

From the School Board  
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### “Schools Cannot Do It Alone”

The HSSD Board of Education recently completed a book study of businessman Jamie Vollmer’s book entitled “Schools Cannot Do It Alone”. The book addresses the need for systemic school transformation and provides a framework for connecting with the community to re-build strong public support for schools.

Vollmer identifies the key to success of school improvement is not found within the people, but within the system itself. Vollmer ascertains that our schools were originally designed to meet Industrial Age demands, not the realities of today. American schools were built on the vision of Thomas Jefferson over 200 years ago “To rake the genius from the rubbish”. This is no longer an appropriate or useful vision for our schools. Today we are charged with creating an education system to develop the potential of every child, not simply the “cream of the crop.”

“Community” and its support is the answer to transforming education. Schools are shaped by and reflect their communities. In order to move away from a “rake the genius from the rubbish” system and toward an “unfold the potential of every child” system, we must gain the understanding, trust, permission and support of our community. We must re-engage community in our schools.

*The mission of the Howard-Suamico School District Board of Education is to enact policies and allocate resources to develop all students' full academic potential and to promote their social and emotional growth.*

*The mission of the Howard–Suamico School District states: “We will work together with families and community to ensure that our students have the knowledge and skills to succeed in a changing world.”*

The HSSD mission statements fit well with Vollmer’s work. We, the Howard-Suamico Board of Education, are dedicated to transforming education for the success of all our students. It’s crucial that our community understand the complexities of educating students of today and the fundamental ideal that this can only be done with the understanding and support of our community. We invite you to read more on the Great Education Conversation in “Schools Cannot Do It Alone” by Jamie Vollmer. Thank you for your trust.

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, Lisa Botsford at [lisabots@hssd.k12.wi.us](mailto:lisabots@hssd.k12.wi.us)