

Iowa Valley Tiger Tracks

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FEBRUARY 2017

EDUCATION: A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

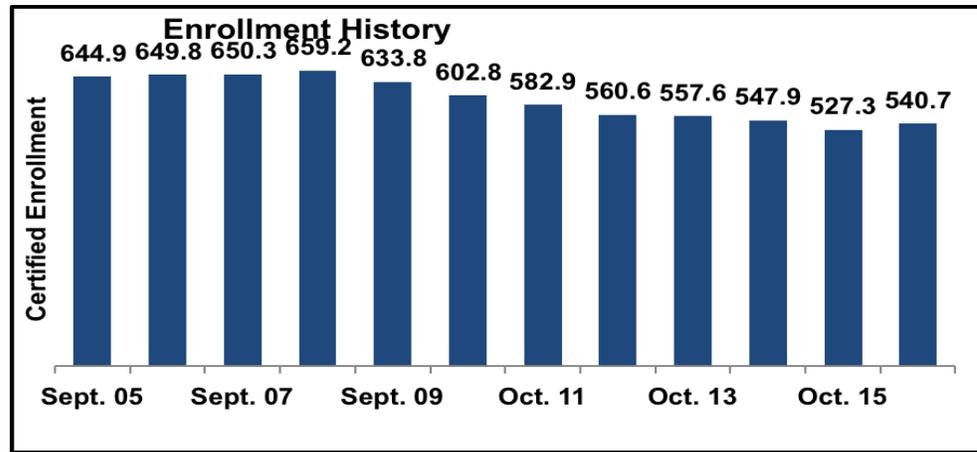
Special points of interest:

- 1 Feb. Jr.-Sr. High Parent-Teacher Conf. 4-8 pm
- 4 Feb. Speech Large Group Contest @ Washington HS
- 8 Feb. 1 pm early dismissal
- 9 Feb. FCS Mystery Meal 630 pm
- Feb. 15-18 State Wrestling @ Des Moines
- 18 Feb. Speech All-State Large Group Contest @ Ames
- Feb. 20-24 FFA Week
- Feb. 25 Speech Individual Contest

January is a time for central office to exam the past, present, and future financial health of our district. The state legislative session began on Monday, January 9, 2017 and schools throughout Iowa anxiously await news about SSA (Supplemental State Aid) in preparation for developing their budgets. It is important that legislators respond to the needs of rural school districts, as a higher percentage of our General Fund is used to fund high transportation costs compared to urban districts.

Here are interesting facts about our district with data from IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) that help us determine how to set our budget and educational priorities. Please keep in mind that this data is General Fund (operating fund) where approximately 80% is used for salaries/benefits. General Fund is not used to pay for our recent security system updates, press box, and new addition at the elementary. SAVE dollars and PPEL pay for those updates.

Enrollment- We increased enrollment by 13.4 students in FY17. Will this continue in the future?



Revenue and Expenditures-

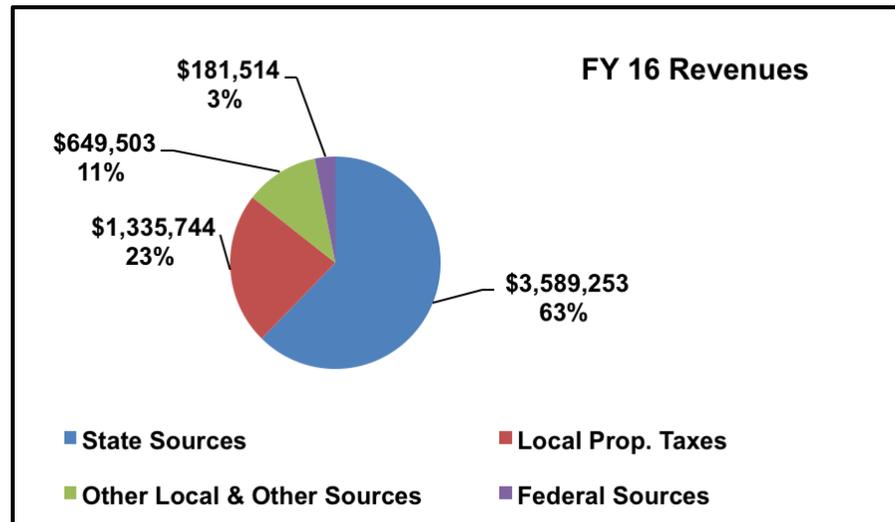
Total General Fund Revenues = \$5,756,015

Total General Fund Expenditures= \$6,026,762

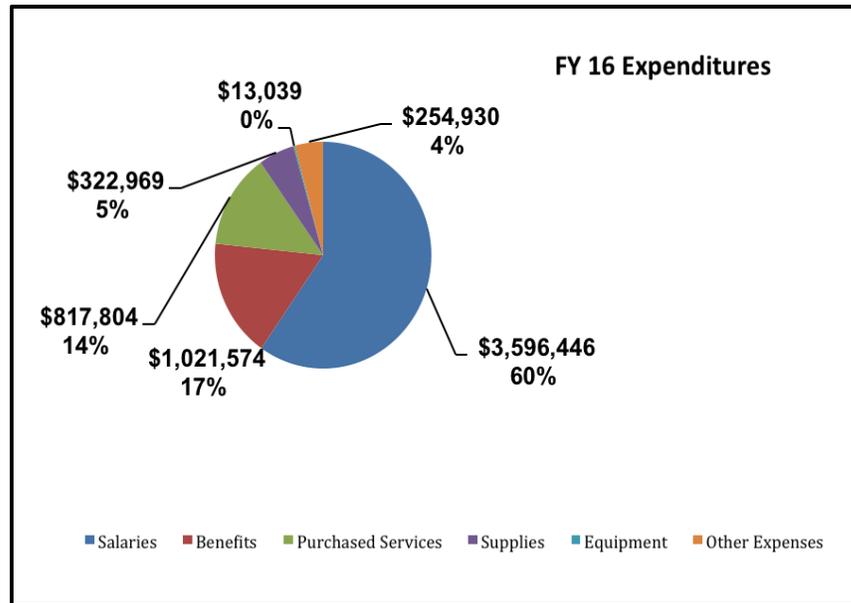
Revenues – Expenditures = (\$270,747)

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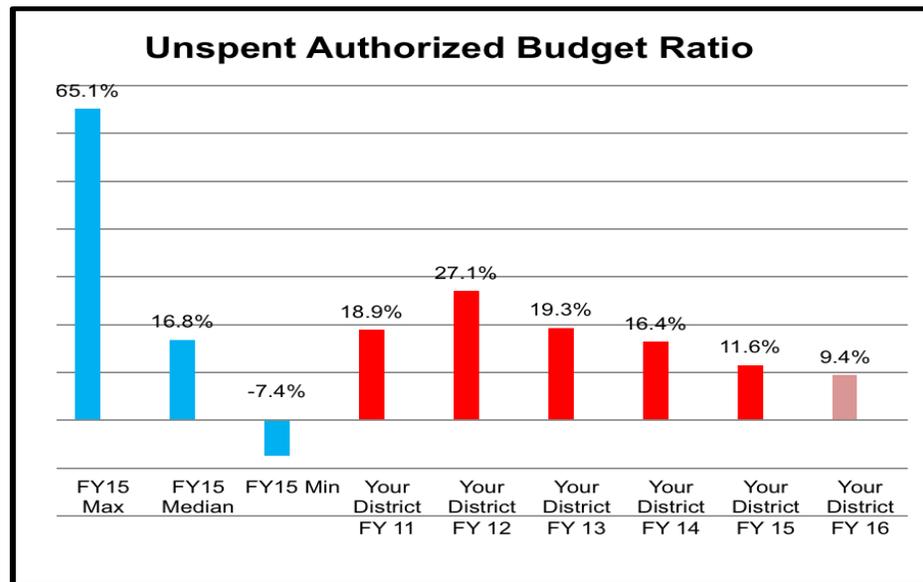
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UAB (Unspent Authorized Budget)- UAB is the best predictor of a school district’s financial health. The state’s median value is 16.8% while ours is 9.4%. Trend data from our district shows a steady decline from FY12 on. As you can see, one of the districts in Iowa has a UAB of 65.1% while the lowest is -7.4%. UAB is the spending authority of our district.



What Now? At some point in all of our personal lives, we have had to “tighten” our budgets. Maybe it was because our spouse/significant other was laid off, lost their job, had costly health issues, divorced/widowed, etc. The optimist would look at the above trend data lines and think everything will be okay without making any changes. A pessimist might think we are heading towards disaster. A realist, however, thinks that better times are in our future but, in the meantime, we need to make some small changes now to avoid making bigger ones later.

It is so important to support our biggest and best investment of the future, our students. Let’s focus on the celebrations of our district, as there are many, to move forward in a positive direction. Our staff and school board members have worked hard to increase our UAB over this past year and will continue to do so; we should be very proud of their efforts. Go IV Tigers!

Mrs. Donita Joens, Superintendent of Schools

Jr. -Sr. High News

The second semester of the 2016-17 began on Tuesday January 3rd, as we completed the 1st semester prior to Christmas. Students and staff finished their semester tests the last week before break and that was different than the prior year as we had two weeks after break to complete semester finals.

If you happen to drop by the high school building this month you will see lots of interesting and exciting things occurring. We have now updated our camera and security system and now we can more easily monitor from our mobile devices or desktop computers. A new entry door has been added to the front entry, this entry is now the only way for visitors to enter the building and, after our morning bell, all doors will be locked. Visitors will have to alert the office staff of their desired entry into the office by pressing the caller ID button. Also, we now have approximately 20 video cameras that monitor our building hallways and main activity areas.



Now on to some academic news! We must believe that students are being challenged to do their very best each and every day, and sometimes that in itself becomes a challenge. As I have told our staff, we must challenge ourselves and our students to give their best every day, no excuses for not giving it your best effort. Many of our students are involved in some sort of extra-curricular activity and, as I write this month's newsletter, we have groups of students preparing for contests in FFA, individual and group speech, band and choir concerts, as well as our student athletes preparing for their state tournament series. Activity participation, I feel, is crucial to students being "invested and relied upon" by others to do their best. Sometimes we fail, but don't stay down, get back up and try your best again. We cannot learn if we do not try and when we fall short remember we have others that will help guide us to a better plan!

As the month of February closes, so will our wrestling season, as the state tournament is set for February 16-18 at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. Then, the 1st week of March, the Girls State Basketball tournament kicks off and is then followed a week later by the Boys State Basketball tournament.

Please check out our district's website and check out what is happening in Tiger Country! February is a busy month but, before long, March will be here and we will start seeing shades of green and hopefully warmer temperatures! Until next month, GO TIGERS!

Mr. Shawn Kreman, Jr.-Sr. High Principal

Second Grade Tiger Pride

Kindness Counts

For the month of February, our Tiger Pride social skill is kindness. The second grade classes will be in charge of the assemblies for this month. Mrs. Zozaya's class assembly will be on February 6th and Mrs. Kooiker's class assembly will be on February 20th. During this month, we will be focusing on ways to show kindness at school and at home. We will practice giving compliments and using our manners. We will also discuss random acts of kindness and how something as simple as smiling or asking someone to play can spread happiness.

Being kind is something everyone can do to make a difference! Our challenge is for everyone to show kindness each day!

Mrs. Kooiker & Mrs. Zozaya,
Second Grade Teachers

STEM in Third Grade

This spring, the third grade will be working on an engineering unit that I procured through a STEM grant from the state of Iowa. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This engineering unit is part of the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) series offered by the Boston Museum of Science. EiE is a program that integrates engineering with science topics in the elementary. You might wonder why we should teach engineering concepts to third graders. There

are many reasons why, including:

- Students are fascinated with building and dismantling things to see how they work.
- Engineering integrates other disciplines.
- Engineering is necessary for the 21st century.
- Learning about engineering brings awareness about scientific and technical careers.

The unit I will teach is titled Water, Water Everywhere: Designing

Water Filters. Third graders will learn that water quality is a worldwide problem, especially in areas of the world where there is inadequate water treatment and purification. Students will design water filters and test how well they filter out impurities in the water.

I'm excited to introduce students to the world of engineering!

Mr. Shade, Third Grade Teacher