



TALONTalk!



COST SAVINGS The district will save thousands of dollars by implementing a recycling program. See inside for more details about this cost-effective program.



TOUGH COMPETITORS: Four students from MPHS competed in the state Family, Community & Career Leaders of America competition for top performances at regionals.



MAY 7, 2013: The PI on the ballot would raise dollars for (A) Air conditioning; (B) Buses; and making improvements in (C) Common Spaces to update facilities.

May levy IDs critical needs

Voters will have the opportunity this spring to help the district address critical needs that have been identified by a community advisory group.

A 2.5-mill replacement levy on the May 7 ballot will generate funds to purchase buses, make improvements to common spaces across the district and consider upgrades to heating/air conditioning in the Intermediate building. The Madison-Plains Advisory Council has been working with district officials and the Board of Education since March 2012 to learn more about the district's 10-year financial plan and how to continue its sound fiscal health.

If supported, the levy will replace one already on the books that expires on Dec. 31. The cost is about \$7.29 per month for every \$100,000 in property valuation.

More information is available at www.mpls.org/election.aspx.



Introducing the Class of 2013

Madison-Plains High School will send off more than 100 graduates this spring.

Commencement exercises are scheduled for 7 p.m., May 24 at Madison-Plains High School.

We wish this year's graduates the best as they venture off on their

own to continue their studies, enter the workforce or join the military.

Many thanks to staff and parents for supporting these students along the way. Without your support, they would not be ready to spread their wings.



Levy 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 must be made to structures and facilities that cannot be maintained in a timely manner.

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.

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 \$618,000 annually for Madison-Plains Local Schools.

HAS MADISON-PLAINS DONE ANYTHING TO CUT COSTS?

The district has not increased taxes since 2005. Since then, the district has curbed spending by reducing staff, consolidating buildings and capping the district's contribution to



Buses are a major need and keep kids safe!

health insurance premiums. 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; install or upgrade air conditioning and heating systems; and make purchases for items such as buses, books and other items 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 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 and sign up for our electronic newsletters.

10-YEAR PLAN SECURES STRONG FISCAL HEALTH FOR DISTRICT

The Madison-Plains 10-year financial plan was created to help community members better understand how to protect their investment in the district and support its strong financial health over a long period of time. The document details, spending reductions and the immediate steps we must take to ensure strong fiscal health now and well into the future:

- A 2.5-mill replacement levy in May (see Page 1)
- An operating issue for day-to-day expenses in November

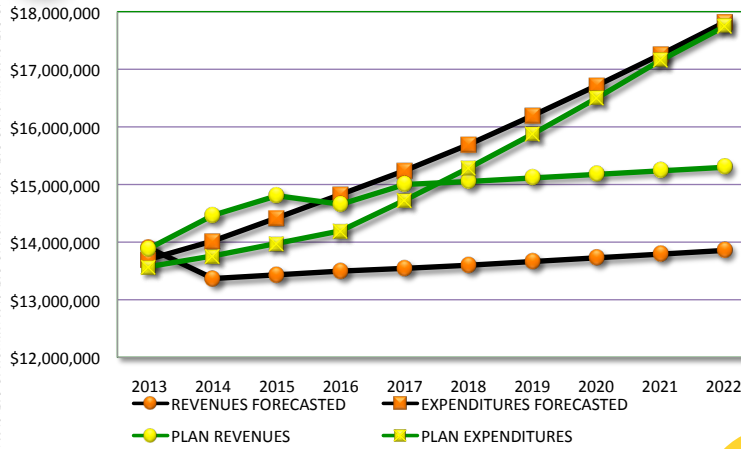
Download the plan from the Treasurer's section on our website www.mplsd.org. • • • Tim Dettwiller, Treasurer



Financial News & Notes

News You Can Use

Forecast vs. 10-year Plan



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



Madison-Plains Advisory Council points to needs

Madison-Plains Advisory Council members have identified the following as critical needs that need be addressed in order to deliver a quality education to students.

AIR CONDITIONING

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.

BUSES

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

COMMON SPACES

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.

FROM THE TREASURER

We've put your tax dollars to good use and have found creative ways to stretch every penny as far as possible. Yet, the time has come for continued support. Our projections are conservative and we have made reductions along the way. Now our needs outweigh our means so we must return to the ballot this spring. Please let me know if you have any questions about the info shared with you here. I'm happy to help!

Jim Dettwiler

ELEMENTARY: Turn on the spotlights and let the action begin! The annual Talent & Art Show is set for 12:30 p.m., May 9. Students and their best take center stage.



INTERMEDIATE: Students were on a mission to make a difference and did! To the tune of \$1,503.88! The school hosted a Pennies for Patients drive to collect funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



JUNIOR HIGH: The use of iPads has been so successful in year one, plans to expand into other grades are being assessed. The textbook budget pays for the devices, which are more current and cost-effective than many books.





Spring keeps springing!

Bernie Hall
Superintendent

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In just a few weeks our doors will close for the summer and all will be quiet on the Madison-Plains front.

There is a lot in store for us before the 2012-13 school year comes to an end, however.

The district is on the ballot this spring, with an important measure that would allow us to make some much needed improvements in our buildings, at our bus garage and across our grounds.

I often talk about "ABCs and 123s" and the building blocks to a strong foundation. The replacement levy you'll see at the polls would raise the dollars for items our community group has identified as essential: air conditioning (A), buses (B) and making upgrades to our common spaces (C) to alleviate the

overcrowding in our lunch rooms and gyms.

The Madison-Plains Advisory Committee has been meeting for more than a year to help the district share information about these needs and help develop the district's 10-year financial plan.

Speaking of planning and preparing for the future, the administration has been working diligently along with the Board and some community members to write a comprehensive strategic plan to identify strategies to push the district forward academically. The resulting Madison-Plains Improvement Plan (MPIP) will outline goals, identify strategies and define expectations to help our staff increase student achievement.

We earned a lower rating on the state's Local Report Card for 2011-12 because we did not meet the Value-



Added indicator which measures whether a student's knowledge grows by a year over the course of a year.

We will implement the MPIP when school resumes this fall. I'm truly confident our students will respond positively to increased rigor and am eager to see them all rise to the challenge.

Madison-Plains is a great place to be and I look forward to the continued momentum. Thank you for your on-going support and commitment to our district!

SAVE THE DATE

April 25-28	Spring Play
May 2	Early Release
May 3	From
May 7	Election Day
May 21	Board of Education meeting
May 24	Last day for students
May 24	Commencement

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