

From the School Board
November, 2018

Tax Levy – A Long Term Investment

Investing in education is investing in the future. Many people have said this, many people believe this. At this time of year our property tax bills begin to arrive. They point out how much we invested last year and how much we are investing this year. Each year many of us ask questions about this investment, such as: *Are my tax dollars actually being used as an investment? Why is this number higher this year?* During the budget process each year, there are things the Board can control, and things the Board cannot control.

The Howard-Suamico School District is driven to work with families and the community to ensure that our students have the knowledge and skills to succeed in a changing world. This objective is something we can control, and our budgets are created not only for the needs of today but also for future use. There is a continuous focus on making sure that the long-term per pupil expenditure is fiscally responsible. A few examples are the steps the District took to limit open enrollment, adjustments to benefits, and increasing partnerships with members of the business community. Another factor in our control is the levy rate. Since the 2011-12 school year, this rate has decreased from 9.73 to the 9.19 rate that we have maintained for 4 years. These examples demonstrate sensitivity to our taxpayers while we continue to focus on student achievement.

The information on our tax bills that the District does not control is the total property value within our area, as well as the increases or decreases to individual parcels of property. When the stable tax rate of 9.19 is applied to changing valuation amounts, the result changes from [year to year](#).

As taxpayers in our District, the Board of Education focuses on ensuring effective stewardship of the tax revenue we receive, not only for today but for the long term.

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.