



TALONTalk!



STEPPING UP: Stop by our website to see what we are doing to meet the new national Common Core standards and the state's new Third Grade Reading Guarantee!



EXCITING TIMES AHEAD: Madison-Plains is off to a great start for the 2012-13 school year. We welcomed 1,278 students the first day of school!



STATE OF THE SCHOOLS Superintendent Bernie Hall and Treasurer Tim Dettwiller will present information to the community at 7 p.m., Oct. 17 in the high school auditorium.

Securing our fiscal health is critical

The Board of Education recently took steps to put a replacement levy on the Nov. 6 ballot to maintain the district's sound fiscal status and ensure its long-term health. Here is a quick Q&A:

WHY DOES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEED A LEVY?

The 2.5-mill levy would allow the district to address needs identified by community members before emergency repairs and/or costly replacements of improperly maintained structures and facilities become necessary.

WHAT IS A REPLACEMENT LEVY?

A replacement levy is a new levy for the same purpose of the existing levy but with a different collection rate than the levy that is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2013. The collection rate uses the assessed value of the property at the time of the replacement.

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We've got a lot to share!

In our effort of providing you with relevant and timely information about Madison-Plains, we are embarking on a few new communication initiatives. This newsletter and its electronic companion sent every few weeks via email are just a few examples of this work. Be sure to sign up for

our email distribution lists to receive regular updates and special announcements from our buildings. We are also in the midst of planning a State of the Schools Address so we are able to share our successes and future endeavors with you. See inside for more information!



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HOW MUCH WOULD RESIDENTS PAY?

Property owners would pay about \$7.29 a month for the replacement levy per \$100,000 of assessed property value. It would generate about \$278,662 annually for Madison-Plains (see Page 3).

HAS MADISON-PLAINS DONE ANYTHING TO CUT COSTS?

The district has not increased taxes since 2005. Since then, the district has curbed spending by freezing salary steps, reducing staff and consolidating buildings. The 10-year financial plan that outlines when funds are needed also includes steps to reduce expenditures by more than \$8 million over the next decade.


WHAT WILL THE LEVY PAY FOR?

Permanent improvement dollars pay to maintain, modify and repair facilities; repair and/or upgrade heating and ventilating systems; and make purchases for items such as school buses, textbooks and other materials/equipment that have a life-span of more than five years. Salaries, benefits and daily operating expenses cannot be paid for with the PI fund by state law.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

It is a 5-year levy for permanent

Workhorse on the Road



There are 28 buses in the Madison-Plains fleet. The life-span of each bus is approximately 10 years. The district budgets for two buses per year in order to meet state inspections and keep the fleet operational and safe. Maintenance is performed by district personnel.

By the Numbers

- 20: The number of daily bus routes
- 1,595: The number of miles Madison-Plains drivers travel per day, excluding travel for sports and other trips
- 283,910: The number of miles Madison-Plains drivers travel over the course of the 178-day school year just getting kids to and from school
- 864: The number of students transported each day
- \$1,500: The trade-in value for a used bus

improvements and cannot be used for day-to-day operating expenses (such as utilities, teachers/staff and classroom materials).

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT DOESN'T PASS?

The district will rely on the existing levy that expires next December, but will be forced to return to the ballot again with a new measure.

The millage rate for that levy could be higher because of lost collection time.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO?

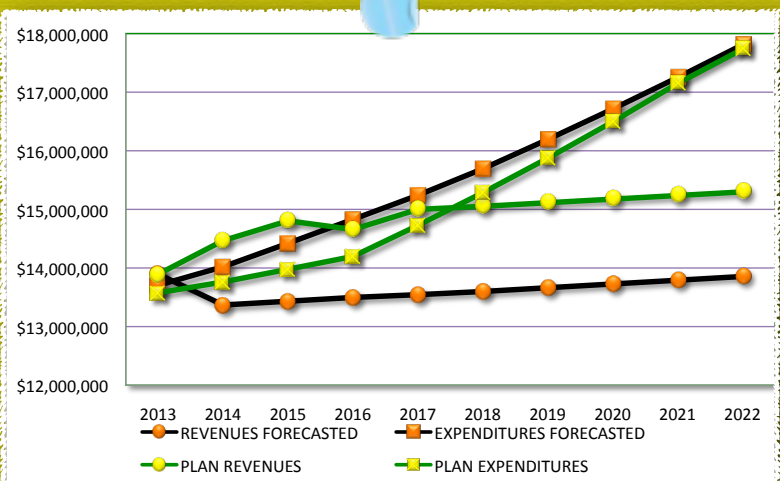
Please check our district's website, www.mplsd.org. Be sure to sign up for our electronic newsletters and reminders for regular communication and up-to-date information.

10-YEAR PLAN SETS DISTRICT ON PATH OF SUCCESS

District leadership has developed a 10-year financial plan. The plan outlines spending reductions as well as the support needed to keep funding at stable levels. The needs for establishing a 21st century learning environment for all students are also addressed.

• • • *Bernie Hall, Superintendent*

Forecast vs The Plan



Community helps identify needs, priorities

Making a list with community members of issues to address



Boiler Room equipment dates to 1950s

The following areas have been identified by community members as critical needs that must be addressed by the district in order to deliver a quality education to students.

BUSES

The average cost of a bus is \$90,000. The district has to budget for two replacement bus per year in order to maintain a safe fleet that meets annual safety inspections.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Roofs, doors, windows and HVAC (heating, cooling and ventilation) are all costly upkeep. The district has worked hard to maintain facilities but must, for example, have the ability to plan for big-ticket items such as sealing a parking lot or replacing roofs or windows when needed. The Band-Aid approach of patching leaks

and fixing seals is not always a cost-efficient use of tax dollars and can be more expensive in the long run.

LUNCHROOMS

Students begin eating lunch at 10:30 a.m. The last meal is served at 12:30. The current lunchroom is 2,500 square feet and does not accommodate more than 180 students at a time. A larger space would allow for fewer interruptions throughout the day and, in turn, more instruction. Transforming the "courtyard" is not a financially sound solution. Significant demolition would have to occur first to just get equipment into the space to build.

STORAGE

Think of it as the basement in your house... With the sale of the Midway building (which would be very expensive to maintain and keep to code) the district will need a facility to store equipment, furniture not in use, classroom supplies, paper and other essential operational items.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Investing in newer equipment and materials and focusing on greener solutions is a responsible use of tax dollars and will save the district money for years to come.

THE COST

per month for
a 2.5-mill replacement

For a \$100,000 assessed home

\$7.29

For a \$150,000 assessed home

\$10.94

For a \$200,000 assessed home

\$14.58

Assessed values available at
co.madison.oh.us/auditor

FROM THE TREASURER

It's not easy asking for money, but we have to. We've been frugal with your tax dollars and found creative ways to stretch every penny as far as possible. The time has come, however, where our needs outweigh our means. Our 10-year financial plan outlines the steps we need to take to move forward and maintain our fiscal health and avoid a fiscal emergency. --

Jim Dettwiler

CONSOLIDATING DOLLARS: The new elementary wing was paid for by reallocating existing dollars. The district needed to reduce overcrowding and found a plausible solution without raising taxes.



BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS: The new scoreboard at the high school was paid for thanks to donations from local businesses and revenue from advertising.



VIRTUAL TEXTBOOKS: The district is able to implement the iPad initiative by utilizing existing funds in the textbook budget. The devices were issued to students at the junior high earlier this month.





Getting carried away...

Bernie Hall
Superintendent
...

We are off to a great start in Madison-Plains this school year. We welcomed 1,278 students on the first day of school and saw many new smiling faces among them.

It's always exciting to get swept up in the flurry of a new school year. The swell of action has carried us into 2012-13, with conferences underway next week and report cards going home soon after.

Speaking of grades, the State of Ohio delayed the release of its annual report cards, so we don't know exactly how we stack up to last year, but we are able to look at some preliminary data (released at press time). We'll assess the numbers to determine where we need to implement new approaches to ensure stronger academic growth.

At this point, we know we need to do a better job of ensuring a student's knowledge grows by a year over the course of a year, as measured by the Value Added component of the report card. We, however, do anticipate meeting the same number of academic indicators this year as last year, which is good news.

We will talk more about that later this month when Treasurer Tim Dettwiller and I deliver the district's first State of the Schools Address. The short presentation -- 7 p.m., Oct. 17 -- is part of our initiative to increase communication (this newsletter is another). The idea was borne, in part, through our our community group MPAC, the Madison-Plains Advisory Council.

Our MPAC members have been hard at work, contributing a great deal of time and energy for nearly six months to share ideas about the



Intermediate teachers & students hard at work

future of Madison-Plains. The district has a 2.5-mill replacement levy on the November ballot and the group has provided great insight into how our needs in Madison-Plains should be met when the issues passes.

There is a lot in store as we look to the next few weeks and I am looking forward to the continued momentum. Thank you for your support and commitment to the children of Madison-Plains.



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SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 16	Board Meeting
Oct. 16 & 18	Conferences
Oct. 17	State of the Schools
Oct. 19	No School
Oct. 24	Early Release
Oct. 24	Report Cards posted online
Nov. 1	Early Release
Nov. 6	Election Day, Board Meeting
Nov. 21-23	No School