

KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY STUDY COMMITTEE

The charge of this committee is to meet with representatives of the Kimball Union Academy (KUA) administration to maintain an ongoing review of the relationship between the academy and the town, and to report its findings at annual town meeting. This year's committee held four meetings between November 2013 and January 2014.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS:

Based on all that your committee was able to learn and discuss, the committee recommends the granting of no less than an 80% tax exemption this year.

The percentage of this exemption may vary in future years if the declining enrollment at the elementary school results in a corresponding reduction in the number of Plainfield students enrolling at KUA. If this trend continues, the need to discuss the merits of a partial exemption will receive close examination by the committee annually.

The committee supports establishing the discretionary grant level based on the number of local students attending the school. The more Plainfield students that attend KUA, the greater the benefit to Plainfield taxpayers and therefore the more funds the town should exempt. Given the forecasted number of Plainfield students likely to attend KUA next year, the committee recommends that the current 80% exemption, 20% taxable level continue next year (as it has for the past two years).

KUA TAX ABATEMENT 2013 AND FINANCIAL AID:

1. Neither the Town of Plainfield nor the Plainfield school district pays any portion of the KUA tuition for local students.
2. KUA anticipates that the number of local students (ninth through twelfth grades) attending the school next year will likely return to a level between our current 29 and last year's total of 23 students.
3. Nine local students will graduate from KUA this year.. Applications from local 8th graders are due by February 1st, therefore, the outcome of the applications will not be known prior to the writing of this report.
4. During the 2013/14 academic year, KUA provided \$330,880 in financial aid to Plainfield students attending KUA.
5. KUA owns \$31.7 million dollars in property, \$23.3 million of that figure is exempt by state law.
6. KUA pays \$ 49,600 in property taxes on \$1.8 million of property that is always taxable.

7. The assessed value of Kitchens, Dining Halls and Dormitories is \$6.4 million that may be exempted at the discretion of the Town's voters. At the current 80% exempt level property value exempted equals 5.27 million and taxes exempted equals \$144,705.
8. KUA pays property taxes of \$85,826 to the Town of Plainfield. This makes KUA the highest property taxpayer in the town.
9. Lebanon tuition is currently \$13,776 per student for school year 2013-2014.
10. The 2013-2014 Plainfield School District budget would have been \$399,504 higher if the 29 students had not chosen to attend Lebanon High School (LHS).
11. KUA's day student tuition for the 2014-2015 school year is \$31,050/year. \$51,250/year for a boarding student.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP:

1. The KUA administration has again, in an effort to enhance the School District's budgeting process, agreed to guarantee that at least three (3) local students from the eighth grade will attend the Academy. If not, the Academy will reimburse the school district the cost of the difference in the LHS per-student tuition.
2. KUA is Plainfield's largest employer. Eighty-seven of KUA's 151 full- and part-time employees live in Plainfield.
3. Plainfield School is currently educating 13 students of KUA faculty that live on campus.
4. KUA makes its facilities available to Plainfield organizations and residents for a variety of activities and functions.
5. In 2013 the community tree lighting ceremony, which takes place each year on KUA property, was dedicated to the memory of David Chellis.
6. Residents are encouraged to visit the town's web site and follow the "KUA Invites You link" for an up to date listing of events and happenings open to the public. Access times and directions to KUA facilities for Plainfield residents are available on the KUA website www.kua.org

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelley Andrews, Eric Brann, Betsy Duany, Myra Ferguson, Christian Forman-PES School Board, Jim Gray-KUA, Robyn Hadlock, Steve Halleran-Town Administrator, Rob Hewett-Chair, Pamala Miller, John Yacavone. Plainfield KUA Study Committee 2013/14