



# **Van Alstyne Independent School District**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ISD ADOPTS 2009 – 2010 BUDGET**

VA ISD Board of Trustees approved an expenditure budget of \$12,615,403 and a revenue budget of \$12,714,919 in their final budget meeting Monday night. The board also voted to maintain the current school district tax rate at \$1.52 and approved a long term lease for the use of school gymnasiums by the Van Alstyne Sports Authority.

\$5,853,167 in local tax collections and \$5,487,469 from state funding constitute the greatest portion of the district's revenue.

The district's expenditure budget, which is \$317,906 less than last year, includes \$5,505,351 on instruction, \$2,458,160 on debt service, and \$1,217,330 on plant maintenance and operations.

VAISD Superintendent Dr. Alan Seay stated most of the savings from the previous year came in the area of personnel.

“Student enrollment declined 70 students, or 5%, last year and was a major factor in our budget difficulties. We could not maintain the same staffing levels and continue to operate efficiently. We absorbed several positions this summer in an effort to get our staff to student ratio closer to 14.17 which is what it was in 2003 when the high school opened. Based on our enrollment projections we will have 14.19 students for every staff person in 2009 – 2010.”

The Board adopted a school tax rate of \$1.52 to fund the 2009-2010 budget. \$1.12 of that rate is used for maintenance and operations and \$.40 is used to fund debt service. The \$1.52 rate is the same rate as that approved by the voters in the November 2008 Tax Ratification Election.

“It was important to our Board to maintain the rate at the level we had last year,” said Board President Kyle Beall. “Our voters trusted us last fall with the approval of the new rate. We wanted to justify that trust when we set the rate this year.”

In other action the Board approved budget amendments for the 2008-09 budget.