

## STATEMENT TO URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association was founded in 1921. It is a private, independent, non-partisan organization whose purpose is the promotion of efficient and economical local government. The Association's philosophy is that good government is the business of every citizen. Sound fiscal policies are promoted and supported by an informed, broad-based membership, made up of community leaders and taxpayers.

The Association wants to express its appreciation to Board President Doug Gulling, Superintendent Greg Robinson, and Business Manager Shelly Clifford for hosting us on March 28th. As a result of the discussion and questions, the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association is convinced that the District is financially sound. As a result, it voted to SUPPORT the Urbandale Community School District's proposed budget for FY2008/2009.

The proposed budget has a levy increase of .54/\$1000 due to an increase in the debt service portion of the levy. This levy is now at the maximum of \$4.05 because of the passage of the latest bond referendum. Association members knew that this action was coming, and feel confident that Urbandale's voters did too.

Every decision has a price tag. To make sure that you are making the right decisions, the administration must diagnose their students' problems, the Board must direct resources toward solving those problems and both must track successes and failures. The public then needs to hold the Board and administration accountable. The Association believes that the leadership, provided by this Board and the Superintendent, results in an excellent job in making the right decisions.

Life is fluid. What works today may not work next year. The Association is pleased to know that the District is consistently looking for ways to be, as one Board member said, "on the cutting edge". To do this, it is necessary to plan. The Board should plan for the best case, the worst case, the short-term, and the long-term. The Board should then be prepared to change the plan as factors such as the economy, student numbers, or legislative changes occur. Issues included should be planning for improvement in student achievement, planning for the expansion and maintenance facilities, and financial planning.

There are several specific issues that may negatively impact the district: 1) the assessed valuations remained essentially static this past year and the slowing of the economy could mean another year of slow growth, 2) there is legislation that is being considered that could have a negative impact on negotiations with bargaining groups, 3) the capital markets are unsettled and this could impact opportunities for refinancing, and 4) the local option one cent sales tax expires in 2010 and the renewal of that tax is uncertain.

All school districts in Polk County have benefited greatly from the School Infrastructure Local Option sales tax. As that levy approaches its end in the summer of 2010, the Urbandale School Board and administration should begin to educate the public as to the need for this source of revenue

The Association appreciates the working relationship it has with the District. We are looking forward to maintaining that relationship throughout the following year.

**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BUDGET SUMMARY**

	ACTUAL FY04/05	ACTUAL FY05/06	% OF CHANGE	ACTUAL FY06/07	% OF CHANGE	RE-EST FY07/08	% OF CHANGE	PROPOSED FY08/09	AMOUNT CHANGE	% OF CHANGE
LEVY RATE	\$12.12849	\$13.95164	15.0%	\$13.47509	-3.4%	\$15.71897	16.7%	\$16.27622	\$0.55725	3.5%
REGULAR TAXABLE VALUATION	\$807,441,601	\$850,875,156	5.4%	\$918,664,109	8.0%	\$946,397,745	3.0%	\$948,821,052	2,423,307	0.3%
TIF VALUATION	\$70,525,770	\$61,005,880	-13.5%	\$72,036,360	18.1%	\$57,497,760	-20.2%	\$100,874,700	43,376,940	75.4%
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE:	\$9,750,575	\$11,010,110	12.9%	\$11,735,183	6.6%	\$14,256,499	21.5%	\$15,002,615	746,116	5.2%
% OF TOTAL REVENUE	29.2%	22.8%	-22.0%	18.4%	-19.3%	23.5%	27.7%	33.9%	0	44.3%
UTILITY REPLACEMENT EXCISE TAX	674,764	723,783	7.3%	733,813	1.4%	837,442	14.1%	813,516	(23,926)	-2.9%
PROP TAX WITH UTILITY EXCISE TAX	\$10,425,339	\$11,733,893	12.6%	\$12,468,996	6.3%	\$15,093,941	21.1%	\$15,816,131	722,190	4.8%
ALL STATE AID:	\$10,436,553	\$10,976,605	5.2%	\$11,579,104	5.5%	\$12,334,933	6.5%	\$13,163,553	828,620	6.7%
% OF REVENUE	31.3%	22.7%	-27.4%	18.1%	-20.1%	20.3%	11.9%	29.7%	9.4%	46.4%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$33,366,860	\$48,320,743	44.8%	\$63,831,475	32.1%	\$60,747,909	-4.8%	\$44,290,584	(\$16,457,325)	-27.1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$35,397,726	\$55,637,483	57.2%	\$45,725,627	-17.8%	\$57,139,531	25.0%	\$67,267,028	\$10,127,497	17.7%
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(\$2,030,866)	(\$7,316,740)	260.3%	\$18,105,848	-347.5%	\$3,608,378	-80.1%	(\$22,976,444)	(\$26,584,822)	-736.8%
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$20,419,780	\$12,955,539	-36.6%	\$31,061,387	139.8%	\$34,669,765	11.6%	\$11,693,321	(\$22,976,444)	-66.3%
FUND BALANCE	57.7%	23.3%	-59.6%	67.9%	191.7%	60.7%	-10.7%	17.4%	-43.3%	-71.4%
GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$23,411,174	\$25,310,227	8.1%	\$27,382,876	8.2%	\$29,371,557	7.3%	\$30,877,844	\$1,506,287	5.1%
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$23,302,245	\$25,803,686	10.7%	\$28,105,953	8.9%	\$30,054,286	6.9%	\$31,595,678	\$1,541,392	5.1%
NET GAIN (LOSS)	\$108,929	(\$493,459)	-553.0%	(\$723,077)	46.5%	(\$682,729)	-5.6%	(\$717,834)	(\$35,105)	5.1%
ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$4,660,676	\$4,167,217	-10.6%	\$3,444,140	-17.4%	\$2,761,411	-19.8%	\$2,043,577	(\$717,834)	-26.0%
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	20.0%	16.1%	-19.3%	12.3%	-24.1%	9.2%	-25.0%	6.5%	-2.7%	-29.6%
SOLVENCY RATIO	19.2%	19.0%	-1.0%	19.0%	0.0%	12.5%	-34.2%	12.3%	-0.2%	-1.6%
INSTRUCTION COST:	\$16,326,024	\$17,418,814	6.7%	\$18,708,396	7.4%	\$19,569,214	4.6%	\$20,528,425	\$959,211	4.9%
% OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES	46.1%	31.3%	-32.1%	40.9%	30.7%	34.2%	-16.3%	30.5%	-3.7%	-10.9%
% OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	70.1%	67.5%	-3.6%	66.6%	-1.4%	65.1%	-2.2%	65.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%
STUDENT (WEIGHTED) ENROLLMENT	3,388	3,478	2.7%	3,554	2.2%	3,591	1.0%	3,608	17	0.5%
STATE AID: Allowable Growth in Cost Per Student	\$4,741	\$4,931	4.0%	\$5,128	4.0%	\$5,333	4.0%	\$5,546	\$213	4.0%
SALARIES & BENEFITS:	\$17,636,312	\$19,389,031	9.9%	\$21,829,651	12.6%	\$22,646,030	3.7%	\$24,009,102	\$1,363,072	6.0%
% OF EXPENDITURE	75.7%	75.1%	-0.7%	77.7%	3.4%	75.4%	-3.0%	76.0%	0.6%	0.8%
EMPLOYEES (FTE):										
ADMINISTRATION	16.0	18.5	15.6%	18.0	-2.7%	19.0	5.6%	19.0	-	0.0%
INSTRUCTORS	234.0	221.5	-5.3%	265.0	19.6%	284.0	7.2%	290.0	6.0	2.1%
SUPPORT	169.7	146.5	-13.7%	180.1	23.0%	181.0	0.5%	181.0	-	0.0%
TOTAL STAFF	419.7	386.5	-7.9%	463.1	19.8%	484.0	4.5%	490.0	6.0	1.2%
LEGAL BONDED DEBT LIMIT	\$40,372,080	\$42,543,758	5.4%	\$45,933,205	8.0%	\$47,319,887	3.0%	\$47,441,053	\$121,165	0.3%
LONG-TERM BONDED DEBT:	\$21,295,000	\$27,265,000	28.0%	\$50,295,000	84.5%	\$47,595,000	-5.4%	\$56,770,000	\$9,175,000	19.3%
% OF ASSESSED VALUE	2.4%	3.0%	23.3%	5.1%	69.8%	4.7%	-6.6%	5.4%	0.7%	14.1%

\*outstanding GO Debt