



Tecumseh Local Schools Connecting Link

Tecumseh Schools Places Levy on May Ballot

Public schools across the state are facing unprecedented funding challenges. The tough economy has led to budget shortfalls at the state and local level that must be addressed. Since school districts legally cannot operate with a deficit, these same districts only have two options when faced with a shortfall: increase revenue or reduce expenditures.

District operating budgets come from two main sources: state basic aid and local revenue, which is generated through locally approved taxes. Here at Tecumseh, approximately 70% of our budget comes to us in the form of state basic aid.

The district has been informed that we will lose at least \$1.5 million in state basic aid next year. This drop in revenue will put the district in a deficit situation.

The projected deficit comes to us despite our efforts to reduce costs. Since 2004 the board has enacted over \$5.3 million in cost containment measures. Any additional cuts will significantly impact our school programs.

We are at a point where we will have to make another round of deep cuts or raise revenue. The residents of our community will determine which path we take in May.

May Levy

In January, the Tecumseh Local Schools Board of Education passed a resolution to place a levy on the ballot in May. The decision to place an issue on the ballot was not one that was taken lightly. Recognizing the difficult economy, the board reduced the amount of the levy proposed by 50% and identified additional cuts to be enacted regardless of the outcome of this election. The customary length for an operating levy in this district has been 5 years but the board has opted to shorten this levy to only 3 years.

The levy that will be on the ballot May 3rd is a 6.61 mil emergency levy. If passed, the issue will generate \$1.8 million in annual revenue. The owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 would see an annual increase of approximately \$202 in property taxes.

As mentioned earlier, the reduced request is being made in conjunction with spending reductions which will include the elimination of four teaching positions and four classified positions (two custodians and two secretaries). Additional cost containment measures will include a reduction in health care and other benefits. These cuts amount to over \$800,000 in savings.

Additional reductions outlined

If the levy does not pass in May additional cuts will be enacted. These reductions include the following:

- moving to a grade-level approach at the elementary level which would essentially close one of our elementary buildings; and
- increasing the class size at the elementary and secondary levels.

These changes will result in the following reductions:

- 2 administrative positions;
- 15 teaching positions; and
- 6 classified (non-teaching) positions.

These reductions will be enacted through a resolution by the board before the May election.

For more information about the reductions and our finances, visit the Tecumseh Local Schools website at www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us.

We appreciate the support the community provides our schools and our students and will work to keep residents informed. Thanks to all of you who attended our recent community meetings to share your thoughts regarding our schools and our programs.



Around the District

Donnelsville Elementary continues to be a hub of activity and learning. Over the last several months, teachers have continued to read, take classes, and participate in discussions about problem-based, student-centered mathematics. We realize that developing a strong number sense and helping kids make connections in their mathematical thinking is crucial to student success in math. It is with this knowledge that we continue to make adjustments in our teaching to best meet the needs of our young learners.



In reading, we continue to provide instruction to students at their level, provide interventions as needed and motivate students to reach new reading levels. Students in grades 2-5, who met their point goals in Accelerated Reader, were treated to a reward activity in the gym at the end of the quarter. Students played “Everyone’s It” and are now eagerly striving to reach their 3rd quarter goals and participate in another fun event. We also have a school-wide goal to read 65 million words this year. Students were more than halfway to that goal at the mid-point of the year and reading strong.

To get more books in students’ hands, our Parent Center (with profits from our Cookie Dough sale) hosted our annual Bingo for Books event in January with over 100 students in attendance. Students played bingo and each student was able to win up to three books to expand their home library and encourage reading. It was a great event as the picture clearly shows.

Medway Elementary - Over the past summer, teachers and staff completed a book study together using the book, The Leader in Me by Dr. Stephen R. Covey. In this book, schools from around the country are highlighted for the accomplishments of their students. These schools are implementing a leadership theme in their buildings using another book by Dr. Covey, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. After our book study, the staff agreed that we wanted to implement the The Leader in Me concept at Medway.



Over the course of the first part of the year, we worked with the students to learn the “7 Habits”. The “7 Habits” consist of the following principles:

- Be Proactive: I do the right thing even when no one is looking;
- Begin with the End in Mind: I plan and set goals;
- Put First Things First: Spend time doing the most important things first;
- Think Win-Win: I come up with alternatives that allow everyone to win;
- Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood: I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings;
- Synergize: I work well in groups; and
- Sharpen the Saw: I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting enough sleep.

By integrating these habits into our daily practices throughout the building, the students are developing the leadership skills necessary for them to be successful not only in school, but in life. Already we are beginning to see success. The following are two highlights from this year:

- 73% of Medway third graders passed the Reading OAA administered in October; and
- office referrals have been reduced by 50% thanks in large part to our students being proactive and taking responsibility for their behavior.

Our new vision at Medway is: Leaving Legacies...One Child at a Time. Through the daily practices of incorporating the “7 Habits”, we are having great success. We are in the beginning stages and feel that our students will grow each year as our younger students gain experience and truly begin to live the “7 Habits.” If you would like to visit Medway and see the “7 Habits” in action, please contact Mr. Miller.

Around the District



New Carlisle Elementary - The first grade students at NCES have been paired with fifth grade reading buddies this year. Reading buddies spend 30 minutes together every Friday afternoon in the cafeteria. The fifth grade students with sight words, reading, writing, and occasionally a fun craft. Together students have established a culture of learning and developed meaningful relationships that have led to engagement in learning. Students have also built a sense of respect and rapport while promoting positive communication. All of these objectives have allowed students to build self-confidence in reading. This cooperation between grade levels has spelled success for the entire New Carlisle building.



Park Layne Elementary celebrates STAR students throughout the school building. In kindergarten, first and second grades, these STAR students are recognized in the following areas:

Kindness - the state, quality, or habit of being kind

Integrity - honesty, sincerity

Respect - to show consideration for someone or something

Citizenship - a member who shows allegiance to class/school

Classroom teachers select students each week. These students' pictures are displayed in the main showcase. Students write their names on sheets of construction paper beside the showcase, STAR stickers are awarded to each student, and a letter is mailed to their parents celebrating the good news about their son or daughter.



Each day, students state the Park Layne Pride Pledge. This is the pledge:

Today is a new day.

Park Layne Elementary School is a great place to learn.

I will do my best schoolwork, respect others, and solve my problems without fighting.

And I pledge to show my Park Layne Pride.

The students work very hard to follow this pledge. The Park Layne Elementary staff is proud of our students. We celebrate their accomplishments throughout the school year.

Tecumseh Middle School Power of the Pen (POP) teams competed at the annual District POP Tournament held at Clark State Community College. The teams write individually on three prompts and are judged within their grade level.

Our seventh grade team placed 3rd overall, with special mention to Shianne Eanes, who won the Quickwrite poetry competition. John Driscoll, who placed 13th and Shannon Fox, who placed 11th, were among the best seventh grade writers from Clark and Madison counties and received medallions. Shannon and John both had their stories mentioned at the awards ceremony as the "Best of the Best" writing for the day. John was also chosen by the director for the "Director's Choice" award.

The eighth grade team also did exceptionally well by placing 2nd overall. Medallion winners included Abby Studebaker (6th), Chelsea Justice (7th), and Courtney Mulford (14th). Abby, too, was among the "Best of the Best" writers for one of her stories in which she received a perfect score.



Around the District



Tecumseh High School - Under the direction of Tecumseh High School history teacher and Dayton Regional Emmy award winner, Don McKenny, the combined choirs will present acclaimed Broadway musical, *110 In The Shade*. The Pflaumer Auditorium curtain opens at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18th with three additional performances running on Saturday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 20th at 2:00 p.m.



The Tecumseh spring musical is known for being one of the best high school productions in the Midwest because of the hard work and dedication from inspirational director, Julie Grusenmeyer. Many alumni are currently working professionally on stage and screen.

Junior, Dallas Pritt, transferred from another area high school to Tecumseh High School specifically to become a part of the THS theater tradition. "The quality and professionalism of the Tecumseh theater program has exceeded my expectations. I am having the time of my life playing the role of Jimmy Curry in this musical," comments Pritt.

110 In The Shade is the musical version of the famous Katherine Hepburn/Burt Lancaster movie, *The Rainmaker*. It takes place in a drought-stricken western town, where a blistering heat wave has the local sheriff and the townsfolk hoping and praying for rain to save the day. The show provides comedy, love, and miserable heat that will surely please the entire Tecumseh community.

Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for senior citizens, \$8.00 for students and can be purchased by contacting the Tecumseh High School office at 845-4500.

Public Health Clinic Services

Free public health screening are available to our residents. Blood pressure and blood sugar screenings are available at the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church on Wednesdays from 8:00 am to noon and also on the first Tuesday of each month from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The Honey Creek Presbyterian Church is located at 212 W. Jefferson Street in New Carlisle.

Blood pressure screenings are also available at the New Carlisle WIC office on the third Friday of each month from 10:00 am to noon. The WIC office is located at 429 North Main Street in New Carlisle.

Lead screenings for children ages 1 to 6 years is available the first Wednesday of the month at the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church. There is a small fee for the lead screenings.

These screenings are made available to our residents by the Clark County Combined Health District.



Tecumseh Local Schools
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New Carlisle, OH 45344

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www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us

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