

e-News

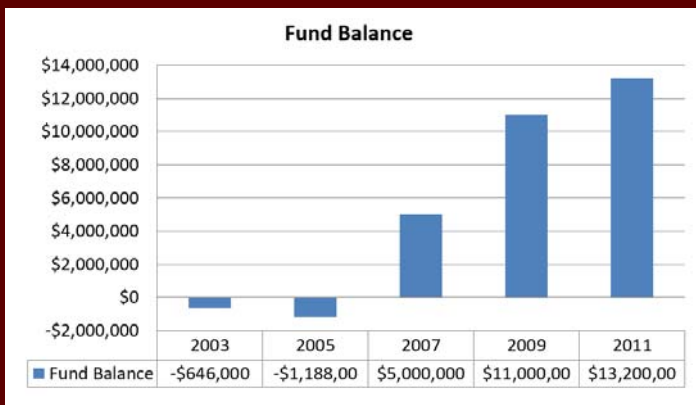
An electronic newsletter from ISD #200—Hastings Public Schools



The Hastings School District is placing two questions before the voters on the 7th of November. For the next two months we will use e-News as source of communication to help educate our parents and the voting public about the proposed questions.

A Look Back...

Over the past decade, the goal for the school board has been to provide financial stability to our school district by building a savings account. With the help of our community, we have been able to accomplish that goal. Over the past 10 years, we have been able to make budget reductions over a period of time. This is a much better approach than having to make drastic program reductions all at once. The \$300 per student increase in our operating levy will allow the school board to keep taking that same approach.



We built up our savings account with the intent that we would be able to make budget reductions slowly and spend down our savings account. The district is currently \$2-million dollars over budget for the current school year. Our auditor recommends a \$7-million dollar savings account.

Where can I find out more about the proposed questions on the ballot November 7th and ask questions?

Public Meetings Schedule:

Wednesday, October 25th

5:00 PM in the MS Auditorium

7:30 PM at Hampton City Hall

Or visit our website at:

www.hastings.k12.mn.us

How does the school district financially adjust to declining enrollment?

As enrollment has continued to decline the Hastings School District has continued to change and reduce our operational structure. The closing of Cooper Elementary and the repurposing of Tilden Elementary are two quick examples of how the district has adjusted to the financial loss associated with declining enrollment.

Outlined below is a mathematical equation that illustrates the problem associated with trying to reduce your staff at a pace to keep up with the loss of revenue associated with declining enrollment.

The equation is based off of a teacher working with 25 students and each student generating \$8,000 in revenue for the district.

The district would have to eliminate 12.9 teaching positions to provide a balanced budget every time the district loses 100 students.

The increase in our operating levy will allow the district to minimize staff reductions, over time, as we continue to adjust to declining enrollment.