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David Patton

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MISSION

Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.

VISION

That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstance.

LearningCommunityDS.org

March 6, 2017

Senator Lou Ann Linehan
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604

RECEIVED MAR - 8

Dear Senator Linehan,

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about the recent increases in Douglas County property valuations and sharing the concerns your constituents have regarding their property taxes.

Please be assured that the Learning Community Coordinating Council reviews our property tax levies on an annual basis and is sensitive to the interests of our taxpayers. In fact, in August 2016, we reduced our elementary learning center levy by a tenth of a penny, from 1.5 cents to 1.4 cents per \$100 of property valuation. A Douglas County taxpayer with a median home value of \$150,000 could anticipate a Learning Community cost of approximately \$21 per year.

With our eleven school districts, the Learning Community seeks to ensure that the investments we make with the levy proceeds, approximately \$7.5 million, are producing positive results, that is, that they are measurably improving the educational outcomes for children and families in poverty. Poverty now impacts the educational needs of more than 51,000 students in the Omaha metro area. Our investments are guided by the independent evaluation of all our programs that is conducted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe Meyer Institute each year and that is contained in the Annual Report presented to the Education Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Learning Community's investments and its property tax levies. I will be in touch with your office to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.

Thank you again for contacting me and I look forward to discussing these issues in the near future.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Chang
Chair, Learning Community Coordinating Council
650 North 56th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132
402.319.3388

cc: David Patton
Kent Rogert
LCCC members