

Proposed USD 415 budget contains mill levy drop

**(KNZA)--The Hiawatha school board has approved for publication a proposed 2019-20 budget that calls for a 2.7 mill levy decrease.**

**The action came during a special meeting Wednesday evening.**

**The proposed budget contains an estimated tax rate of 49.704 mills, which is to generate more than \$6.2 million.**

**Superintendent Lonnie Moser attributed the mill levy reduction to a more than \$5.5 million increase in the district's assessed valuation, growth in enrollment and increase in the base state aid per pupil.**

**It's the second year in a row the district has been able to lower the mill levy.**

**Moser said the mill levy for the supplemental general fund budget will decrease about three-quarters of a mill and bond and interest levy will drop two mills. He said they plan to keep the capital outlay levy at 6 mills even though the district has the authority to levy up to 8 mills.**

**Board President Ian Schuetz said the bond and interest levy of 6.8 mills fulfills a promise to taxpayers to return the levy to 7.3 mills or below when the middle school bond issue was retired. It was paid off in September of last year.**

**The board will consider adoption of the budget following a public hearing at their August 12 meeting.**