

Putting Your Tax Dollars to Work for Our Community



Lynn Kwilasz
Chief Financial Officer

Each day, we work to make sure that your tax dollars are used wisely and effectively. That's why our monthly School Board meetings are open and that all our administrators and our Superintendent remain accessible to answer any questions that you might have. I wanted to send along this brief report that highlights innovative strategies that we have implemented to "do more with less" as we serve the 5,872 students enrolled in our schools and our Duneland community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 219-983-3600 or via email at lkwilasz@duneland.k12.in.us.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you for a better Duneland.

Using Your Tax Dollars Wisely... Everyday

- ▶ Our Duneland School Corporation budget is \$69,690,000. In addition to internal controls, public oversight by the locally-elected School Board, our finances are reviewed by the State Board of Accounts. We continue to maintain compliance with state statutes.
- ▶ We saved taxpayers money by implementing options to reduce the cost of healthcare, including establishing an on-site employee health clinic.
- ▶ We saved costs by upgraded lighting throughout the district to more energy efficient and low maintenance LEDs.
- ▶ We upgraded building system controls for more effective management of heat/air systems, saving additional costs.
- ▶ We participate in cooperative purchasing for diesel fuel and gasoline, natural gas for heating and school bus purchases. That has helped save thousands of dollars.
- ▶ We saved tax dollars by reducing interest costs and retiring pension debt.
- ▶ We have insured fiscal integrity by maintaining enough operating cash reserves and a Rainy-Day Fund.
- ▶ We made substantial security upgrades to enhance student safety.
- ▶ We added two new School Resource Officers to provide a safety presence in our buildings.
- ▶ We have recruited, retained, and rewarded our outstanding teaching and support staff.
- ▶ We made capital purchases of \$3.5 million for technology equipment, software and upgrades in our District to better prepare all our K-12 students for the challenges of the global economy.
- ▶ We partnered with the Burns Harbor Redevelopment Commission for student programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), career programming, leadership, etc. that prepare students to participate in the global economy.
- ▶ We partner with the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club to expand learning opportunities. We donated a bus to the Boys and Girls Club and have a YMCA early childhood development located in our facilities.
- ▶ We partner with Pop Warner, Duneland Swim Club, Trojan Basketball Club, Duneland Lacrosse and the Duneland Soccer Club by providing access to our facilities.
- ▶ We have an outstanding partnership with the Duneland Education Foundation for additional support of our teachers without using tax dollars.