

POLK DES MOINES
TAXPAYERS
ASSOCIATION

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A WORD FROM BROADLAWNS MEDICAL CENTER

Jody Jenner has now been at BMC for slightly over a year. One of his first priorities has been the development and implementation of a method to ensure Broadlawns' accountability to the taxpayers of Polk County. With that in mind, he established the "Vital Signs" scorecard to track their progress towards key organizational goals. To date, BMC is exceeding their budgeted financial targets.

1. Became fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO),
2. Received full re-accreditation of our medical residency program through the American Colleges of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
3. Exceed a number of national patient care quality standards established by the United States Center for Medicare Services (CMS)
4. Exceed internal patient satisfaction benchmarks and have implemented the nationally renowned and rigorous Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey.
5. Implementing an employee satisfaction survey to guide us in our quest to be the healthcare employer of choice in central Iowa.

All of these are part of BMC's Vital Signs scorecard that will serve as the roadmap towards future success of Broadlawns Medical Center.

In addition, Jody Jenner has recently reorganized staff at Broadlawns Medical Center. As Broadlawns works toward becoming a "vibrant market-and patient-driven community hospital and medical center", it is essential that they continue to focus on being a streamlined organization that readily adapts to a challenging healthcare environment. In this effort, Jody believes proactive measures must be taken to empower the staff to take personal responsibility and accountability in the decision making process at Broadlawns. One result of this empowerment has been a reduction in the number of senior leadership positions at Broadlawns Medical Center.

Finally, Broadlawns Medical Center launched a Marketing and Image campaign to provide education to the community about the physicians and services provided to the citizens of Polk County. The Board and administration's vision is to become the Community Hospital for the residents of Polk County.

CITIES BUDGET OVERVIEW

City of West Des Moines

Support

- + **The use of the public survey is good, but businesses should also be surveyed, since 54% of the city's Taxable Valuation is Commercial/Industrial property.**
- + The city is proactive in reducing health care costs, but should develop a plan to share the costs and benefits of a wellness program.
- + The Association appreciates the cooperative ventures in which WDM is involved.
- + Was pleased to see performance measures included in the budget book, and looks forward to seeing those expanded.
- + Suggests that the CIP budget be put into its own book.
- + Reminds the Council be sure that parks and other recreation venues be included in the CIP budget.
- + Congratulates WDM for its AAA bond rating.

City of Des Moines

Support

- + The Association continues be very concerned with the issues associated with the Franchise Fee.
- + We appreciate the Council's morning workshops and the strategic planning/goal setting session.
- + We applaud the City's efforts to control health care costs and encourage them to continue to control expenditures.
- + Support the Mayor's efforts to make DM a green community.
- + Consider homeowners and businesses in the survey and the effect on both of a higher levy rate.
- + DM must continue to seek cooperative opportunities.

City of Urbandale

Support

- + The tax increase may be justified by the concern for Fire/EMS response times.
- + Low claims and Council actions have helped to control health care costs. The city must continue to be proactive.
- + The Association praises the city for its use of performance measures, benchmarking, and survey.
- + Increases in sewer, solid waste, and storm water fees are tax increases and need to be carefully considered.
- + Is pleased to learn that Urbandale will have a long-term planning session this summer.
- + Applauds the use of technology as a productivity multiplier.

City of Ankeny

Support

- + Thanks to the Council, in recognition on 11% taxable growth, for lowering the levy rate by 5-cents.
- + Congratulates the City for the excellent job they do in CIP planning.
- + Approves of the many cooperative efforts, including DART and Metro Home.
- + Praises the City's use of a two-year budgeting cycle and a citizen survey.
- + Requests that a department undergo a from-the-ground-up review of its mission and personnel.
- + Urges Ankeny to unite with other metro communities and work for property tax reform.

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BUDGET OVERVIEW

ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT

- + Acknowledged Dr. Stalker's leadership and CFO Kirk Naber's long and distinguished service to the District.
- +Requested that the budgeting done for all categories not be set with across-the-board percentage increases but be as precise as possible.
- +Congratulated the District on the rolling 10-year facilities plan and PPEL expenditures.
- +Suggested that the new Superintendent and CFO have an Administrative and Curriculum audit performed.
- +Asked for additional District and Association meeting throughout the year to discuss staffing and budget issues.

DES MOINES SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPT

- +The District is in good financial shape, with a budgeted Solvency Ratio of 5.3%.
- +The Association has serious concerns with the sustainability of the planned changes.
- +The tax levy rate, thanks to increased State funds, was lowered by .10/\$1000.
- +The installation of the new ERP is very successful. This should greatly improve business practices and was a wonderful example of inter-district cooperation.
- +The District must continuously re-evaluate the number of facilities operated by the district, and the boundaries, staffing, and O & M costs associated with each building.
- +Each year all expenditure options must be on the table: transportation, health insurance costs, and possible administrative savings.

WEST DES MOINES SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT

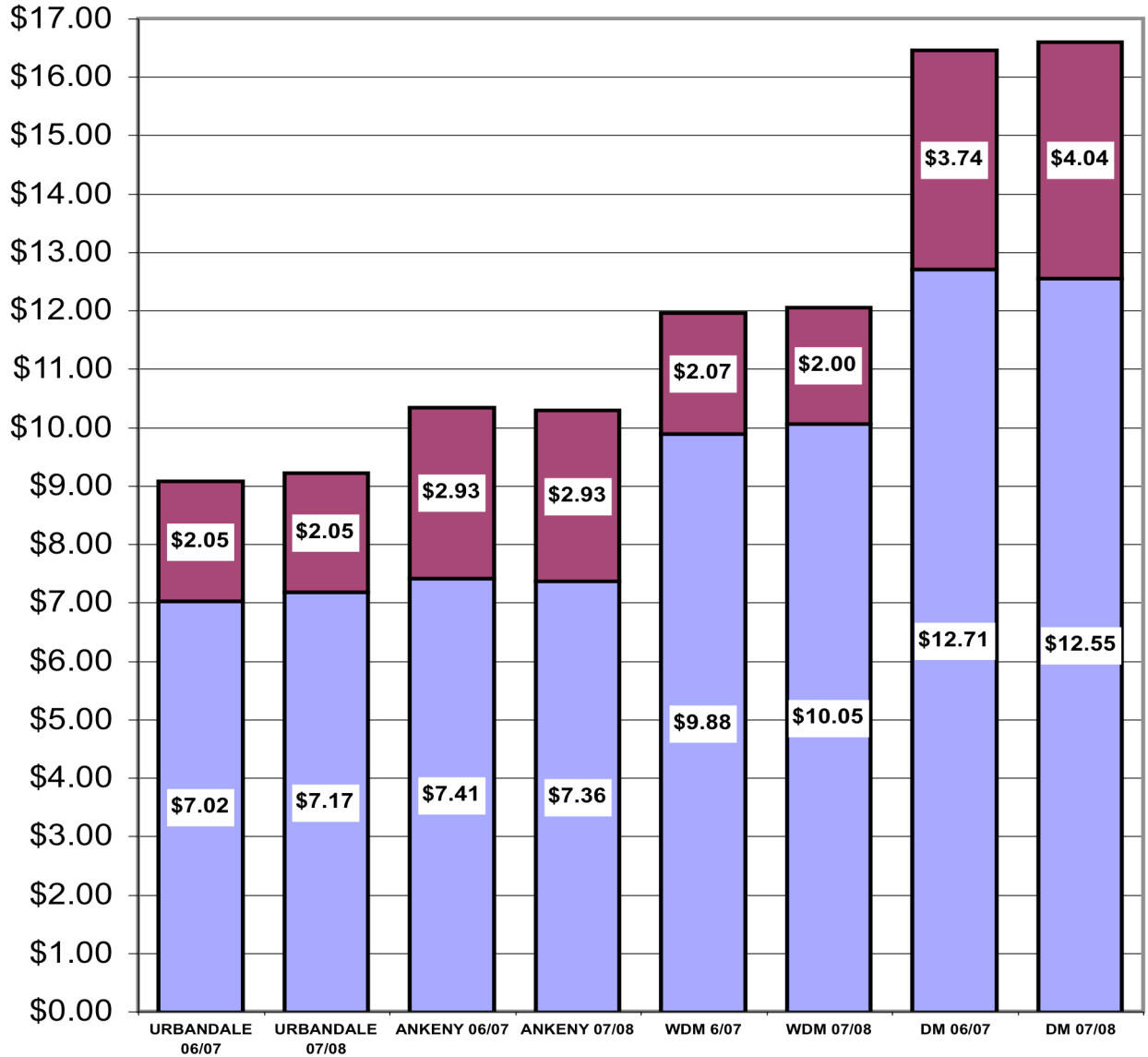
- +The Association is convinced that this District is well managed and has excellent business sense.
- +The Association congratulated the District for their collaborative efforts on the ERP and city/district ventures.
- +The District has demonstrated that it is not afraid to make changes. Boundaries and transportation are just two examples. Education must be pro-active to deal with the changing times.
- +Gives kudos to both the policy makers and the administrators for the terrific manner in which they work together.

URBANDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT

- +Recognized Dr. Robinson's leadership in the District, throughout central Iowa, and across the state..
- +Applauded the District for its sound financial position and the long-term vision of the Board.
- +Endorsed the District's efforts in collaboration with DMACC, other local districts, and the City of Urbandale.
- +Supports the District's many innovative actions in providing a quality education to its students.
- +Thanked the District for the great working relationship throughout the year.

CITY TAX LEVY RATE CHANGE

ALL OTHER LEVIES
 DEBT LEVY



The new website is up and running. New information is posted weekly. Check it out at www.polkdesmoimestaxpayers.org