.00	5.250000	13,585.00	263,585.00	277,170.00	277,170.00	3.327153	83,305,465.00
12/1/16			7,022.50	7,022.50				
6/1/17	265,000.00	5.300000	7,022.50	272,022.50	279,045.00	279,045.00	3.349660	83,305,465.00
ACCRUED	3,300,000.00		2,125,795.68	5,425,795.68	1,663,807.50	5,425,795.68		
	3,300,000.00		1,443.60	1,443.60				
			2,124,352.08	5,424,352.08				

5,342,740.10

305.50

Dated 6/15/97 with Delivery of 6/18/97

Bond Years 40,446.667

Average Coupon 5.255799

Average Life 12.256566

N I C % 5.337388 % Using 99.000000

Mill Impact Based on Taxable Valuation of: \$83,305,465.00 and a Levy Factor of: 100.000000 %

PREPARED BY: KIRKPATRICK, PETTIS OMAHA NE.

Filename: SIDNEY Key: 97

EXHIBIT 1

BOND DEBT SERVICE

Sidney Community School District, Iowa
 General Obligation School Refunding Bonds, Series 2011
 FINAL
 Non-Callable

Dated Date 02/28/2011
 Delivery Date 02/28/2011

Period Ending	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Debt Service	Annual Debt Service
06/01/2011			5,729.83	5,729.83	5,729.83
12/01/2011			11,090.00	11,090.00	
06/01/2012	235,000	0.800%	11,090.00	246,090.00	257,180.00
12/01/2012			10,150.00	10,150.00	
06/01/2013	245,000	1.050%	10,150.00	255,150.00	265,300.00
12/01/2013			8,863.75	8,863.75	
06/01/2014	245,000	1.350%	8,863.75	253,863.75	262,727.50
12/01/2014			7,210.00	7,210.00	
06/01/2015	250,000	1.700%	7,210.00	257,210.00	264,420.00
12/01/2015			5,085.00	5,085.00	
06/01/2016	210,000	2.050%	5,085.00	215,085.00	220,170.00
12/01/2016			2,932.50	2,932.50	
06/01/2017	255,000	2.300%	2,932.50	257,932.50	260,865.00
	1,440,000		96,392.33	1,536,392.33	1,536,392.33

IOWA

Department of Education

Home » PK-12 » School Business and Finance » Levies and Funds

PK-12

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

The school board may annually certify a regular Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) in an amount up to 33 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

The voters may authorize a voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL) for a period not exceeding ten years and in an amount not exceeding \$1.34 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The VPPEL revenues may be used for the same purposes as the PPEL revenues. In addition, the board may obtain loans against future VPPEL revenues and may repay that debt with interest from the VPPEL. Iowa Code section 298.2.

This levy may be used for the following purposes: purchase and improvement of grounds; construction of schoolhouses or buildings and opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings; purchase, lease, or lease-purchase of equipment or technology exceeding \$500 per transaction; payment of debts contracted for the erection or construction of schoolhouses or buildings, not including interest on bonds; procuring or acquisition of library facilities; repairing, remodeling, reconstructing, improving, or expanding the schoolhouses or buildings and additions to existing schoolhouses; expenditures for energy conservation; rental of facilities; purchase of transportation equipment for transporting students; purchase or lease-purchase of school buildings; equipment purchases for recreational purposes; payments to a municipality or other entity as required under section 403.19, subsection 2 [TIF]; and demolition, clean up and other costs incurred within two years of a natural disaster. Revenues may not be used for employee salaries or travel; supplies; printing costs or media services; or for any other purpose not expressly authorized by Iowa Code.

For specific appropriate and inappropriate uses of the PPEL fund and revenue sources, refer to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281--98 and the Iowa Uniform Administrative Procedures Manual, chapter 9.

Below is an FAQ on Uses of PPEL Funding.

[Physical Plant and Equipment FAQ](#)

Election Results

Contact(s)

Su McCurdy
515-281-4738

su.mccurdy@iowa.gov

Gary Schwartz
515-281-4743

gary.schwartz@iowa.gov



Physical Plant and Equipment Levy

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF A VOTER APPROVED PPEL FOR SIDNEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS

Background

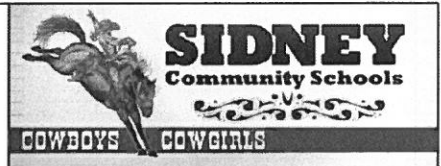
There are two portions of a school district's Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

- * A board approved levy of 33 cents per \$1,000 of property valuation.
- * A voter approved PPEL no higher than \$1.34 per \$1,000 of property valuation.



PPEL Purposes

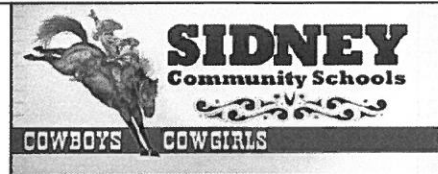
- Purchase or lease of buildings, equipment, and technology exceeding \$500 p/single unit (computers, musical instruments, copiers, etc.)
- Purchase of buses and repair of buses exceeding \$2,500
- Construction of schools, buildings and roads
- Repair, remodeling and reconstruction of existing facilities
- Expenditures for energy conservation



PPEL Prohibitions

- School district employee salaries, benefits or travel expenses
- Materials and supplies
- Printing costs or media services
- Heating and cooling costs or bus fuel

Net Property Values per Pupil in Iowa



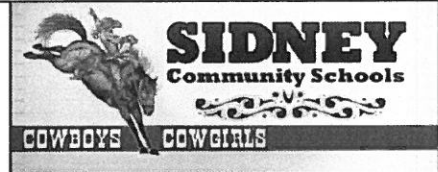
Districts of Similar Enrollment

District	Students	Property Value per Pupil
North Winneshiek	283	\$469,018
Charter Oak-Ute	289	\$522,910
Ar-We-Va	292	\$811,404
Lamoni	298	\$234,242
Sidney	302	\$404,586
GMG	305	\$402,315
Riceville	306	\$669,637
H-L-V	313	\$471,759
Schleswig	316	\$477,764

Local Area Districts

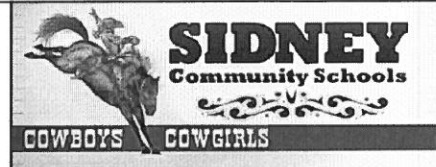
District	Property Value per Pupil
East Mills	\$556,676
Essex	\$356,915
Farragut	\$638,568
Fremont Mills	\$363,945
Hamburg	\$474,500
Red Oak	\$301,180
Shendandoah	\$267,566
Sidney	\$404,586
South Page	\$487,402

Board Approved PPEL



School District	p/Pupil	Total Funding
East Mills	\$184	\$100,063
Essex	\$127	\$28,123
Farragut	\$208	\$41,555
Fremont Mills	\$115	\$53,926
Hamburg	\$173	\$42,219
Red Oak	\$104	\$117,767
Shendandoah	\$90	\$88,047
Sidney	\$145	\$43,709
South Page	\$159	\$31,606

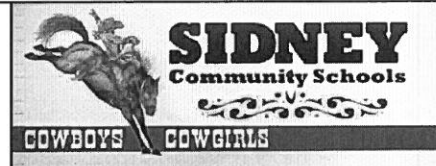
Voter Approved PPEL



School District	VPEL Tax Rate FY 2016*	p/Pupil	Total Funding
East Mills	\$1.34	\$748	\$406,615
Essex	\$1.34	\$514	\$114,198
Farragut	-		-
Fremont Mills	\$1.34	\$468	\$218,971
Hamburg	\$1.34	\$702	\$171,436
Red Oak	\$1.34	\$424	\$478,205
Shendandoah	\$1.34	\$365	\$357,522
Sidney	-		-
South Page	-		-

*total authority for property tax, some of which may be offset by income surtax.

Total PPEL Funding with Board + Voter Approved



School District	p/Pupil	Total Funding
East Mills	\$933	\$506,678
Essex	\$641	\$142,321
Farragut	\$208	\$41,555
Fremont Mills	\$583	\$272,897
Hamburg	\$875	\$213,655
Red Oak	\$528	\$595,972
Shendandoah	\$455	\$445,569
Sidney	\$145	\$43,709
South Page	\$159	\$31,606

Sidney ranks 9th out of 9 comparison regional districts in the PPEL dollars per pupil and 7th out of 9 comparison regional districts in total PPEL funding for the district.

**Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Elections
During fiscal year 2014-2015**

District	Election Date	Tax Rate	Percent of "Yes" Vote
0441-A-H-S-T	12/2/2014	1	66
0171-Alta	9/9/2014	0.67	60
0261-Ankeny	9/9/2014	1.34	76.1
0504-Battle Creek-Ida Grove	2/3/2015	1.34	68
0549-Bedford	9/9/2014	1.34	54
0747-Boyden-Hull	2/3/2015	1.34	80
0936-Camanche	4/7/2015	1.34	80
1053-Cedar Rapids	9/9/2014	1.34	50
1350-Collins-Maxwell	4/7/2015	0.67	84.7
1576-Dallas Center-Grimes	4/7/2015	1.34	82
3978-East Mills	2/3/2015	1.34	54
2113-Essex	2/3/2015	1.34	73.8
2403-Garner-Hayfield-Ventura	12/2/2014	0.67	93
3420-Lake Mills	4/7/2015	1.34	56
3841-Louisa-Muscatine	9/9/2014	1.07	49.3
3841-Louisa-Muscatine	12/2/2014	1	56.4
3906-Lynnville-Sully	12/2/2014	0.67	89
4269-Midland	12/2/2014	0.67	71.2
4356-Missouri Valley	9/9/2014	1.34	82.1
4437-Montezuma	9/9/2014	1.34	51.8
4527-Mount Ayr	4/7/2015	1.34	57.4
0153-North Butler	12/2/2014	0.67	61.1
4777-North Linn	2/3/2015	1.34	68.1
4890-Okoboji	4/7/2015	1.34	48
5325-Prairie Valley	4/7/2015	1	51.4
5805-Saydel	6/30/2015	1.34	76.7
5832-Schleswig	12/2/2014	0.67	91.5
6093-Solon	9/9/2014	1.34	71
6096-Southeast Webster Grand	2/3/2015	1	58
6579-Urbandale	2/3/2015	1.34	80
6795-Waterloo	6/30/2015	0.67	81.5
6937-West Burlington Ind	12/2/2014	1.34	49
6937-West Burlington Ind	4/4/2015	1.34	34
6983-West Lyon	12/2/2014	0.67	78.7
7002-Whiting	2/3/2015	0.67	93

**Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Elections
During fiscal year 2013-2014**

District	Election Date	Tax Rate	Percent of "Yes" Vote
0099-Alburnett	9/10/2013	0.67	78
0279-Aplington-Parkersburg	2/4/2014	0.57	85.9
0594-Belmond-Klemme	4/1/2014	0.67	87.1
0621-Bettendorf	9/10/2013	1.34	86.5
0747-Boyden-Hull	2/4/2014	1.34	49
1089-Central City	2/4/2014	1.34	57
1107-Chariton	9/10/2013	1.34	78
1134-Charter Oak-Ute	9/10/2013	0.67	70
1719-Denver	2/4/2014	1.32	60.3
1944-Eagle Grove	9/10/2013	0.67	86.4
1965-Easton Valley	2/4/2014	1.34	55
2097-English Valleys	9/10/2013	0.67	69
2124-Estherville Lincoln	9/10/2013	1.34	59
2151-Exira-Elk Horn-	6/25/2014	1	86
2016-ExiraElk Horn-Kimballton	6/25/2014	1	86
2169-Fairfield	4/1/2014	0.67	74
3195-Greene County	9/10/2013	1.34	50.3
2862-Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn	9/10/2013	0.67	69
3042-Hudson	9/10/2013	1.34	78.7
3141-Iowa City	9/10/2013	1.34	74
3375-Knoxville	9/10/2013	0.67	89.8
3715-Linn-Mar	4/1/2014	1.34	61.7
3744-Lisbon	9/10/2013	0.67	84
3841-Louisa-Muscatine	9/10/2013	1.34	47
4023-Manson Northwest Webster	9/10/2013	0.33	61.6
4041-Maquoketa	9/10/2013	1	58
4131-Mason City	9/10/2013	0.67	58
4689-New London	9/10/2013	0.67	55
4725-Newton	4/1/2014	0.67	80
3691-North Cedar	9/10/2013	0.67	70
4777-North Linn	2/4/2014	1.34	41.6
4779-North Polk	4/1/2014	1.34	66.8
4905-Olin Consolidated	9/10/2013	0.67	62
5013-Oskaloosa	9/10/2013	0.67	71.5
5250-Pleasant Valley	2/4/2014	1.34	93.3
5697-Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rk	9/10/2013	0.67	84
5724-Ruthven-Ayrshire	9/10/2013	0.67	74
6099-South O'Brien	9/10/2013	1.34	87
6098-South Tama County	9/10/2013	1.34	49
6098-South Tama County	2/4/2014	1.34	41
6460-Tri-Center	9/10/2013	0.67	68.5
6592-Van Buren	9/10/2013	0.67	58
6822-Waukee	9/10/2013	1.34	84.7
7056-Winterset	2/4/2014	1.34	69

**Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Elections
During fiscal year 2012-2013**

District	Election Date	Tax Rate	Percent of "Yes" Vote
0063-Akron Westfield	9/11/2012	1.00	76
0540-BCLUW	2/5/2013	0.67	60.2
1082-Central Clinton	4/2/2013	0.67	68
1095-Central Lyon	9/11/2012	1.00	80.9
1332-Colfax-Mingo	9/11/2012	0.67	53
6741-East Sac County	12/4/2012	1.34	38
2007-Eldora-New Providence	12/4/2012	1.34	53
2313-Fort Dodge	12/4/2012	1.34	44.6
2313-Fort Dodge	2/5/2013	1.34	51.7
2502-Gladbrook-Reinbeck	9/11/2012	0.67	90.8
2682-GMG	12/4/2012	0.67	77
2772-Hamburg	4/9/2013	1.34	78
3645-Lewis Central	9/11/2012	0.50	69
3841-Louisa-Muscatine	2/5/2013	1.34	49
4122-Martensdale-St Marys	9/11/2012	0.67	78
4773-Northeast	4/2/2013	0.67	78
4860-Odebolt-Arthur	12/4/2012	1.34	88.6
4978-Orient-Macksburg	9/11/2012	1.00	79
5607-Rock Valley	9/11/2012	1.00	65
5949-Sheldon	2/5/2013	1.34	71
6138-Springville	6/25/2013	1.34	80.7
6219-Storm Lake	12/4/2012	1.34	67.3
6762-Wapsie Valley	12/4/2012	1.34	57.2
6943-West Central	12/4/2012	1.34	82.3

Please contact [Gary Schwartz](mailto:gary.schwartz@iowa.gov) by email or phone (515)281-4743 with questions regarding this form

Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Elections During fiscal year 2011-2012

Top of Form

District	Election Date	Tax Rate	Percent of "Yes" Vote
0027-Adel DeSoto Minburn	2/7/2012	1.00	80
0009-AGWSR	4/4/2012	1.34	85
0126-Algona	9/13/2011	0.67	77
0135-Allamakee	9/13/2011	1.10	80
0387-Atlantic	9/13/2011	0.85	77
0513-Baxter	9/13/2011	0.67	75.2
1917-Boyer Valley	9/16/2011	0.63	78
0999-Carroll	9/13/2011	1.00	33
1206-Clarion-Goldfield	2/7/2012	1.34	91.8
1215-Clarksville	9/13/2011	1.34	82
1359-Colo-NESCO School	4/3/2012	1.34	60.3
1413-Coon Rapids-Bayard	2/7/2012	1.34	80
1953-Earlham	9/13/2011	1.00	56
2369-Fremont-Mills	9/13/2011	1.34	84.2
2376-Galva-Holstein	9/13/2011	0.67	87.3
2727-Grundy Center	9/13/2011	1.34	83
2977-Highland	9/13/2011	1.00	66.3
3150-Iowa Falls	9/13/2011	0.67	84
3231-Johnston	2/7/2012	1.34	81.6
3465-Lamoni	4/3/2012	1.09	69
3609-Lenox	9/13/2011	1.34	77.5
4023-Manson Northwest Webster	9/13/2011	0.50	54.4
4203-Mediapolis	9/13/2011	0.67	52
4518-Moulton-Udell	9/13/2011	0.67	75
4599-Nashua-Plainfield	9/13/2011	0.67	74.7
4788-Northwood-Kensett	9/13/2011	0.67	71
4797-Norwalk	9/13/2011	1.34	81
6099-South O'Brien	9/13/2011	1.34	91
6246-Stratford	9/13/2011	0.67	70
6591-Valley	2/7/2012	1.00	55
6987-West Monona	2/7/2012	1.34	71
6961-Western Dubuque	4/3/2012	1.00	65.3

Bottom of Form

**Voter-Approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Elections
During fiscal year 2010-2011**

District	Election Date	Tax Rate	Percent of "Yes" Vote
0977-Cardinal	12/7/2010	1.34	55
1071-Centerville	2/1/2011	0.57	66
1337-College	2/1/2011	0.67	67.5
1638-Decorah Community	9/14/2010	1.34	73
1737-Des Moines Independent	9/14/2010	0.63	65
2826-Harlan	12/7/2010	0.67	78.9
3029-Howard-Winneshiek	2/1/2011	0.67	80.6
3186-Janesville Consolidated	9/14/2010	1.34	80
3715-Linn-Mar	2/1/2011	1.34	64.4
4271-Mid-Prairie	9/14/2010	1.2	85
4995-Osage	4/5/2011	1.34	61
5121-Panorama	9/14/2010	0.67	58
5256-Pleasantville	9/14/2010	1.34	75
5310-Postville	4/5/2011	1.34	71
5328-Prescott	2/8/2011	0.67	58
5949-Sheldon	12/7/2010	0.5	72
6039-Sioux City	2/8/2011	0.49	42
6246-Stratford	9/14/2010	1.34	41
6750-Walnut	2/1/2011	1.34	88
6768-Washington	4/5/2011	1	59.1
6930-West Branch	9/14/2010	1.34	68
7092-Woodbine	9/14/2010	1.34	80

ISFIS, Inc

Iowa School Finance Information Services

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Short History Lesson on the School Finance Formula (and some of Larry's ramblings on school finance)

Discussion

C

History of the Finance Formula

- Until the early 1970's schools were funded primarily by property taxes.
- The property tax base varied widely around the state (and still does).
- The purpose of the formula was to (257.31):
 - Equalize educational opportunity
 - Provide a good education for all Iowa children
 - Provide property tax relief
 - Provide reasonable control of school costs
- The formula we have today is basically the same formula passed in 1971 (with some changes who pays)

History

- During the same time period the formula was created, there were other significant changes made by the Legislature:
 - Created the Community College System
 - Enacted binding Collective Bargaining and eliminated the right for public employees to strike
 - Significantly changed the income tax and property tax systems
 - Created the Area Education Agencies

General Fund

- Basic Principles:
 - Student driven, amount per student set by legislature.
 - Schools are budget limited, not rate limited.
Doubling property value = property tax rate falls – no more \$'s to spend.
 - Tax rate driven by formula more than district actions.
 - District can only spend funds on allowable purposes.

General Fund

- Very important concept: Spending Authority
- State controls maximum amount of district spending
- Why? Equity – basic principle is that every child should receive the same amount of funding – no matter where they live

General Fund

- Restriction of Spending Authority only applies to the General Fund – all other funds allow spending if you have the cash to spend
- District must account for two things in their General Fund:
 - Fund Balance (cash)
 - Spending Authority (credit card limit)

General Fund

- So what's the big deal with Spending Authority?
 - It is illegal for a school district to exceed it's total spending authority
 - Ever heard of Russell or Farragut school districts?
 - Phase II Financial Viability Audit
 - The State Board of Education has the ability to close a school district for no other reason than financial unviability (not educational reasons)

General Fund

- So where does spending authority come from?
 - It's set by the legislature as part of the State Supplementary Assistance (SSA) rate
 - The rate sets the amount the credit card limit can grow. For example, 1.25% SSA meant that the prior fiscal year's credit card limit of \$6,366 per student could grow by 1.25%, or \$80 per student.

So What's the Big Deal?

- Remember this:
 - Created the Community College system
 - Enacted binding Collective Bargaining and eliminated the right for public employees to strike
 - Significantly changed the income tax and property
- Because schools are required to collectively bargain, districts cannot just say “no raises”. Average salary increases are 3.5%
- Salaries average 80% of district General Fund spending
- Also because the formula is per pupil, districts with declining enrollment actually see less new resource from one year to the next (over 200 districts)

What if?

- If increase in cost per pupil had averaged 3.5% since 2003, per pupil cost would be \$920 higher today.
- If increase in cost per pupil had averaged 4.0% since 2003, per pupil cost would be \$1,775 higher today.

Melissa Godfread
601 West St.
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Action
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December 21, 2015

Mr. Gregg Cruickshank-

I want to thank you for the opportunity to work for you as the Professional School Counselor these past 18 months. I have been blessed with the challenges of taking on such a significant role within our school system. I have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity yet in the same breath have been struggling finding my "fit" here. I truly thought I would find it once I had a year under my belt or have taken a class at BVU that solidified my doubts and it hasn't happened to me yet.

However, I had the opportunity to be with a family as they received the news of their infant's death in the ER and it hit me then. I have come to the realization; I need more from my day-to-day job. I need more of a connection with lives than developing their semester schedules or answering questions on which college to visit which sadly the majority of this position is just that. I have been praying for guidance and feel my decision is right for me at this time to work back in the medical field.

Since I am a support staff, and not bound by the Master Contract, I am submitting my resignation. My last day will be January 15, 2016, end of the first semester. I am aware of paying the school back for the schooling at Buena Vista. I have been in contact with the business manager who states I owe \$4395.00.

I wish you and the school the best of luck and success with the upcoming growth!

Sincerely,



Melissa Godfread

January 21, 2016

Sidney CSD
2754 Knox Road
Sidney, Iowa 51652

Dear Mr. Cruickshank,

This letter is to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as the 5th and 6th grade science and social studies teacher at Sidney Elementary at the end of the school year. I had every intention of remaining at Sidney for the foreseeable future, but unfortunately life had other plans.

My husband recently retired from the Army. He applied to many different jobs in the area, but nothing came to fruition. In late December, he was offered a position at Vermeer in Pella, Iowa. After a lot of thoughts and prayers, we realized that this was the right path for our family. He grew up in Pella, we met at Central College in Pella, and we believe it will be a wonderful place to raise our children.

It's with a heavy heart that I will be leaving Sidney Elementary at the end of the school year. I have only been here for a short period of time, but I will be forever grateful of the support given to me by everyone at Sidney Elementary. I feel like I was welcomed with open arms, and I truly appreciate that. I will never forget the generosity and important lessons I learned while here and I will always cherish the time I have spent with my students, colleagues, and this community.

If there is anything that I can do to help with this process, please let me know. I wish nothing but the best for Sidney Community School District and it's employees.

Sincerely,



Nicole Fox

Melinda Spencer
P.O. Box 710
Sidney, Iowa 51652
402-209-5755
mspencer@sidney.k12.ia.us

January 14, 2016

Gregg Cruickshank
Bill Huntington
Sidney School Board
Sidney Jr-Sr High School
2754 Knox Road
Sidney, Iowa 51652

Dear Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. Huntington, and School Board Members,

I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my positions of Color Guard Instructor and High School Wrestling Cheer Coach for the Sidney school district at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

I thank you for the opportunity that I have had in learning and growing beside the young people that have been involved in these programs. I have truly enjoyed my time working for the Sidney school district. If I can be of any help during the transition, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Melinda Spencer