

11.10.16

Dear Community Members:

Rarely do you see a day like yesterday. No matter your opinion on the candidates, there is no doubt that a seismic event occurred that is going to impact us for years to come. While we were not on the ballot, thankfully, one of our Board members, Dr. Ted Bowlus, won a race to become a Wood County Commissioner. We offer our congratulations to Dr. Bowlus and wish him the best. As a result of his win, we will have a vacancy on our Board that will need to be filled. In general, the Board will appoint a replacement based on guidelines established in Ohio Revised Code. The appointed Board Member will serve until a Special Election is held as part of the General November Election to be held in 2017. The Special Election will be for the remaining two years of Dr. Bowlus's current term. There will be more to come on this in the coming weeks.

I have a couple of items for you this week. Please make sure to catch the information on the Simply Give program through Meijer at the end of the note.

ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON

The Annual Senior Citizens Luncheon will be held on Tuesday December 6th with doors opening at 11:00 at the Pemberville Legion. Please RSVP to Glenda Obrien at [419-833-6411](tel:419-833-6411). This is ALWAYS one of the highlights of the school year, and we hope you will spread this to seniors in the district so they can attend.

VETERAN'S DAY EVENTS

Friday is Veteran's Day, and we have several events to honor our vets.

1. Luckey Elementary will have a Veteran's Day Breakfast that is open to vets and their families. Breakfast will be served at 9:15. Last year's event was well attended and a great chance for our students to show their appreciation.
2. The MS and HS will hold their annual Veteran's Day program at 1:30 at Eastwood High School. This event is attended by all of our students in grades 5-12 and has been a part of the district for decades.

We hope that you will plan to attend if you are a veteran or a member of their family. Most vets are aware of this program, but if you know one, please share this information with them.

We are blessed with freedoms like no other, and we have those who have served our nation to thank for that.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

We are four months into the fiscal year, and we want to share with you our actual revenues and expenses as compared to our projections. Here is a chart showing the actual expenses and revenues per general category vs. what we projected.

Eastwood Schools Financials	Wednesday, November 09, 2016			
REVENUE	Projections	FY 2017	\$\$ change	% change

General Property Tax	\$3,062,511	\$3,062,511	\$0	0.00%
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Income Tax	\$1,063,606	\$1,084,543	\$20,937	1.97%
Unrestricted Grants-In-Aid* Includes SFSE	\$2,080,831	\$2,109,221	\$28,390	1.36%
Restricted Grants-In-Aid	\$16,414	\$16,379	-\$35	-0.21%
Property Tax Allocation	\$299,351	\$301,770	\$2,419	0.81%
All Other	\$254,465	\$345,317	\$90,852	35.70%
Advances / Other	\$2,244	\$11,953	\$9,709	432.66%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,779,422	\$6,931,694	\$152,272	2.25%
EXPENSES				
	Projections	FY 2017	\$\$ change	% change
Personnel Services	\$2,841,865	\$2,832,812	-\$9,053	-0.32%
Retirement / Insurance	\$1,246,629	\$1,168,629	-\$78,000	-6.26%
Purchased Services	\$535,906	\$536,190	\$284	0.05%
Supplies / Materials	\$203,363	\$228,677	\$25,314	12.45%
Capital Outlay	\$10,388	\$29,476	\$19,088	183.75%
Other Objects	\$472,300	\$464,903	-\$7,397	-1.57%
Advances / Transfers	\$2,233,798	\$2,233,798	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,544,249	\$7,494,485	-\$49,764	-0.66%
REVENUES vs. EXPENSES				
	-\$764,827	-\$562,791	\$202,036	-26.42%

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

Through the first four months our revenues show that we are \$152,272 ahead of what we projected. In that number we are \$90,852 ahead of projections in an area called All Other (Operating Revenue). We are well ahead of projections in this area mainly due to reimbursements from the State of Ohio for costs associated with educating students with disabilities. When a student with a more profound disability has a total cost for education that exceeds a target number set by the state, we are able to apply for what are called catastrophic costs. Typically we get about 50% of the excess costs over I think \$25,000 per student. In addition, we also are fully reimbursed for students who were court placed in perhaps a foster home. The state had been well behind on these payments, and the timing of the reimbursements did not line up with forecasts. Some of this may even out, but some of these reimbursements cover costs from last year.

EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS

In our budget this year we overestimated some of our medical insurance expenses because we had planned for some additional policies that did not materialize. For the remainder of the year, this line item will show us as being lower than projections which will help us as we look to be

under our overall projections. You can see that we are slightly over projections in Capital Outlay and Supplies and Maintenance. Part of this is due to the fact that we took on some additional projects that we did not budget for in July.

The bottom line is that we are \$202,036 better than our forecasts through the first third of the year. Every dollar we are ahead serves to keep us off the ballot until further down the road.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SURVEY AND COMMENTS

Last week I sent out a link to the community survey. I have had the chance to receive some direct feedback as well as some thoughts shared by those who submitted comments. Here are some bullet points.

1. How can we have 46 more elementary students and receive little additional revenue? Eastwood is on what is called a "guarantee". The district is guaranteed to receive a percentage of what we received from the state going back to 2008-09 or so. If the district receives more resident students (kids who live in the district), we do not receive more money. Instead we receive a smaller guarantee amount. At some point, we will even up, but we will need several hundred more students to get off the funding guarantee. Now the district does receive additional money for students who come to the district via "open enrollment". This means they live in another district but choose to come to Eastwood. We receive \$6,000 per student who comes via open enrollment.

The challenge is that we have a smaller net number of open enrollment students this year as compared to last. With so many new resident students in the elementary grades, we were not able to accept as many new open enrollment students. We will be able to next year when we have additional classrooms in the new K-5, but we did not have space in Luckey or Pemberville for the additional kids.

2. Why did the district let a levy expire when it may need the money later? After carefully looking at things, we decided that given the steep increase in land values for our farmers, we would allow a property tax levy to expire. Over time we had built a solid cash balance on the books, and rather than continuing to build that balance, we cut taxes. At the time we let the levy lapse we were very clear that at some point in the 2020s, we were most likely going to need that levy back. If we did not collect it for 5 years, then taxpayers would save close to \$4.5 million.

Honestly, you run a very fine line here, and the decision was a difficult one. We just chose to cut taxes in the hopes that people would remember that if/when we needed to claw that amount back to keep us operating.

In the meantime, we will do our part to try and keep off the ballot until then. We will manage our budget as best we can. One of the challenges is that we will have to find a way to absorb the costs of at least three new teachers in the elementary grades to handle the additional students. We also continue to have to provide additional services to students who require more resources and time to make sure they continue to learn at high levels. These will be difficult challenges.

3. We are delighted to see how many of you are following us on social media. Our handle again is @els_eagles ! All of our buildings now are on social media, and we hope to continue to provide you with meaningful information about school activities and news. I also follow some terrific people and try to retweet thoughtful messages and articles.

If you have not yet taken the survey, please do so at the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ELS-16>

MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM RETURNS THIS YEAR TO BENEFIT EASTWOOD FAMILIES

The Community Food Pantry, in Pemberville, will be a part of the Bowling Green Meijer store's *Simply Give* campaign beginning on Sunday, October 30 and going through December 31, 2016. *Simply Give* helps feed families in our community by providing us with Meijer gift cards to purchase food only, to stock our pantry. Customers will need to go to the Bowling Green Meijer store, pick up a donation card (cost is \$10 each) and pay for it at the register. Our Double Match Days will be on Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12. Meijer will double match every customer's \$10 donation...this means for every \$10 donation, Meijer will donate \$20, resulting in a \$30 donation! Meijer will also make a donation to our account at the end of the program.

AFTER PROM NEW YEAR'S EVE REVERSE RAFFLE

Attached is a flyer for a fundraiser for After Prom. This year they will be hosting a Reverse Raffle on New Year's Eve to support a safe and fun After Prom experience for our students. Check it out!

That's it for this week!! Best wishes and Good Luck to the Eagles this weekend against Edison!