

Responding to your feedback:

After the initial publication of *Your Money Matter\$*, community members contacted us to request more information about the Medina County Sales Tax. Questions were also raised about the district's enrollment and the capacity at the new high school.

What is the true impact of Medina County's Sales Tax for Schools on the Highland District?

- It is estimated by Medina County that the Highland Local School District will receive over \$1,000,000 per year in Sales Tax revenue.
- That revenue may only be used for "permanent improvements" including items such as textbooks, busses, technology, repairs to buildings and grounds and new instruction. Permanent improvements are designated as having a life expectancy of five or more years.
- In the past, the district only had general operating dollars to make those purchases, so the Sales Tax will free up those operating dollars.
- Expenditures within the operating budget the past three years included \$533,000 for textbooks and \$3,638,800 for other qualifying permanent improvements.
- The current approved budget for the Sales Tax Fund includes bus purchases, bleacher repairs, textbooks, computer technology, fire safety and electrical improvements throughout the district.

Highland's population is growing. Why wasn't the high school built to house more students?

- The initial planning process for the new high school began in 1999 when 750 students were enrolled.
- Highland voters approved a bond issue to build the new high school in 2001. Projections made at the time indicated the High School enrollment would be 937 students by the 2007-2008 school year.
- Based on those projections, the school was built for 1,200 students in common areas and 1,000 students in classrooms. It was constructed to accommodate a 33% enrollment increase before it reached capacity.

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Granger

Bob Businger
Richard Pace

Hinckley

Diane Dermody
Rob Smykal

Montville

Bob Clarke
John Gresock

Sharon

Dan Fousek
Paul Kelly
John Leach

Member-at-Large

Mike Turk

Administration

Bruce Armstrong
Daryl Kubilus
Mary Markle

** We mourn the passing of Roger Feess, a founding member of the Financial Advisory Panel, who died this spring following a courageous battle with cancer.*

	<u>Enrollment Projections made in 2001 for 2007/08 School Year</u>	<u>2008 Actual Enrollment</u>
High School.....	937 students	1,064 students
District.....	2,794 students	3,202 students

Despite the increase in enrollment, we have not yet "outgrown" the high school...

- 2007-08 was the first year all classrooms were used. As of yet, traveling teachers have not been used. (Traveling teachers utilize empty classrooms during other teachers' planning periods.) This will be an option in the future.
- Administrators have designed a staggered lunch schedule that will be able to accommodate as many as 1,600 students in the current facility. That schedule will be instituted as the population increases.
- The original building plans included space for an classroom additional wing should it become necessary.