

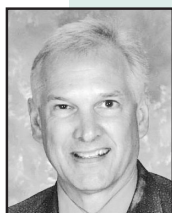
# YOUR SCHOOLS

2017

Aurora City School District

## From the Superintendent

By PAT R. CICCATELLI  
Superintendent of Schools



This May our school district is asking the residents of Aurora to vote on a 5.9 mill operating levy. Through cost savings efforts and by being fiscally responsible, the district has worked hard to strategically manage the funds that are available to us. But, since our last levy in 2012, the reduction in state funding has made that a challenge that requires us to seek additional revenues to continue to maintain the outstanding programs and services we provide our students. Unfortunately, our district has seen a decrease in state funding since 2010, and we are expecting that trend to continue, or at best be flat, over the next several years. The state eliminated the Tangible Personal Property Tax reimbursement and the Aurora City Schools has lost \$2.4 million in funding from the state each year due to this change. The message that is coming from Columbus is that if additional funds are needed to operate our schools, they will have to come from the local community.

This 5.9 mill levy would cost \$207 a year for every \$100,000 in market value for our local property owners. This tax would raise about \$3.7 million a year that will provide us revenue for the general operations of the district. This additional revenue will not be used to add additional programs or staff to our

*See Superintendent p. 5*

## AURORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVY ON MAY 2ND BALLOT

*Please Remember To Vote*



The Aurora City School District's Board of Education has placed a levy on the May 2, 2017 ballot. This levy is a 5.9 mill continuing operating levy and will be Issue #4 on the ballot. Operating funds in school districts are used to pay for curriculum (textbooks, supplies, software), salaries/benefits, school bus acquisitions and fuel, technology purchases, extracurricular activities and athletics, special services, safety and security and maintenance of building and grounds, along with utility costs and insurance. All of the expenses that are needed to run the day-to-day operations of the school district come from the operating funds.

The Aurora City District has three renewable five-year levies; one permanent improvement levy and two operating levies that were all initially passed between 1990 and 1994. We have asked voters to renew these levies over the past few years. Renewing these levies DID NOT cost taxpayers any additional dollars. The last operating levy was passed in 2012. Taxpayers have actually seen a reduction in the portion of their property taxes that go to school district (76% of total property tax bill) due to the dropping off of the 1994 bond that expired in 2016, which was

used to finance additions to the Aurora High School including the library and the auditorium.

Passage of the proposed levy of 5.9 mills will cost an Aurora homeowner with a house valued at \$100,000 (based on appraised value, not property selling price) \$207.00 per year or \$17.25 a month. This would generate \$3.7 million for the district.

Rising costs in areas such as special services and health

insurance rates have impacted district funds; however, the main reason that a new operating levy is currently needed is because State of Ohio cutbacks, including the elimination of the Tangible Personal Property (TPP) Tax, have reduced district funds by 2.4 million dollars per year. In FY2017 and beyond, there will be no TPP funds provided to our district. These extreme state cutbacks have severely impacted our district's ability to maintain our present level of programming. As Superintendent

*See Levy p. 2*

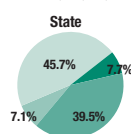
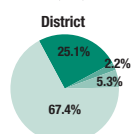
## What Has Changed?

**Less State Support**  
2011 - 27.8%  
2016 - 25.1%

**State Average - 45.7%**

**This is a revenue issue, not a spending problem**

Source of Funds	District	State Total
Local	\$23,952,282 67.4%	\$8,697,598,445 39.5%
State	\$8,394,994 25.1%	\$10,072,007,846 45.7%
Federal	\$773,253 2.2%	1,699,267,399 7.7%
Other	\$1,869,520 5.3%	\$1,562,415,185 7.1%
Total	\$35,530,049 100.0%	\$22,031,288,875 100.0%



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Pat Ciccantelli explained, "This is a revenue issue, not a spending problem."

Passed in 1976, House Bill (HB) 920 does not allow for inflationary growth on voted millage. For example, this 5.9 mill levy request would generate approximately \$3.7 million per year. Five years from now, it still will only generate \$3.7 million. Aurora Schools' Treasurer, Bill Volosin, explained that, "School districts in Ohio only receive additional revenue from increases in the market value of real property on the districts inside millage. HB920 which was enacted in 1976 utilizes tax reduction factors to reduce the millage on voted issues to prevent school districts from realizing additional revenues from these increases." While it intuitively appears that with an increase in home building more tax funds are generated to the district, this is not the case. Since the levy will only generate the same 3.7 million per year, the result of new homes being built and any increase in the number of businesses in Aurora, is that the levy funds are spread out over a larger number of taxpayers. This actually results in slightly lower taxes per taxpayer and not increased funds for the school district.

According to Volosin, "Aurora's projected cash balance at the end of this fiscal year of approximately \$7 million is 21% of the district's operating budget which puts Aurora in the bottom 25% of school district's in the state. The state average is 32.3%, which would equate to an \$11 million cash balance. If this were the case, the district would not be looking for new money. If the levy is passed, the district will not begin to receive the additional revenue until 2018 and will only receive half of the projected amount in that fiscal year. The district is currently in a position of deficit spending, which can only be remedied by additional revenue (new levy) or significant program cuts. The Governor's proposed biennium shows no increase in state revenue for Aurora. The loss of the Tangible Personal Property revenue (\$2.4 million) is the most significant loss of funding for the district. Other revenue streams have been essentially flat since the passage of the last levy in 2012." Also, the majority of businesses in Aurora have tax abatements from the City of Aurora so the district does not receive property tax revenue from these companies.

The district hopes to replace the funds removed from their stream of revenue from the State of Ohio cutbacks in order to end the district's current deficit spending situation and to keep it solvent for at least an additional five years. Over the next five years, the district's cost of doing business, like all businesses and public entities, will continue to rise with overall inflationary impacts from goods and services. Thus, with flat and possibly further declining revenues our district,

like all school districts, must reluctantly ask for additional funds.

	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Beginning Balance	7,794,182	7,331,310	7,159,096	7,915,684	8,013,017
+ Revenue	34,360,168	34,421,811	34,808,105	35,299,871	33,992,969
+ Proposed Renew/ Replacement Levies	-	-	-	-	1,728,948
+ Proposed New Levies	-	-	3,725,800	3,767,935	3,805,965
- Expenditures	(34,823,041)	(36,445,334)	(37,777,317)	(38,970,472)	(40,230,849)
= Revenue Surplus or Deficit	(462,872)	(172,214)	756,588	97,333	(702,968)
Ending Balance	7,331,310	7,159,096	7,915,684	8,013,017	7,310,049

Looking at tax bills for comparable districts throughout Northeast Ohio, Aurora ranks at the bottom of the list. If you don't have a child or children currently attending the Aurora City Schools, but they have been educated here, at the current tax rate, it would take approximately 60 years of paying taxes to equal the cost to educate just one child in the district. With those utilizing our special services department, these costs are much higher.

#### Tax Bill - Comparable Districts

District Name	2017 Tax Bill Per 100,000
North Olmsted (North Olmsted Schools)	\$3,088
Bay Village (Bay Schools)	\$2,982
Chagrin Falls (Chagrin Falls Schools)	\$2,642
Rocky River (Rocky River Schools)	\$2,550
Mayfield (Mayfield Schools)	\$2,541
Bainbridge Twp. (Kenston Schools)	\$2,441
Orange (Orange Schools)	\$2,346
Strongsville (Strongsville Schools)	\$2,303
Solon (Solon Schools)	\$2,295
North Royalton (North Royalton Schools)	\$2,253
Brecksville (Brecksville-Broadview Hts. Schools)	\$2,237
Copley Twp. (Copley/Fairlawn Schools)	\$2,230
Twinsburg Twp. (Twinsburg Schools)	\$2,187
Hudson (Hudson Schools)	\$2,170
Stow (Stow-Munroe Falls Schools)	\$2,158
Beachwood (Beachwood Schools)	\$2,095
Aurora (Aurora Schools)	\$1,873

The Aurora City School District is an economic value when expenditure per student is compared with other local school districts throughout Northeast Ohio. Even with passage of the proposed 5.9 mill levy, the City of Aurora taxes will remain at the bottom of the list as compared to their neighboring districts.

The Aurora School System offers high quality programming

See Levy p. 7



## YOUR SCHOOLS

Published by the Aurora City School District  
102 East Garfield Road • Aurora, Ohio 44202  
Editor: Stacey DeAnna

*Your Schools* is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

*Your Schools* has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: [yourschools@aurora-schools.org](mailto:yourschools@aurora-schools.org).

## From the School Board President - Gerald Kohanski



What does a school system mean to a community? What is its value to its residents?

These are questions that Aurora residents will answer on Tuesday, May 2 when they vote

on the schools' 5.9 mil new levy funding request.

When my family first moved to Aurora thirty-one years ago, our schools were not well-managed and were at best average academically. Textbooks were seriously out of date and curriculum and programming were at minimal levels. Residents who could afford to send their children to private schools did so and Aurora High School graduates rarely achieved admission to better colleges and universities.

Today, thanks to the work of many individuals over the last thirty years, our students receive instructional opportunities that are ranked in the top one to two percent both in the state of Ohio and by national rating agencies and publications. Our graduates are accepted to the most elite of universities on a regular basis. We are one of the few districts to have three Blue Ribbon schools. We provide Chromebooks for students in grades six through twelve to enhance their digital learning efforts and offer a wide array of services to the broad spectrum of students that a public school district is required to educate with excellent special services offerings along with gifted and honors programs.

Our curriculum development has been led by an excellent team of administrators and we have developed an outstanding instructional staff, increased the depth and variety of our course offerings, and instituted innovative classes like Independent Learning that fosters student creativity and Service Learning opportunities that prepare our students to become responsible citizens.

During my twenty years on the Board and eighteen years as President, I have seen great strides made in the financial management area by our Treasurer Bill Volosin, who is a financial professional with significant educational and industrial experience and who possesses a CPA and an MBA. Under his leadership the district has won multiple financial awards from the State Auditor's

office and from outside financial rating organizations.

The Board and administration have been very conscious of our responsibility to the taxpayers. Increases for our certified staff have averaged 0.75% per year since 2010. Our non-personnel expenditures have decreased 10% during that period. We have saved \$500,000 in energy expenditures over the last five years, eliminated support staff positions, eliminated some middle school sports, and implemented a pay to participate program for extracurricular activities.

We have also been good stewards of our physical facilities and implemented strong preventive maintenance programs to avoid large expenditures that could have been incurred with major equipment and building problems and will have our buildings in excellent condition for years to come.

It would be unfortunate to have to take such actions at a time when the district is at the pinnacle of its performance. These actions would affect more than just our students. Local realtors state that the main reason young families move to Aurora is because of our schools. Local real estate values are heavily dependent on having excellent schools.

Five years ago when the community passed our last new funding levy, the Board and administration estimated that we would be able to make those funds last for six years based on revenue and spending forecasts. Two major occurrences have caused us to return to the voters one year earlier than planned. First, and most importantly, the State government eliminated the schools' tangible personal property tax reimbursement which reduces revenue through 2018 by \$5 million. Our state funded revenue has decreased 17% since 2011. Also, the district has incurred major double-digit increases in its health care premiums due to higher than normal claim incidences among our staff.

The Aurora Schools have the lowest expenditure per pupil, the best administrator to student ratio, and the lowest real estate tax bill of the seventeen high performing districts we benchmark ourselves against. Even with the passage of the 5.9 mil levy, our real estate tax rate will still be the lowest. We believe our high performance and

low cost provide the community with great value.

Without passage of this levy, and in view of continuing forecasted state revenue cutbacks and rising expenses, the district would be unable to continue to offer our outstanding and broad curriculum and would have to look at eliminating academic offerings, increasing class sizes, seriously reducing teaching staff, and eliminating some extracurricular activities and sports that are very expensive to maintain.

It would be unfortunate to have to take such actions at a time when the district is at the pinnacle of its performance. These actions would affect more than just our students. Local realtor's state that the main reason young families move to Aurora is because of our schools. Local real estate values are heavily dependent on having excellent schools. Our schools are critical to the future of our children and our community.

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

Congratulations to our newest Aurora High School National Honor Society students. Here are a few photos from the night's events.





## Who's Who & What's New

The top fundraiser for **JUMP ROPE FOR HEART** is preschooler **COOPER N.** Cooper helped to raise \$215 out of \$1,435 in total contributions. Thank you, Cooper.



Congratulations to the Harmon School Robotics teams – the **SMART COOKIES**, **THE CRAZY RHINOS**, and the **NEON THINKERS** who all qualified to compete at the **OHIO STATE FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**. This is the second year in a row that Aurora will be sending three teams to the State Championship out of the 500 teams that competed this season in Ohio.



*The Smart Cookies: Sarah Robb, Rachel Smith, Kristen Jakosh and Jazmin Rodriguez*

Thank you to the student members of the **AHS KEY CLUB** who volunteered to set up weekly visits to Miller School to help Kindergarten and preschool students. They will be giving their time to provide extra individual and small group support to these young learners

and setting a wonderful example at the same time.

Congratulations to AHS instructor **ANNIE WALKER** and the **QUIZ BOWL TEAM**. They won the **PORTAGE COUNTY QUIZ BOWL TOURNAMENT** again this year and for approximately the last 20 consecutive years!

### ILEP SCHOLARS

This year's AHS visiting international ILEP

teachers include (left to right): **AFROZA SHARMINA**, Bangladesh; **MOUHAMADOU BAMBA DIOP**, Senegal; **LEONARDO CARDOSO DALBOSCO**, Brazil; and **SYEDA MANSUR**, Bangladesh



AHS alumni **PAVEL GALCHENKO** and **YOHANN SAMARASINGHE**, who together started their own Aurora based company **RSV RUBBER SOLUTIONS**, won the **[M]SPIRE pitch competition** earning them \$60,000. They went on to win the **CLEANTECH UNIVERSITY PRIZE** also winning \$50,000. The company is currently refining a technological process for recycling rubber in industrial environments, potentially eliminating the current annual landfill waste of around 100 million pounds of tires. Congratulations and good luck!



*Pavel Galchenko (left) and Yohann Samarasinghe (right)*

AHS teacher **PATRICK FENNER** was selected by the **CLEVELAND PROFESSIONAL 20/30 CLUB** to receive the **2017 MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD**. This organization recognizes 25 individuals each year under the age of 35 for excellence in their work, civic engagement, academia, and/or philanthropic efforts. Congratulations!

### CROC COLLECTION

The **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS** recently held a **CROC SHOE COLLECTION** with new and gently used croc donations being sent with a mission group going to El Salvador. Thank you for your global outreach.



## STUDENTS CREATE PRINCESS PROM DRESS COLLECTION

Once upon a time, two Leighton School young ladies had an idea. They planned to begin a program that would help all of the fair maidens in the district who were in need of a dress to wear to the AHS National Honor Society's sponsored elementary Princess Prom feel like royalty. And so Hailey Kulawiak and Eva Logan created "The Dress Project." The project asked district families to make donations of slightly used dresses, shoes and accessories.

The two girls originally met in kindergarten through Girl Scouts and are in the same homeroom this year where they got to know each other better. Eva

and Hailey had the idea for the Dress Project during one of their classes. They explained how it came about by saying, "Our media class had a Shark Tank project where we could choose any project we wanted to do. Some people did donations, and some people sold their own creations. We developed the Dress Project, because of our love of fashion. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out on the joy of getting a new dress." After coming up with their project idea, the girls met with their guidance counselors, Tami Mazzella and Cynthia Curry, who they credited by saying, "We definitely wouldn't be able to have done it without



them." They also credited their parents and Leighton School Media Specialist Jen Kinkoph for helping them.

When asked what the goal of their Dress

*See Dress Collection p. 5*

*Superintendent - Continued from p. 1*

district. I mentioned the outstanding programs and services our district provides to students. This is illustrated in the academic success and the accolades and awards the district has received over the last several years. Beginning with our district pre-school program that was evaluated this past school year and in the fall was given the highest rating, a 5 Star Rating, by the Ohio Department of Education. Over the past two years, the district has scored in the top 10 of all of the districts in the state on the Ohio assessments; this achievement ranks us in the top 1-2% of all the districts in the state. We have received the National Blue Ribbon Award from the United States Department of Education at all three buildings that can qualify; Leighton Elementary, Harmon Middle School and Aurora High School. This is the top honor given out by this federal agency. Also, major national publications have bestowed their highest honors on our district. Newsweek Magazine, U.S. News & World Report and the Washington Post have all ranked our district as one of the very highest performing districts in the nation!

In order to be transparent with you regarding possible reductions if the levy does not pass, we are sharing the program and employee cuts that would need to be made if the levy is not approved. My goal has always been to protect the classroom and make reductions outside of it. I am trying my best to keep the proposed reductions away from directly impacting students and staff, but as you can see, with the amount of cuts that will be needed it is impossible to do so. Especially since a large portion of our budget is personnel.

The proposed reductions are:

**Programs**

- Increase in Pay to Participate for Athletics
- Elimination of Board Advanced Placement (AP) Test Contribution

- Reduction in Professional Development Budget

**Staff**

- School Resource Officer
- Part-Time Math Teacher- High School
- Part-Time Math Tutor- Leighton
- Physical Education Teacher- Harmon
- K-8 Technology Integration Teacher
- Reading Intervention Teacher- Craddock
- Building Secretary

**Supplementals**

- Site Manager Position-Athletics
- K-12 Department Chair Positions

**Transportation**

- Eliminate Field Trips
- Reduction in Bus Stops

If the operating levy passes, these reductions will not be required. The money from the levy will be used to maintain our strong programs and services. Again, we are not looking to add to our staff, programs or facilities in any way with this revenue.

A committee has been formed to help educate our community on the facts of the levy. I am grateful to have the support of these citizens to help promote the levy and support our students and staff. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the levy committee Co-Chairs, Amy Papesch and Angela Bolbach, for all of their hard work and their commitment to our district. To promote the levy, supporters are posting signs, making calls, handing out flyers and speaking to numerous community groups.

We are hopeful that our community will continue to support our district and provide the necessary financial funding to maintain the outstanding programs, offerings, and services that have allowed us to reach the highest levels of academic achievement in the state and the nation. Thank you all for your participation in this process and for your passionate commitment to your schools.

*Dress Collection - Continued from p. 4*

Project was they, explained, "Our goal was to help girls small and tall from our own school feel special." To spread the word about their project the girls said they, "created flyers for around our school, put it on the announcements, got it on the school website, we were on the news, and were in the Aurora Advocate." Cleveland's WKYC television station included Eva and Hailey on a television segment (February 17, 2017)

entitled, "We the People" that features area service projects and is intended to inspire other kids to get involved with things they are passionate about.

At the end of the dress collection the girls reported that they had, "collected about 120 dresses in all. We also received about 50 shoes and accessories." They said they donated the leftover "dresses that were too big to the high school for their prom, and other school dances.

*See Dress Collection p. 7*

## MIKE JANATOVICH NAMED NEW LEIGHTON SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



The Aurora City School District Board of Education voted unanimously to employ current Harmon Middle School Assistant Principal Mike Janatovich as the new Leighton Elementary

School principal at its general Board meeting that took place on Monday, February 27, 2017.

The Board also voted to fill Janatovich's vacant assistant principal position at Harmon School with currently employed Leighton School Principal Paul Goodwin.



Goodwin, who has agreed to accept the Harmon assistant position based on a one year contract, will aid Janatovich's transition into the Leighton School principal position. Aurora School District Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli, said of the appointments, "We are thrilled to have Mike as the new Leighton Elementary School Principal. His valuable experience the last three years as an assistant principal in our district will allow him to transition successfully into his new position. He is an outstanding educator with a strong background in administration and will be an extremely positive influence as the Leighton School Principal."

Goodwin, a district employee for almost 12 years, previously held the Harmon School assistant principal position for five years and will once again work together with Harmon Principal Mark Abramovich. Pat Ciccantelli stated, "Paul, who was considering retirement, agreed to stay with the district for another year to help us with this transition. Paul has always had the best interests of our school district at heart and continues to provide us with the utmost in professionalism and willingness to contribute his talents wherever they are needed most."

Janatovich will take over as principal of Leighton School effective August 1, 2017.



## CLASS ACTS

Four AHS Advanced Placement Art students participated in the **Beachwood Arts Council's 22nd Annual Juried Regional High School Student Art Show**. The students were **Deanna Sagaris**, **Kathryn Slates**, **Alyssa Korecky**, and **Sakurako Reed**. Their artwork was exhibited and judged on February 12, 2017. **Deanna Sagaris** won first place with her oil pastel "Breakup." The second place winner was **Sakurako Reed** with her oil painting "Koalaing." Congratulations to AHS art teachers **Sean Berrodin** and **Brian Caponi** on their outstanding art education program that consistently earns high honors for our students.



**Conni Hilston** and the **Power of the Pen** students from

Aurora High School competed for the second time in the PenOhio's Capstone Writing Tournament Series and performed extremely well. In the Varsity Division, Western Reserve placed first, Revere High School came in second place, and Aurora High School

finished in third place. In the Junior Varsity Division, Aurora High School took second place, St. Vincent St. Mary High School placed third, and Revere High School finished fourth.



## SERVICE LEARNING CLASS ARRANGES HOMELESS PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBIT

The **Aurora High School's Service Learning Class**, with the help of **Instructor Melissa Foster**, solicited area businesses to find a venue that would be willing to display an array of beautiful photographs of homelessness from the 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter where they volunteer. Students **Anna Davis** and **Jeremy Thorn** brought the collection to the attention of the Twinsburg Public Library. The library agreed to hang the **Portraits of Homelessness** exhibit, which was displayed there during the month of February.

Congratulations to **Ian Doemling** for his **Americanism Test** performance. He was the AHS 12th Grade Boy test

winner and was then certified as one of the three state winners in his group. For winning, he will be sent on an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg, PA this year.

AHS had 216 students on the **Merit Roll** (3.0-3.49), 227 students on the **Honor Roll** (3.5-3.99), and 222 students on the **High Honor Roll** (4.0 and up), which is a total of 665 students. This is almost 70% of the student body. AHS Principal, Dr. Paul Milcetic, said this, "is incredible and a great reflection of our learning culture!"

## HARMON SCHOOL'S MADAGASCAR JR. PLAY



*Penguins (left to right): Peter Stoycos, Alex Olsen, Katie Liang, and Victoria Bleschmind*

## SPORT REPORT

### CONGRATULATIONS LADY GREENMEN BASKETBALL TEAM



A big congratulations to our **LADY GREENMEN BASKETBALL TEAM** and **COACH**

**ERIKA GREENBERG** who are enjoying the Lady Greenmen's **FIRST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE WIN IN 90 YEARS!** The last time they held the title was in 1927 when they were Portage County League Champions. The Aurora girls' team hosted Tallmadge on February 15th and broke the title drought with a 38-27 victory. The win enabled the Lady Greenmen to share the title with Revere High School who won over Barberton. Both teams then touted 10-2 conference season records.

Aurora High School was proud to have four senior student athletes sign letters of intent at a **NATIONAL LETTER**

**SIGNING DAY CEREMONY**, which took place in the AHS Media Center on Wednesday, February 1, 2015.

Congratulations to:

**BUBBA ARSLANIAN** - Bubba will be playing football for Akron University, Ohio (Division I) in 2016-17.

**ANNA DAVIS** - Anna is heading south to play volleyball for Urbana University in Ohio.

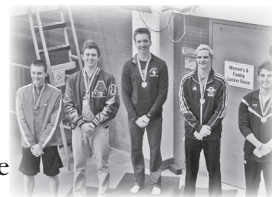
**SYARRA SELLERS** - Syarra will be playing basketball at National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II Siena Heights University in Michigan.

**HOLDEN SEMANCIK** - Holden will head to Indianapolis, Indiana to play football for Butler University (Division I).



*Pictured left to right: Holden Semancik, Syarra Sellers, Anna Davis, Bubba Arslanian*

Diver **DREW ALBRECHT** (2nd from left) took 3rd place at Districts to move on to State competition.



AHS swim team members **DREW ALBRECHT** and **LARA KETONEN** competed in the State meets on February 25, 2017. **KETONEN** placed 14th in the girl's Division I 50 freestyle and 15th in the 100 freestyle. Ketonen was the only AHS swimmer to compete in the Division I state meet. **ALBRECHT** placed 16th in the Division II boy's competition in Canton. Congratulations go to **AHS COACH AMANDA MARLOW** for an outstanding season.

New AHS swim team records were set by the team of **PAULINA GALCHENKO**, **LARA KETONEN**,



*See Sport Report p. 7*

*Dress Collection — Continued from p. 5*

We also saved the rest of the dresses for possible use next year." At the end of the project Eva and Hailey said that, "We got a bunch of stylish dresses and we thank all of the students who donated them. We were so happy that we got to help girls in our community feel special." When asked what gave them the most satisfaction about starting the program they stated, "We are so happy to put smiles on others faces, and make their day." They added, "The Dress Project was really fun putting together. We enjoyed working together and seeing smiles on the girls' faces when they picked out and left with their new dresses."

Next year, Eva plans on continuing the Dress Project, possibly with her friend Hailey. Thank you to Eva and Hailey and all of the donors to the Dress Project for making so many girls feel like princesses.

*Sport Report — Continued from p. 6*

**LAUREN SAPOCHETTI** and **ABBEY STECHLER** who took 1st place in the 400 freestyle relay with a record time of 3:57.32. The girls 200 freestyle relay team of **MARISSA HENDERSON, LARA KETONEN, LAUREN SAPOCHETTI** and **ABBEY STECHLER** set a school record and placed 10th in a time of 1:42.62. The 200-medley girls relay team of **MARISSA HENDERSON, LARA KETONEN, WHITNEY LIEBERTH** and **ABBEY STECHLER** also set a school record with a time of 1:55.15 and placed 14th.

AHS grapplers **BUBBA ARSLANIAN, JARROD BREZOVEC, JACK GORMAN** and **KYLE PETERSON**

headed to State wrestling competition on Thursday, March 9, 2017.

**BREZOVEC** returned with a 3rd place win and **ARSLANIAN** came back taking 6th place in the State mat tournament.

*Levy — Continued from p. 2*

in both academics, and extra-curricular activities. The Aurora Schools are an outstanding economic value when compared in both pupil/administrator ratio and district expenditure per pupil. The chart below compares these ratios showing that the Aurora district has the highest ratio of pupil to administrators, meaning they have the most students for each administrator (fewer administrators in all) of the comparable districts listed. The Aurora City School District is also an economic value when based on the expenditure of funds on a per pupil basis. The second column in the chart below also depicts this expenditure by comparable districts. So, while the Aurora district has the fewest administrators per pupil, it also spends less on each student than other districts.

#### Aurora's Outstanding Results Are An Economic Value

District	District/Pupil/Administrator Ratio	District Expenditure Per Pupil
AURORA	211/1	11,319
Revere	204/1	13,110
Hudson	182/1	12,966
Chagrin Falls Brecksville/Broadview Hts.	176/1	13,412
Solon	174/1	11,936
Kenston	168/1	13,866
Westlake	158/1	12,304
Bay Village	157/1	13,271
Kent	154/1	12,242
Beachwood	133/1	14,034
West Geauga	125/1	21,165
Rocky River	91/1	12,711
	79/1	12,520

While the Aurora Schools are an economic value for taxpayers, this difference is further magnified when the expenditure per child is multiplied by the total number of students in our district to give the difference in total spendable dollars per year compared to other nearby comparable school districts. In the chart below, the last column shows the total amount of funds each district spends per year in excess to what is spent in the Aurora School District.

#### Economic Value

District	Expenditure per child	Difference in total \$/s/Year
AURORA	\$11,319	
Solon	\$13,866	\$7.4 Million
Hudson	\$12,966	\$4.8 Million
Beachwood	\$21,165	\$28.5 Million
Kenston	\$12,304	\$2.8 Million
Chagrin Falls	\$13,412	\$6.0 Million
West Geauga	\$12,711	\$4.0 Million

The Aurora School District also has a proud tradition of financial efficiency. The district's Treasurer's Department has earned the Ohio Auditor of State Award for the past six consecutive years. The district has realized over \$500,000 in

energy savings during the past five years and has earned an Energy Star Certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Coupled with this financial efficiency, the district has tightened its belt by instituting cost cutting measures including, the implementation of Pay to Participate fees, eliminating 7th and 8th grade boys and girls soccer, softball and baseball teams, eliminating the staff Technology Integration position and a secretary position, along with ending a \$90,000 maintenance contract.

While the district is an economic value for taxpayers, student academic success continues to be a story of high achievement. Our district is a leader in academic excellence. Performance index scores rank our district in the top 1-2% of all public school districts in Ohio while our costs are in the 21st percentile. The Aurora City School District has earned prestigious recognition from distinguished publications including, the Washington Post's "America's Most Challenging High Schools," Newsweek's "America's Top High Schools," and U.S. News & World Report's "Gold Medal Schools." The district's latest accolades include the Aurora High School's "Momentum Award 2016" from the Ohio Department of Education and Leighton School's "Blue Ribbon School" recognition by the Ohio Department of Education. The district now touts three Blue Ribbons Schools as Leighton School joins Harmon School and Aurora High School in earning this honor.

Aurora is a community that can take pride in its school district. As longtime Aurora resident and Howard Hanna realtor, Sherry Gloor, explains, "I have lived in Aurora for 41 years, and have been a Realtor for 37 of them. I can say with certainty the reason the City of Aurora is a most attractive place to live is because of the stellar reputation our schools have and the quality of education we can deliver to our students. I can also say that the quality of our schools and the value of our properties are directly linked together. I cannot tell you how many times prospective buyers tell me they are looking to buy in Aurora simply because of our schools. The Aurora City Schools are definitely the main attraction to our community. The continued success of our schools continues to keep our property values up. Even if you are not currently selling your home it will pay off when you are."



***Dated Material***

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***Your Schools***

### NHS PRINCESS PROM



### SERVING UP STEAK N' STRINGS



**With My Dad**



**Dr. Seuss' Birthday**  
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