

SHARING FINANCIAL INFORMATION – CRITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNITY



The financial status of Tallmadge Schools matters to our community. Every resident of this district is impacted in some way by how we budget and spend our funds. This newsletter provides our district with the opportunity to share with you this important data.

The Tallmadge City School District is currently looking at a lean and stable five-year financial

forecast. Much of this stability can be attributed to our district's focus on conservative fiscal management and efficient budgeting. However, even with these precautions, several challenges have arisen that will eventually cause the district to reevaluate its options.

CHALLENGES:

- Overall loss in state funding
- Ongoing changes to the next state biennium budget
- Ongoing problems in maintaining old buildings

Tallmadge currently has a steady financial analysis, due to its consistent financial controls, high efficiency and effective use of personnel. The district and board have enacted a sensible and efficient budget for taxpayers, while maintaining excellence and achievement in the classroom.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

Tallmadge is, like every other school district, on a cycle of eventually needing additional operating monies, and we cannot expect the state to close that gap. However, that need is not projected to occur until 2019, based on the next Ohio State Budget.

While we work hard to care for our K-8 buildings, the expense to operate and maintain 50 to 60-year-old buildings increases every year. According to a state evaluation, the cost of completing structurally necessary projects alone is \$31.4 million. At this point, by continuing to maintain these buildings we are putting bandages on top of bandages and postponing finding a long-term solution.

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) has partnered with the district to help fund the consolidation of the district's primary, elementary and middle schools into two buildings on the current middle school campus, a K-5 building and a 6-8 building. The campus setting will create operational cost savings and efficiencies, and the OFCC will pay approximately \$14 million of the total cost.

Our district is committed to being a strong fiscal manager and staying transparent about its finances. Our goal is to provide students with a high quality education in the most efficient manner possible for our taxpayers.

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



TRADITION VISION EXCELLENCE

TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome back, students and staff of Tallmadge! I hope you had a safe and wonderful summer with family and friends. I am looking forward to another year, as many exciting things are happening within our district.

Over the summer, we had a positive leadership change, as Shelley Monachino has left her position as principal of Munroe Elementary to act as district director of teach-

ing and learning. Courtney Davis is now principal of both the Munroe and Dunbar buildings, with help from our new assistant principal, Jamilyn Hoehn. Our goal is to align Dunbar and Munroe as a K-5 structure. For more on our plans for the buildings, look for the article on page 2.

I would also like to thank all of our maintenance and custodial staff for all of their hard work over the summer to maintain the buildings and get them ready for this school year.

Although our staff are working hard, maintaining some of our buildings is becoming costlier and more difficult. That is why the Tallmadge City School District will have two bond issues on the

ballot this November. The district currently has two main needs: our academic buildings are in need of significant repairs, and our high school stadium is in disrepair.

After a thorough review of all data collected in the community poll that the district conducted in the spring, we have created two plans we believe will fit our district's and our community's needs. For more information on the bond issue, look for the article on page 3.

This is going to be a great school year, and I am excited to start my 11th year as your superintendent!

GO BLUE DEVILS!

Jeff Ferguson
Superintendent
Tallmadge City Schools

7TH GRADE GOES ONE-TO-ONE WITH CHROMEBOOKS

Seventh graders will receive a Chromebook laptop to use for learning in all of their classes during the 2016/17 school year. Our seventh grade teachers spent the last year attending Google Boot Camps and professional development to be ready to implement the devices in the classroom at the beginning of the school year.

Three years ago, the district introduced a "Bring Your Own Device" policy, where students in grades six through 12 were allowed to bring their own personal device into school for learning. However, due to the differences in technology brands, it was a challenge to develop lessons that can be experienced the same way by all users.

After much research, the district determined a One-to-One environment using a Google Chrome platform would be the best solution. The Google Platform offers our students the exciting opportunity to collaborate with peers and teachers in an authentic real world environment. We are very excited to see this great learning opportunity for our seventh graders unfold.



Kelsey Barker, Kyle Ries, Katrina Hunt, Evan Hipkins

DUNBAR AND MUNROE BUILDINGS TO INCREASE VERTICAL ALIGNMENT FOR COHESIVE LEARNING

grades under one roof, creating a more collaborative and cohesive learning space for our younger students.

Currently, grades K-2 are at Dunbar Primary School and grades 3-5 are at Munroe Elementary. Courtney Davis is now the principal of both buildings, with Jamilyn Hoehn as the new assistant principal. They will have shared responsibilities and spend equal time in both buildings.

Shelley Monachino, our former Munroe Elementary principal, is now the director of teaching and learning. She has several new responsibilities, including assisting with the implementation of new learning standards.

The district has listened to parents and understands that the transition between the two buildings is not a seamless one. By creating a cohesive curriculum students should feel more comfortable moving from one building to the next.

The plan for an elementary reconfiguration was done with the idea that to better serve students and increase vertical alignment for

grades K-5, the buildings need to act as one entity. The district is encouraging both staff and students to think more K-5, rather than thinking of themselves as two different schools. All opportunities that had previously been building specific are now K-5, and the curriculum is being aligned across all grade levels to allow for more vertical planning.

For our staff, we are providing as much professional development as possible so that we can work through any challenges they might encounter in a future K-5 building. All staff will meet as a K-5 staff on a bimonthly basis so that we can continue planning for this transition.

The district is also working with the PTA to plan family activities that are not building specific. Anything that PTA sponsors is going to be provided for grades K-5. The PTA is also providing t-shirts for every K-5 student that say "We Are Tallmadge."

We are excited for our plans to consolidate the buildings and provide our students with a more cohesive curriculum in grades K-5.

FRESHMEN MENTOR PROGRAM

When freshmen start at Tallmadge High School, they can sometimes have difficulty adjusting to high school socially, getting organized and forming good study habits. Seven years ago, the school started a mentorship program in order to help freshmen students adjust.

Every year, around 30 seniors become mentors to freshmen for the entire school year. The mentors talk with freshmen about study habits, respect, the importance of keeping good grades and general tips on how to adapt to high school.

The high school has 10 freshmen academies. Two to three mentors are assigned to each academy for the school year. If a freshman is having a problem or concern he or she can talk to a mentor.

Freshmen will also attend orientation the day before the school year officially starts. After a welcome from the principal, the freshmen are divided into their academies and meet their senior mentors.

To be a senior mentor, students have to be in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.75, which must be maintained throughout the year. They must also have good attendance and behavior, and be known as dependable students.

Through the freshmen mentorship program, the high school has seen an overall improvement in grades, behavior and expectations in freshmen students. Seniors are also given a sense of responsibility and leadership. Many positive results have come from this program, and the district is pleased to be continuing the program for the 2016-2017 school year.



TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PUT TWO ISSUES ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

The Tallmadge City School District will have two bond issues on the ballot in the upcoming November election. The district currently has two main needs: our academic buildings are in need of significant repairs, and our high school stadium is in disrepair.

Over the past two years, the district's Building Our Future effort has worked to develop phase two of the facilities master plan.

After a thorough review of all data collected in the community poll that the district conducted in the spring, we are now providing our residents an opportunity to vote on both the academic and athletic aspects of the plan they created. To help cover the cost of the projects, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) has partnered with the district and agreed to co-fund any facilities projects approved over the next 13 months.

To address our academic buildings, the 3.9 mill bond issue would allow us to consolidate the district's primary, elementary and middle schools into two buildings on the current middle school campus, a K-5 building and a 6-8 building. The structure of the buildings will focus on creating academic space that will support technology, best teaching practices and collaborative learning.

The campus setting will create operational cost savings and efficiencies, and also make transportation easier for parents with students in multiple buildings. The OFCC approved proposal estimates the cost of the project to be \$45 million, with the state paying approximately **\$14 million of the total cost.**

To address the stadium, the 0.9 mill bond issue would pay for the relocation of high school athletic facilities, including the stadium, football team room, baseball field and softball complex. The relocation of these facilities will keep high school athletes on the high school campus, adhering to best safety practices.

The Tallmadge City School District is dedicated to being fiscally responsible with the funds we receive from our community. For more information about the bond issues, visit our website at www.tallmadgeschools.org.



TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Community. Our Plan. Our Vote.

