



# TALON Talk!

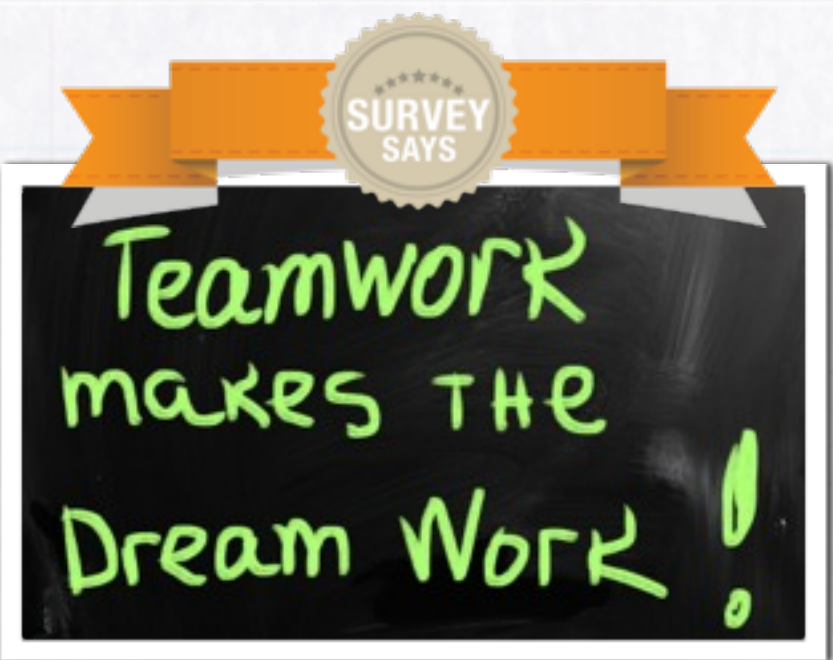
## Renewal on ballot won't increase taxes

Voters will have the chance this spring to keep Madison-Plains Local Schools financially stable. A measure on the May 6 ballot asks for a renewal for operating money but will **not** **increase taxes.**

The current levy – which generates about 11 percent of the district's revenue – is set to expire on Dec. 31 of this year. If renewed, it would not expire in the future and **taxes will not rise.**

The Board of Education placed the **no-tax-increase levy** on the ballot to maintain the educational programs and opportunities currently available to students in the district.

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

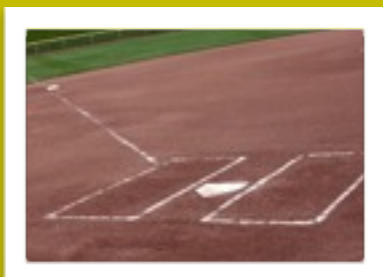


## Thanks for your honest feedback!

We asked community members and students to share their thoughts about their daily experiences in and about Madison-Plains Schools.

We've tallied the results and have a much broader report on our website at [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org).

In all, we know you like to receive information via email and the website. You value the district's tight-knit community and you believe we offer a caring and encouraging environment. And, our focus on curriculum aligns with your thoughts on where we need to improve.



**TOUGH COMPETITORS:** Check [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org) for games and scores for all spring sports. Go Eagles!

MPAC, the Madison-Plains Advisory Council, meets at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of every month in the Elementary meeting room.

**JOIN US!**



**MPIP:** The district embarked on a big project for 2013-14 by implementing an improvement plan to help guide the district toward steeper academic expectations and growth.

Administrators and teachers are committed to the process and will continue to refine the plan to best meet the needs of all Madison-Plains students. Check [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org) for details.

# Levy Q&A: Get the scoop on the no-increase renewal!



## WHY DOES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEED A LEVY?

The no-new-tax request will generate the dollars for utilities, fuel, daily operation, salaries and benefits. The current operating levy is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2014.

## HOW MUCH WOULD RESIDENTS PAY WITH THIS LEVY?

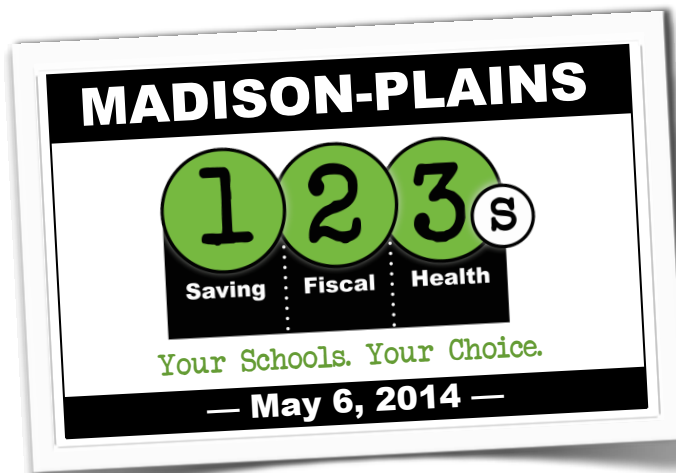
The levy would renew at the same rate. Taxes will not increase. Property owners currently pay \$46.67 a month per \$100,000 of property value. The levy generates \$1.5 million per year, roughly 11 percent of the district's revenue.

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

The district has not increased taxes since 2005. Since then, the district has controlled spending by reducing staff, consolidating buildings and implementing a cap on the insurance plan that lessens the district's share of increases in premium costs. The 10-year financial plan also includes steps to reduce expenditures by more than \$8 million over the next decade.

## WHAT IS THE MILLAGE?

The levy was originally voted in at 8 mills and will read as such on the May 6 ballot, HOWEVER it is currently collected at 5.6 mills due to the state's rollback formula (House Bill 920). Regardless, it will not increase taxes if passed at the ballot.



## WHAT HAPPENS IF IT DOESN'T PASS?

If the levy is not renewed, the Board will likely have to return to voters with another levy request.

## HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

If supported, the ballot measure will convert the existing levy that is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2014 into a continuing levy that will not expire; this, in turn, eliminates costs associated with returning to the ballot to renew issues with specific terms of duration.

## HOW DID THE DISTRICT DECIDE ON THIS AMOUNT?

The district's 10-Year Financial Plan (available on [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org)) outlines priorities, 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.

## WE JUST PASSED A RENEWAL LAST YEAR. WHY ANOTHER?

Voters approved a no-new tax renewal for permanent improvement dollars in 2013. Taxes were not increased. That money is used to 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, by state law, be used for salaries, benefits, teacher materials and daily operating expenses, which this renewal will fund.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO?

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

## M-P ELEMENTARY

### Reading gains are major focus for staff

M-P Elementary staff are using a number of data from different assessments to track student growth.



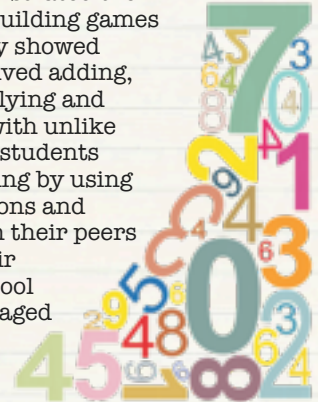
In particular, the results from the state's kindergarten readiness observations, scores from the fall administration of the Ohio Achievement Assessments and outcomes from another testing tool (Fountas and Pinnell) have helped the teachers and administration identify areas of weakness and develop intervention strategies where needed. As a result, students have shown a significant amount of growth this year. For example, 98 percent of kindergarten students have shown improvement, 86 percent of students in grades 1 and 2 have shown movement and 83 percent of third-graders have demonstrated gains.

## M-P INTERMEDIATE

### Knowledge in the spotlight

Fourteen Madison-Plains Intermediate drummed up their courage and gave a presentation on Tuesday, March 19 to the Board of Education. The five members, plus Superintendent Bernie Hall, Treasurer Tim Dettwiller and audience members listened closely as the fifth-graders and their teacher Elizabeth Ames taught a math lesson.

The students demonstrated their understanding by building games with fractions. They showed problems that involved adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions with unlike denominators. The students showed their thinking by using visual representations and communicated with their peers to demonstrate their knowledge. The school board was fully engaged in the lesson.



## M-P JUNIOR HIGH

### Read along and learn!

Madison-Plains Junior High School is moving students forward with NewsELA! NewsELA is a website developed to help students have access to articles about current events that are presented at their reading level. This contributes to more meaningful conversations within the classroom and promotes a deeper understanding of the topics at hand. Teachers can choose to assign an article to the entire class or allow students to select their own on their iPads. Students can also take online quizzes at the end of most articles, which help show growth in reading comprehension or suggest the article should be read at a different level. The quizzes identify areas of strength and allow teachers and students to focus on skills the student needs to become a better reader. Working together to track data enables the students to become owners of their own learning. Be sure to check out [newsela.com](http://newsela.com)!



## M-P HIGH SCHOOL

### Taking initiative brings success

Family Careers and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students (under the guidance of their teacher Diane Halloran) placed high enough in a regional competition to move on to the state level this April. Kacie Karner will demonstrate in Recycling and Redesign, Cassidy Bricker will compete in a Job Interview, and George Greenlee and Sierra Powers are state qualifiers in Interior Design.



Students in Linville Herald's history classes held a voter registration drive in March. Their initial goal was to register their classmates but were so inspired they decided to expand their efforts throughout the greater community. They made a commercial and passed out fliers to promote their beliefs about the civic responsibility.

The High School Building Leadership Team has been conducting an analysis on student performance on the ACT college-placement test as part of the M-P Improvement Plan. The goal is to see how students are progressing toward achieving or exceeding the minimum ACT Score.



# Partnership is the key to success!

## Bernie Hall

Superintendent

...

I think it is safe to say we are all looking a little more forward to spring this year than seasons past. The winter was a brutal one so the longer, warmer days will restore the sapped energy with an especially welcomed return.

We will have to extend the year by a day to recover the snow days we took to ensure the safety of students and staff. Our last day is May 30. The Blizzard Bag assignments will cover three days on top of the state's typical allotment of five.

An emergency bill passed by the state legislature in March grants four additional snow days, but only after four are made up. We closed 12 times and recouped three with the online assignments so must only add one

more to reach the extra four-day threshold that would waive canceled days 10-12.

Commencement will remain unchanged. The Madison-Plains High School Class of 2014 will graduate as scheduled on May 30. The bill also included a provision excusing graduating seniors from the extra day.

There's lots in store before we get to the end of the year and head into summer.

Election Day, May 6, is a critical one for the district. The Board of Education placed a no-new-tax renewal on that ballot that would preserve the district's finances and keep us in the black. If passed, taxes would not increase and the levy, which generates about 11 percent of our revenue, would not expire on Dec. 31. Taxes have not increased in Madison-Plains since 2005.

Students will take the Ohio Achievement Assessments one week later than originally scheduled.

Another reprieve by the state, the extra time with students will give them more time to prepare. That will begin April 28 and run through May 9. A testing calendar is available on the district's website, [mplsd.org](http://mplsd.org), on the Parents page and the Curriculum and Instruction page.

Spring also brings our "favorite pastime" and a lot more ball! Athletes hit the fields weeks ago and competitions are in full swing. The website has dates and times of all match-ups on the track and ball diamonds.

Enjoy the warmer weather, folks! I know I will. Thanks always for your support along the way.

May 30	Commencement
May 30	Last Day of School
May 26	No School
May 20	Board of Education
May 6	Election Day
May 2	Early Release
April 18	No School

SAVE THE DATE

[www.mplsd.org](http://www.mplsd.org)

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Madison-Plains Local Schools



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