

Dear Community Members:

We are heading into the back half of the week and the midway point in the first nine weeks. I have a number of items for you this week.

EASTWOOD STUDENTS POST EXCELLENT ACT RESULTS

Each year, we receive a report with the aggregate ACT scores of all the students that took the tests for the previous school year. Improving those results was a key part of the goals of the high school staff last year. The results speak for themselves. Since I have been receiving these reports, which dates back eleven years now, we have never had an average over 23 in any of the tested areas. This year the averages were:

English	Eastwood - 23.6	State – 21.4
Math	Eastwood – 23.1	State – 21.7
Reading	Eastwood – 24.1	State – 22.5
Science	Eastwood – 23.6	State – 22.1
Composite	Eastwood – 23.7	State – 22.0

While we certainly have some excellent students who took the ACT last year, we also need to acknowledge the fine work of the HS staff. Obviously, we will know next year if this was a one year wonder, or whether or not the results have staying power.

There is a file attached with five year trend data as well as information on the college and career readiness of our students.

Well done!!

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

We are a couple of months into the current fiscal year and looking for comparable numbers is a little more challenging, as it has been since the fire. Last year at this time we had received an entire year of Troy Energy payments in July and August which makes **property tax** comparisons unrealistic. We were also fully into the process of reconstructing the Bus Garage, although the most of the bills were paid in September, October and November which will show up in the succeeding months.

I am going to highlight some numbers and share some additional thoughts with you below.

Eastwood Schools Financials	Wednesday, September 16, 2015			
REVENUE	FY 2015	FY 2016	\$\$ change	% change
General Property Tax	\$3,693,928	\$2,746,314	-\$947,614	-25.65%
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Income Tax	\$632,830	\$626,188	-\$6,642	-1.05%
Unrestricted Grants-In-Aid	\$1,076,255	\$1,073,100	-\$3,155	-0.29%
Restricted Grants-In-Aid	\$2,490	\$2,441	-\$49	-1.97%
Property Tax Allocation	\$3,071	\$7,995	\$4,924	160.34%
All Other	\$218,041	\$207,735	-\$10,306	-4.73%
Advances / Other	\$3,441	\$10,465	\$7,024	204.13%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,630,056	\$4,674,238	-\$955,818	-16.98%
EXPENSES	FY 2015	FY 2016	\$\$ change	% change
Personnel Services	\$1,540,866	\$1,565,884	\$25,018	1.62%
Retirement / Insurance	\$536,573	\$592,725	\$56,152	10.46%
Purchased Services	\$292,047	\$180,591	-\$111,456	-38.16%
Supplies / Materials	\$126,910	\$136,810	\$9,900	7.80%
Capital Outlay	\$99,866	\$207,405	\$107,539	107.68%
Other Objects	\$292,795	\$221,633	-\$71,162	-24.30%
Advances / Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,889,057	\$2,905,048	\$15,991	0.55%
REVENUES vs. EXPENSES	\$2,740,999	\$1,769,190	-\$971,809	-35.45%

HIGHLIGHTS

- **-\$947,614** – This represents the decline in total property tax collections attributed to getting all of the Troy Energy tax money, \$1.6 million, in July and August of 2014 as compared to only half of the \$1.2 million we will receive in the current fiscal year. Looking forward for the year, this line item is estimated to be a total of \$1.46 million BELOW what we collected last year. Part of this will be the timing and amount of the Troy Energy payments, but we will also see a reduction because the district has decided not to renew the Emergency Levy. We will have more on that in coming emails.
- **\$56,152** – This increase in insurance costs will grow over the course of the year. We have picked up 12 additional insurance policies for the current year. Some went to special education teachers who are now employees of the district rather than the Wood County ESC, and others will go to bus drivers. If you recall, we lowered the number of hours someone has to drive to qualify for benefits from 30 hours per week to 25. This change, while costly, has helped us fill bus routes with regular drivers instead of subs. Last year there were days when we came perilously close to not having enough drivers to take students to and from school. First and foremost, we need to get kids to school.
- **-\$111,456** – Last year at this time we were in the process of reconstructing the Bus Garage. This large change is due mainly to the fact that we are not spending those dollars this year.
- **\$107,539** – This Capital Outlay item is due mainly to the fact that we purchased two buses in July as compared to buying four of them last September. Next month you will see this number flip dramatically.

WHAT DOES THIS YEAR LOOK LIKE?

The district is projected to deficit spend by nearly \$840,000 this year. About \$480,000 of that will come back to taxpayers in the form of lower property tax collections due to the

district no longer collecting the Emergency Levy. The rest will be the result of increases in benefits and some cash expenses for the new K-5 building. We will be looking for ways throughout the year to narrow that gap, but we will deficit spend no matter what.

SUB CUSTODIANS NEEDED

Eastwood Local Schools is looking to bring on additional substitute custodians. The hours and locations vary, but if you are looking to supplement your income, this is a great place to start. If you would like to eventually work for the district in other capacities, this is a great way to demonstrate your skills and work ethic. We often will pull people from the sub list to work in the summer as well. If you are a part-time college student, this can provide you with some evening work hours and summer opportunities. Please call Phil Donaldson at [419-833-1493](tel:419-833-1493) if you have an interest.

FFA CHICKEN BBQ

The annual FFA Chicken BBQ will be held on Friday October 2nd in the Middle School Cafeteria. If you would like a presale ticket, please contact Jerry Swartz at jswartz@eastwoodschoools.org to make arrangements to but your tickets. Adult tickets at \$9.00 and kids are \$6.00. There will only be a limited number of tickets available at the door.

That is it for this week! Remember that you can follow us on Twitter for information during the week and thoughts on how you can support your child and create a Growth Mindset in them. Our handle is @els_eagles .

Best wishes!