

DO YOU KNOW HOW JUNCTION CITY SCHOOLS MANAGES ITS MONEY?

With more than 200 employees, JCSD is one of the largest employers in our community. Every year, the district shops locally by purchasing hundreds of thousands of dollars of services, including plumbing/electrical/well-drilling/painting, printing & advertising, banking, vehicle & equipment repair, and goods such as classroom supplies and books, building materials, food for our breakfast and lunch programs, and much more. And, that's not counting how much money our employees spend in the local community!

Your property tax dollars contribute about a third of our district's operating revenue. Property taxes are collected locally and then sent to the State for redistribution to all districts under a formula known as "equalization" whereby each public school district is provided an "equal" amount of revenue per student. In addition to property tax revenue, the State distributes funding to districts from a variety of other sources as well, such as income tax receipts, lottery revenue, grants, and federal funds.

With almost 1,800 students in our district, the vast majority – almost 80% – of our annual revenue pays for expenses for staffing (teachers, counselors, nurse, classroom assistants, custodians, administrators, cafeteria workers, secretaries, coaches). Over 15% covers other operating expenses such as instructional supplies & materials, utilities (the annual cost for the district's electricity, water, sewer and telephone services amounts to more than \$400,000 per year!), other goods & services, student transportation services, insurance and financial services, office equipment rental, maintenance and repairs, and more.

Since 2005, our School Board has set aside money for larger-scale maintenance and facilities projects, as well as for costly intermittent textbook adoptions and technology upgrades and projects. These "special fund" monies are dedicated for specific projects. Unspent money accrues from year-to-year, providing funds to accomplish projects or to make purchases than are larger than the district's operating revenue could support in any one year.

Since 2006, our district has used these monies for projects like these:

- Fire, security, communication system and other student safety repairs and improvements (including covering the asbestos tile floor in the Laurel gym) totaling nearly \$150,000.

- On-going maintenance costs for roof repairs, well and pump/pipe repairs and exterior painting/siding repairs totaling more than \$200,000.

- Gym floor and track replacements, tennis court, track and gym floor resurfacing, sound and public address system replacements that total almost \$200,000.

Over Christmas break in 2013, the district spent almost \$100,000 to replace the 55-year old bleachers in the West Wing gym. The bleachers, used daily for over 500 students and for many community events, had no handrails or aisles for climbing the bleachers, were open to the floor below, and were extremely rickety. We had an increasing number of accidents involving the bleachers; replacing them protects the safety of those who use them.

Your district maintains its facilities as it can through our State School funds. Yet, sometimes that's not enough. We have almost 130 heat pumps that serve the HVAC needs in our schools. These heat pumps have a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years. Ours are 20 to 28 years old and cost almost \$18,000 EACH to replace. We have spent nearly \$170,000 to repair and replace units as they break, but are not able to fund a complete replacement of these aging systems, which would cost more than \$2.5 million.

We pride ourselves on being transparent in how we manage the district and its resources. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have questions about district funding, our maintenance program, or any aspect of our schools and educational programs. I would love to hear your ideas for future informational newsletters to be shared with the Chamber and JCSD residents (please contact me by phone at (541) 998-6311 x600, or by email at kroddenord@junctioncity.k12.or.us.) We are proud and blessed to be an integral part of the Junction City Community!

