

SCHOOL DISTRICT LOWERS TAXES AGAIN

At the FASD Board Meeting on Monday, October 17, 2016, FASD Business Manager, Maggie Gagnon, shared that the Freedom Area School District is pleased to report that the mill rate for the District will drop by \$.24 per thousand for the 2017 tax year. The drop will bring the rate to \$8.46 per thousand from \$8.70 per thousand in the previous year. Several reasons contributed to this drop in the rate. One is an increase in the equalization aid from the state. The District received a \$166,981 increase in aid which is a 1.7 % increase. This increase in aid decreases the levy amount necessary. The District also experienced a 1.93 % increase in property value. This property value increase allows the tax levy amount to be spread over a larger property base thus lowering our local mill rate.

Gagnon also shared that the district had other positive news regarding future school district finances. The Freedom Area School District will be debt free in April of 2018. The land on County Road N has been paid off, and all school building additions and a recently enacted technology resolution will be paid in full. For 2017, \$1.97 of the school district's tax levy is allocated for debt retirement.

Kevin Kilstofte, FASD District Administrator added, "Our School Board members, along with many other members of the school community, past and present, have created a very positive opportunity for our school district and the Freedom community. As competition between districts has greatly increased due to open enrollment changes and increased school vouchers over the past couple of years, it is good to know that our district is currently on stable financial ground."

Gagnon stated, "There are many positives to being a part of the Freedom Area School District right now. Our financial stability can only enhance what we can collectively accomplish in the future."

"The Freedom Area School District, with continued community support and consistent state school funding, will continue to be in a financial position to further enhance the opportunities for each of the children in our district," added Kilstofte.