

## **From the School Board**

August 2016

### **What's Your Story?**

On Monday, August 29, district administration joined Superintendent Damian LaCroix in welcoming back veteran as well as more than 40 new staff during the Howard-Suamico School District (HSSD) Convocation. Often considered one of the more special days of the school year, the day's highlight was a presentation by Dr. John Draper.

Dr. Draper is a consultant with the National School Public Relations Association who advocates across the country on behalf of public schools helping school leaders and districts engage more effectively with their communities. On this particular Monday, he shared with more than 700 staff members his unique perspective into the crucial conversations occurring between public school districts and communities that support them across our nation. In addition, he continued this conversation with a group of local business and community leaders at a *Lunch and Learn* in the School District Office Community Training Center.

The "conversations" Dr. Draper addressed during the Convocation and the *Lunch and Learn* covered a number of topics from graduation rates and charter schools, to "pay for performance" and international testing. The basis of his presentation is that public schools are the foundation on which our country has been built and the challenges we face today, while significant, are far outweighed by the strengths and opportunities within public education.

The school board and administration are honored to serve in a district that addresses these issues every day, and is fortunate to be encouraged through consistent community support. At 94%, our graduation rates are some of the best in the state; and through the ASCEND model, the district recognizes and encourages the high levels of performance our educators deliver each day.

While the above are only a couple of examples of our success stories, we didn't invite Dr. Draper to present simply for an opportunity to share our successes. The district has a deep-felt desire to continuously improve the ability to "write" even more positive stories via the lives of our students, and we wanted that story to begin on day one of the new school year.

In Dr. Draper's conclusion, he encouraged our entire district to reframe our community conversation in a way that uses our student's stories to share "...the many wonderful things that happen in our schools!" The board and district are taking this advice to heart and will continue to share the district's story regularly. We invite you to engage in the conversation and share your story.

For more information about the Howard-Suamico School District, please visit our website at [www.hssd.k12.wi.us](http://www.hssd.k12.wi.us) or for additional information regarding this article, contact School Board member Jeff Eilers at [jeffeile@hssd.k12.wi.us](mailto:jeffeile@hssd.k12.wi.us).