

From the School Board
April, 2016

HSSD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

**“What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child,
that must the community want for all its children”**

John Dewey

In January, a Community Engagement Survey was distributed from the school district to Howard and Suamico residents. The purpose of this survey was to gather data and to inform strategic planning, just as it has been in the past. And, as in the past, the community response this time was robust and provided us with information that will be used to further our mission of working with families and the community to ensure that our students have the knowledge and skills to succeed in a changing world. The largest response group was from parents in the district, and we also received many from non-parent residents. We are grateful for each response and for the effort and time each person spent before submitting their survey.

The questions covered several topics, such as challenges facing the district, allocation of district finances, and overall perceptions pertaining to areas of the district, to name a few. It came as no surprise that the top two challenges identified are: **1) Retain/Recruit Staff**, and **2) Quality Student Programs**. People told us that finances should be used in a variety of ways, each centered on the success of students. When asked how the quality of the district is gauged, the number one answer is our staff, with student performance running close behind.

Administration and the Board will continue to study the current responses, compare them with previous survey data and will determine where action can be taken. We are very fortunate to have dependable data spanning multiple surveys. This provides the opportunity to learn over time that the values of the community remain aligned with the vision and mission of the district.

The results of the survey are posted on the HSSD website home page and I would invite anyone with an interest to view the information. There are multiple charts, graphs, and narrative; click on “Community Survey Results”. Our thanks, once again, to all who participated.

For more information about the Howard-Suamico School District, please visit our website at www.hssd.k12.wi.us, or for additional information regarding this article, contact school board member, Teresa Ford at tereford@hssd.k12.wi.us