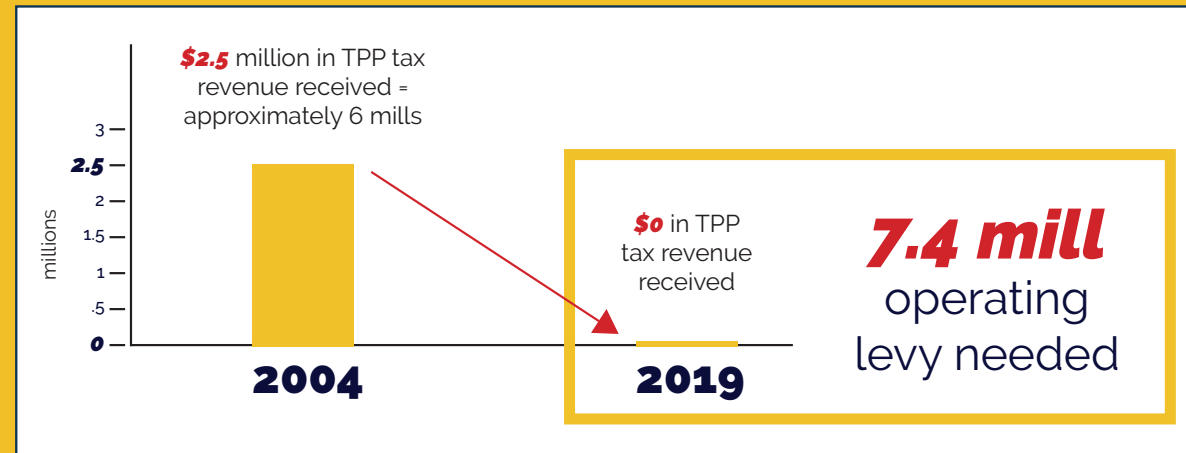


## LOSS OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX CREATES NEED FOR OPERATING LEVY



For many years, districts across the state of Ohio received significant funding through the Tangible Personal Property (TPP) tax, which applied to businesses in Ohio. In 2004, Tallmadge received more than \$2.5 million in revenue through TPP taxes.

That same year, the state of Ohio began a five-year phase out of the TPP.

To help offset the loss of revenue to districts, the state provided reimbursements. Over the last several years, however, the state has started to phase out the reimbursements as well, and after the 2018 fiscal year, the district will no longer receive any TPP reimbursement dollars.

The district went from receiving more than \$2 million a year to just \$231,293 in fiscal year 2018 and will receive nothing in 2019 in regards to TPP. The loss of these dollars is

significant for Tallmadge and districts throughout Ohio.

In planning for the loss of the TPP reimbursement, the district has worked to reduce costs while still providing an excellent education for our students. We have done this without making drastic cuts to staff and programming; however, these cost saving measures will not be able to make up for the loss of the TPP tax funds.

If it wasn't for the loss of these funds, the district would NOT be on the ballot this November and we would be able to stretch the 2009 operating levy dollars even longer.

If you have any questions about the TPP or its impact on the district, please contact my office.

Thank you,  
*Jeff Hostetler*  
 Treasurer  
 Tallmadge City Schools

As you read this and future newsletter articles from my office, please feel free to contact me with comments or questions about Tallmadge Schools' finances at:

**[hostetler.jeff@tallmadgeschools.org](mailto:hostetler.jeff@tallmadgeschools.org)**



# TRADITION VISION EXCELLENCE

**TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOLS**  
 SEPTEMBER 2018

## PAGE 2

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE  
 COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES  
 SURVEY

## PAGE 3

NOV. 6 OPERATING LEVY

## PAGE 4

LOSS OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL  
 PROPERTY TAX CREATES NEED  
 FOR OPERATING LEVY

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



The 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start. Our teachers, staff and students brought back an exciting energy to kick-off the year.

This year, we will continue to focus

on providing all students with engaging experiences that promote critical and creative thinking, collaboration and communication. All students must be able to create a viable path through these experiences that will lead to being enrolled, enlisted or employed upon graduation.

At the middle and elementary school levels, we continue to prepare our students to move into 21st-century-focused buildings. Over the summer, we created a 21st-century model classroom at Dunbar Primary School. Now, Dunbar, Munroe Elementary and Tallmadge Middle School all have model classrooms to help students and teachers prepare for what to expect in the new buildings next year.

Speaking of the new buildings, it is exciting to see the progress on construction that has happened over the summer. We are now starting to see the

buildings themselves start to form. While we are under construction, we appreciate your continued patience concerning transportation and parking. The end result will be worth it!

I would also like to remind parents of our new bus tracker app through our school bus partner, Petermann. The app allows parents and guardians to securely view the location of their child(ren)'s bus locations in relationship to their assigned bus stop. The service is free of charge to parents/guardians and is provided at no additional cost to the district. To sign up, visit <http://www.petermannbus.com/Pages/PetermannBusTracker.aspx>. If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact Jennifer Kirk at the bus garage at (330)-633-2215.

As we kick-off the school year, I encourage parents and community members to get involved. We have numerous volunteer opportunities in our buildings. If you're interested, contact your child's school building office for more information. If you're unable to volunteer, I encourage you to attend our students' events and support their hard work.

**THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR IS GOING TO BE A GREAT ONE FOR TALLMADGE!**

*Jeff Ferguson*  
 Superintendent  
 Tallmadge City Schools





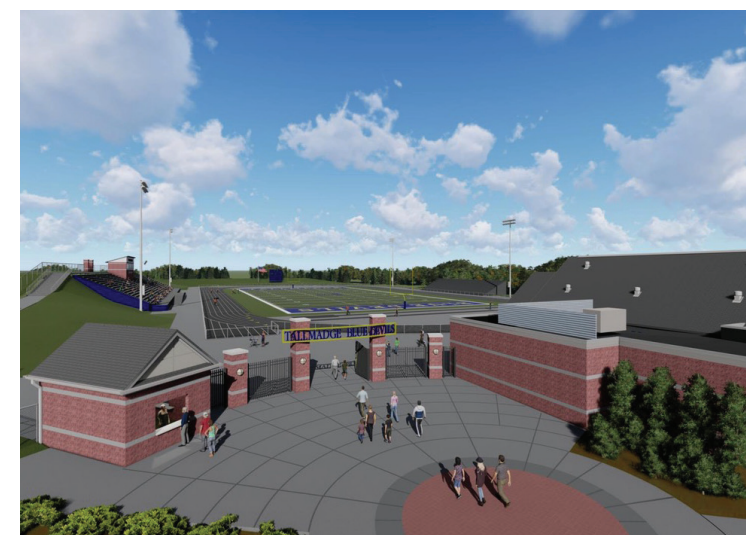
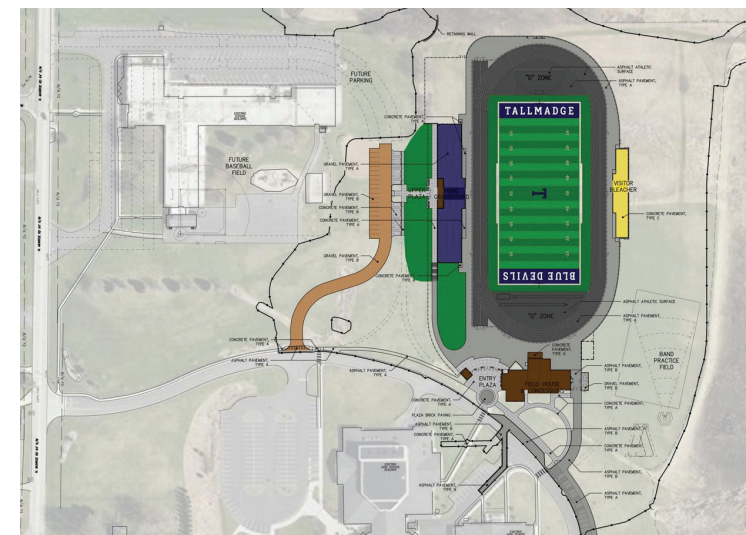
## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### Athletic Facilities

Over the summer, work began on the new athletic facilities to be housed at Tallmadge High School. This project is on track, with the new field, stadium, bleachers and field house to be completed for the 2019-2020 school year. Our track teams, soccer teams and football team will play games and hold meets there next fall.

We will begin work on the new softball and baseball facilities following the 2019-20 school year. We are not able to start those projects until after Munroe Elementary is torn down.

With construction happening on the Tallmadge Middle School property, please keep in mind parking for home football games is limited. We ask that you please park at Tallmadge High School, as the district will be running extra shuttles back and forth to the stadium. We appreciate your patience as we work to enhance our district.



### Tallmadge Elementary and Middle School Buildings

Construction of the new Tallmadge elementary and middle school buildings remains on schedule, with the middle school set to open in August of 2019 and the elementary school to open by mid-year of the 2019-2020 school year.

The buildings are beginning to form and take shape. A team of teachers, parents, architects, education planners, security experts, and construction managers have worked to develop buildings focused on 21st-century learning. We are excited about the designs and look forward to additional progress on the buildings.



We will continue to provide construction updates as progress continues.

## TAKE A SURVEY TODAY TO HELP STRENGTHEN OUR DISTRICT

### Community Meeting Series

The Tallmadge City School District provides a high-quality education and ensures every student is prepared to either enroll in higher education, enlist in the military or be employed after graduation.

While Tallmadge is a great district, we recognize there is always room for improvement. This school year, through a series of community meetings, we want to work with community members to make improvements to our district on topics that are important to you.

Please take a moment to fill out this short survey and tell us what topics you would like to learn more about.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VGLFHYC>

Thank you for your feedback!



CRITICAL FOR OUR SCHOOLS, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR TALLMADGE.

# TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 6

On Nov. 6, 2018, the Tallmadge City School District will have a five-year, a 7.4 mill operating levy on the ballot.

The funds generated from the levy are critical for the district to maintain educational programs and services for our students, and remain out of deficit.

### State Funding Cuts to Tallmadge

- The need for the levy comes from the loss of \$2.5 million in state revenue annually. In 2004, the state of Ohio began a phase out of the Tangible Personal Property (TPP) tax. The TPP was a tax levied on businesses. In 2019, the district will no longer receive any TPP revenue.
- The \$2.5 million the district previously received from the state is equivalent to approximately 6 mills. As a district, we have worked hard to be fiscally responsible and were able to stretch the last levy nine years. If we had not lost that funding, we would not need to be on the ballot this year and would be able to stretch the 2009 levy even further. Now, we have to replace these funds before we experience a deficit.

### School Funding Cycle

- Tallmadge's last new operating levy passed in 2009. The way school funding is structured in Ohio means districts have to generate new

operating dollars every four to six years. Tallmadge was able to extend the life of the levy to nine years through sound fiscal management.

### Cost Savings Through Consolidation

- District consolidation continues to reduce operating costs, which has helped us delay the need for a levy. The first step in this effort was the closing of Overdale School in 2011. The next step of this effort is the K-8 campus to be opened during the 2019-2020 school year. The new consolidated campus will conserve operating funds and eliminate the need to spend on excess maintenance of aging facilities.
- The district reduced healthcare costs through larger employee contributions and strategic moves in the healthcare market.
- Total employee salaries for fiscal year 2017 were less than employee salaries were in 2006.
- Tallmadge High School is now Energy Star rated, which decreases operating costs for that building.

## IF THE LEVY PASSES

- If the levy passes, the district will be able to maintain the current high quality education our students deserve.
- Additionally, the district would be able to hire an additional school resource officer (SRO). With two SROs, one would be at the high school full time and the other would be at the middle school and elementary school campus full time, increasing the safety and security of our students.

## IF THE LEVY FAILS

- If the operating levy fails, it would be devastating. The district would look drastically different with cuts to staff and programming. This would negatively impact the quality of education our students receive.

*"As a district, we are frustrated to have to be back on the ballot," said Superintendent Jeff Ferguson. "If it wasn't for the loss of the Tangible Personal Property tax, we would have been able to stretch the 2009 levy even further. This levy is critical for the schools and our community. Having a high-quality school system keeps property values high, and we want to keep Tallmadge a community of choice for families."*