

## **From the School Board**

**December, 2017**

### **A Revisit to the Howard-Suamico District Office and Community Training Center**

“In any moment of decision, the best you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

In response to the 2017 post-referendum Community Survey and a recommendation by the Community Task Force, the Howard-Suamico Board of Education would like to address questions regarding the District Office and Community Training Center.

Prior to 2014, the Lineville Intermediate School provided space for the Superintendent Office, as well as the offices for Human Resources, Business Services, and the Teaching and Learning Center. Pupil Services was staffed at Forest Glen Elementary School and Bay View Middle School. As enrollment increased at Lineville Intermediate School, space and student safety became a concern. At that time, the Board considered several off-site locations to relocate the District Office, but decided to build on campus and provide a centralized location for District services.

With the construction of the new District Office completed in May 2015, at a debt free cost of \$3.8 million, Lineville Intermediate and Forest Glen Elementary were now able to utilize an additional 7,425 square feet of instructional space and update infrastructure to accommodate increasing enrollments at both schools. With our new building, we can accommodate the Superintendent, Teaching & Learning Center, Pupil Services, Human Resources, Finance and Operations all at one location with a total staff of 41. The Community Training Center also provides space to facilitate School Board meetings and various linkages with community groups, Partners in Education, Howard-Suamico Business & Professional Association, as well numerous training and learning programs for our district employees and other local school districts. The overall space, conference rooms, and technology provide a positive learning environment.

Non-referendum funding in the School District designated fund balance, which had been accumulating funds for over 10 years, allowed the Board to finance the cost for this new building. State statute requires these particular funds to be used for capital expenditures related to buildings. With the foresight of needing additional instructional space, having adequate funding and property, the time was right to construct a new District Office and Training Center for the students, employees, and all community members of the Howard-Suamico School District.

The Howard-Suamico School District Office and Training Center was needed to increase the classroom and instructional space for one elementary school and our intermediate school and allow the administrative staff to be in one convenient location. This facility also provides the necessary meeting space for various community organizations and employee training. It is the hope of the School Board that we have been transparent in the need, usage, and funding of our District Office and Training Center building with this article as we work to build trust and improve our communication with our community members.

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 Garry H. Sievert, School Board member and retired HSSD teacher (garrsiev@hssd.k12.wi.us)