



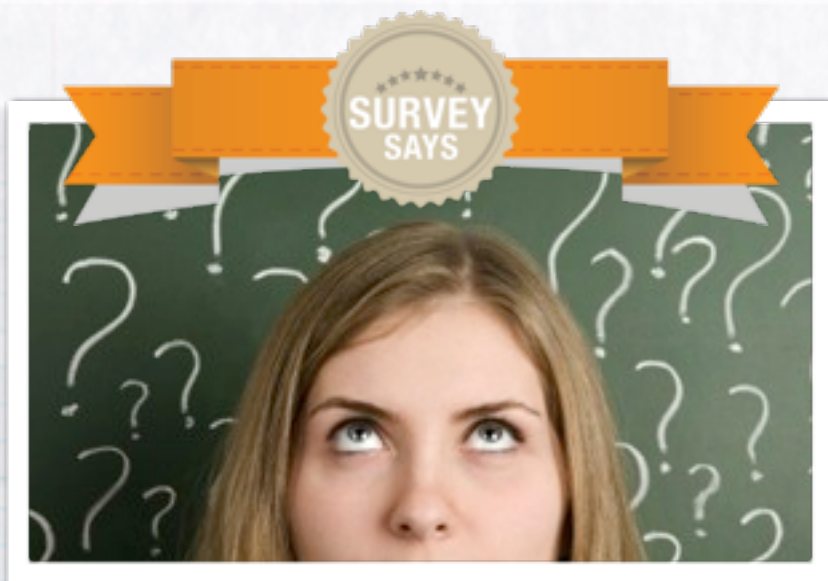
# TALONTalk!

## No new taxes with PI levy renewal

Voters will have the opportunity this fall to help the district maintain their investment in Madison-Plains Local Schools.

The Board of Education placed a no-new-tax renewal for the current 2.5-mill permanent improvement levy on the Nov. 5 ballot. The money will generate funds to purchase buses, maintain facilities and grounds and purchase equipment with a life span of more than five years, such as textbooks and computers. The Madison-Plains Advisory Council (MPAC) has been working with district officials and the Board since March 2012 to learn more about the district's 10-year financial plan and how to continue its sound fiscal health. MPAC members support the Board and the ballot issue.

If renewed, taxes will **not** increase.



## How are we doing? You tell us!

Madison-Plains: A work in progress. And, we are proud of that!

We are always looking for ways to improve... ways to better serve our students, staff and community.

So, we are preparing a survey to send out in the next several weeks because we want to know what

you think. This will be your chance to tell us how we are doing.

Students in grades 4-12 will take the survey online while at school. Parents and community members can complete the questionnaire online or request a hard copy.

Look for more news on our website for the release details.



**TOUGH COMPETITORS:** Check our website for games and scores for all fall and winter sports. Go Eagles!

Join Us Today

**YOU IN?:** The Madison-Plains Advisory Council, MPAC, meets at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of every month in the Elementary meeting room. Please join us.



**TAKES A VILLAGE:** We're all about working together. Read inside to see how collaboration is our key to success.

# Levy Q&A: You Ask. We Answer!

## WHY DOES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEED A LEVY?

The no-new-tax request will generate the dollars needed to maintain all of the district's buildings and facilities. The current permanent improvement levy is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2013.

## HOW MUCH WOULD RESIDENTS PAY WITH THIS LEVY?

The levy would renew at the same rate. Taxes will **not** increase. Property owners currently pay \$3.65 a month per \$100,000 of property value.

## HAS MADISON-PLAINS DONE ANYTHING TO CUT COSTS?

The district has not increased taxes since 2005. November's request is for a RENEWAL and will **not** increase taxes. Since then, the district has controlled spending by 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, update 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. PI funds CANNOT be used for salaries, benefits, teacher materials and daily operating expenses by state law.

## HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

It is a 5-year levy for permanent improvements that will generate \$340,732 per year to maintain facilities.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF IT DOESN'T PASS?

If the levy is not renewed, the Board will have to make cuts by identifying reductions in building/facility maintenance, the purchase of technology (computers/iPads) and classroom materials (books/desks/furniture). It would also have to return to voters with another levy request.



## HOW DID THE DISTRICT DECIDE ON THIS AMOUNT?

The district's 10-Year Financial Plan outlines priorities. A 2.50-mill issue failed earlier this year and the district has scaled back needs identified as priorities by the Madison-Plains Advisory Council (MPAC). The Financial Plan also outlines spending reductions and the financial support needed to keep funding at stable levels. The needs for establishing a 21st century learning environment for all students are also addressed in the plan.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO?

Please check our district's website, [www.mplsd.org](http://www.mplsd.org) and sign up for our electronic newsletters.

## SAFETY MEASURES UP IN WATER SOURCES

Drinking water in Madison-Plains Local Schools passes muster and is safe for public consumption. Samples were taken from each school and tested for lead according to federal regulations. The results will be posted in the High School and Elementary Buildings on Nov. 1.

For more information or specific results for each building, see the district's website at [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org).



# MPI Improvement Plan

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

## Teachers and district officials work alongside community members to identify areas of growth ...

Building an improvement plan for Madison-Plains Schools has been a massive undertaking... and a rewarding experience. The work started last spring as a group of administrators met with teachers, Board of Education members, parents and community members to determine specific ways the district can better meet the needs of students and staff.

### OUR FOCUS: MPIP

The result: the Madison-Plains Improvement plan, or MPIP, which lays the groundwork for academic growth and establishes a shared philosophical approach to helping students make those gains. Think of it as a road map that points toward measurable results and builds new avenues and routes toward that destination. Find it on our website!

The overall intent of the Madison-Plains Improvement Plan is to create a sense of urgency and passion within our community to understand the role we all have in educating our youth, our future. The goals and action steps outlined within the document will unite all Madison-Plains employees in our quest for achieving our mission.

The mission of the Madison-Plains Local School District is to provide the best opportunity for all students to become successful in higher learning and become productive, contributing, responsible citizens, thus enabling them to realize their full potential as citizens of their community and world.

Striving for "Excellence in All We Do" will be our guiding force. Our cohesive focus as employees, students, parents and community members will lead us to success. Our vested interest to make our district the best possible will set the distinction.

## moving FORWARD

### OUR GOALS

**MPIP GOAL 1:** By the end of calendar year 2014, 85% of all subject areas in all applicable grade levels will demonstrate one year of academic growth as measured by district-approved student growth measures.

**MPIP GOAL 2:** By August 2013, the District will provide an educational environment that supports all learners.

We will all hold these beliefs to be true – from our classrooms to our playing fields and on the bus to and from school – and we will work to support them each day. We will all work together to help our children achieve their fullest potential in a safe, caring, supportive and enriching environment. We will also allow for individual difference in abilities and support those with varying needs.

## MPIP IN ACTION SHOWS PROGRESS ON THE RISE

**High School:** Class averages in Advanced Algebra 2 have increased after switching to learning centers from lectures. The students work toward learning targets in groups and practice problems which promotes ownership of the task at hand. Students ask teachers for support throughout the lessons which creates more one-on-one time.

**Junior High:** Changes are taking place to help students increase ownership in their work to deepen their learning. The students are tracking their understanding of key concepts and using what they know to help them determine what improvement they need to make. They share their targets to help build a common understanding of what

they are learning and how that relates to what they should know for the future.

**Intermediate:** Teachers are assessing students regularly as they teach and introduce new topics or ideas. Extra help or the introduction of new concepts is based on performance. The building is also working on improving its Behavior Management Program to better serve students.

**Elementary:** Students at the school will get a chance to use the building's new Listening Centers after the school won three iPods from Walmart (20 teachers also won \$50). The new devices help the school meet an MPIP goal to create an environment that supports a variety of learning styles.





# Partnership is the key to success!

**Bernie Hall**

Superintendent  
...

Regardless of who we are or what we do, we need support along the way to meet success.

Toddlers mimic and model the behavior of others as part of their development; youngsters watch and learn from their classroom peers, gaining independence as they grow; and adolescents and teens evolve into leaders as they build confidence in themselves.

As wings spread and new opportunities are explored the search for partnership never dies. We learn to seek partners in life, work and play.

Our approach to the Madison-Plains Improvement Plan is no different. We were eager to seek the support of our parents, colleagues

and community members as we put together a plan for success. We know we need to make improvements in how and what we teach so our students are prepared as best they can be for their futures. Teaching and learning is a process in which we must all work toward collaboratively. We vow to support every student who enters our doors each day and we encourage their families and our community to do the same when they leave each afternoon.

It's true, it does take a village to raise a child. In more ways than one. Voters in the district will have an opportunity to renew their support of the district on Election Day, Nov. 5. The Board placed a no-new-tax measure on the ballot that would continue to raise funds for permanent improvements in the



district. The funds are not – and cannot – be used for salaries or benefits. The dollars go right into our buildings and facilities to keep your investment in our schools strong.

The first two pages of this newsletter go into more detail and our website [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org) has detailed financial reporting and information. I'm also happy to answer questions about the no-new-tax renewal or anything else happening in Madison-Plains. Give me a call, 740-852-0290.

Jan. 6	School Resumes
Dec. 23	Winter Break Begins
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 21	M-P Advisory Council (MPAC)
Nov. 19	Board Meeting
Nov. 5	Election Day
Nov. 1	Early Release

SAVE THE DATE

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