

# Ottawa Hills Schools

2023 District Enrollment Growth  
and Finance Update





THE STATE OF OHIO



KEITH FABER  
OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE

# Outstanding Achievement

in Open and Transparent Government



presented to...

Ottawa Hills Local School District

Lucas County | 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022



Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State

Date signed: 03/30/2023

Stars



# Review of How Our Schools are Funded

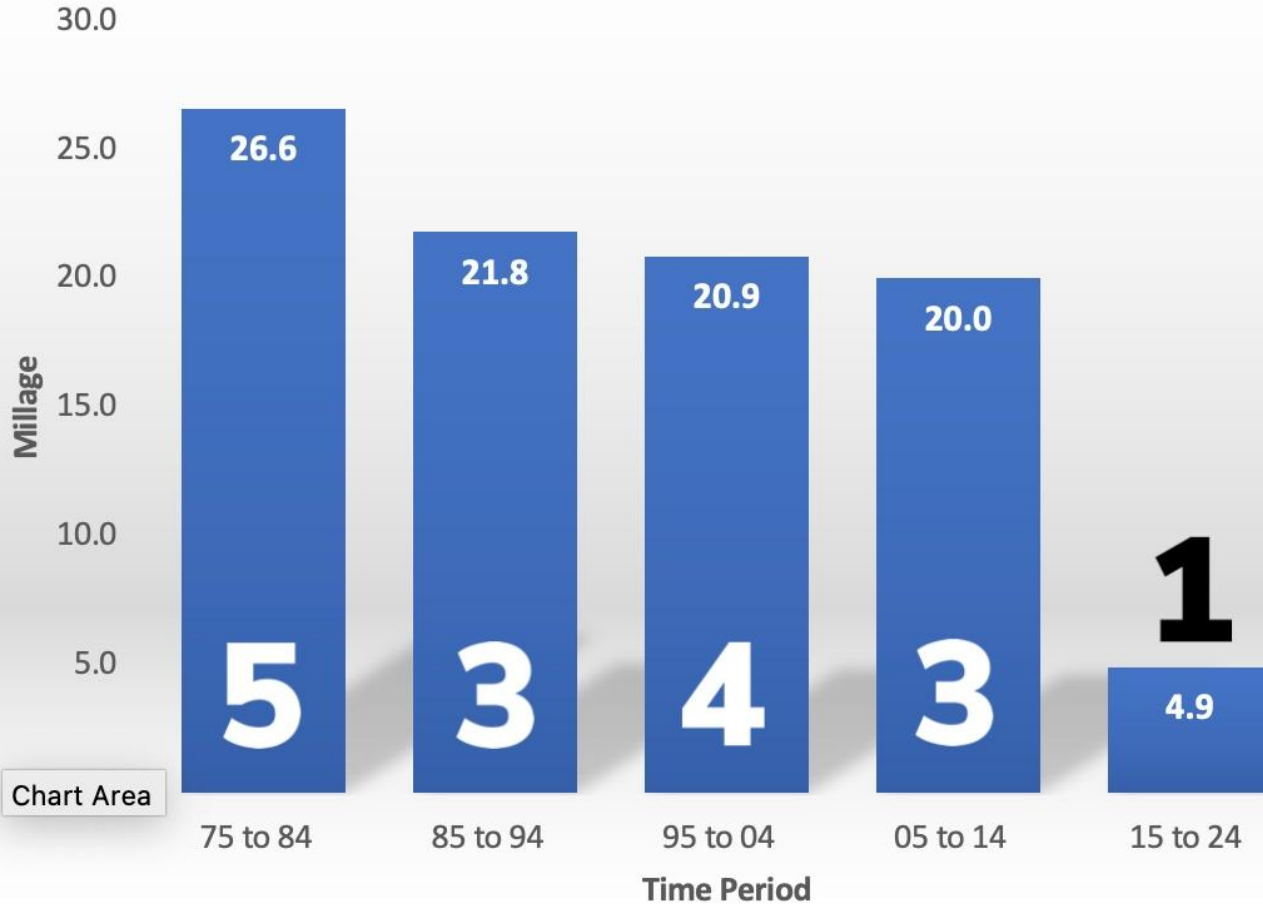
- Ohio School Districts Are Financed With A Combination Of Federal, State And Local Funds.
- State Level - Funding Received From The Ohio Department Of Education And Lottery Profits
- Local Level - Funding Received From Locally Levied Property Taxes



## Five Years Ago, Where were we...

- Declining Enrollment - *Implemented Tuition Program*
- Large Bond/Perm. Improvement Levy Failed
  - Culture Of Post Levy Failure - *Uncommon For Ottawa Hills*
  - Trust & Collaboration Challenges
- Decision To Stretch Nov 2013 Operating Levy and Spend down Cash Balance

# Voted Millage

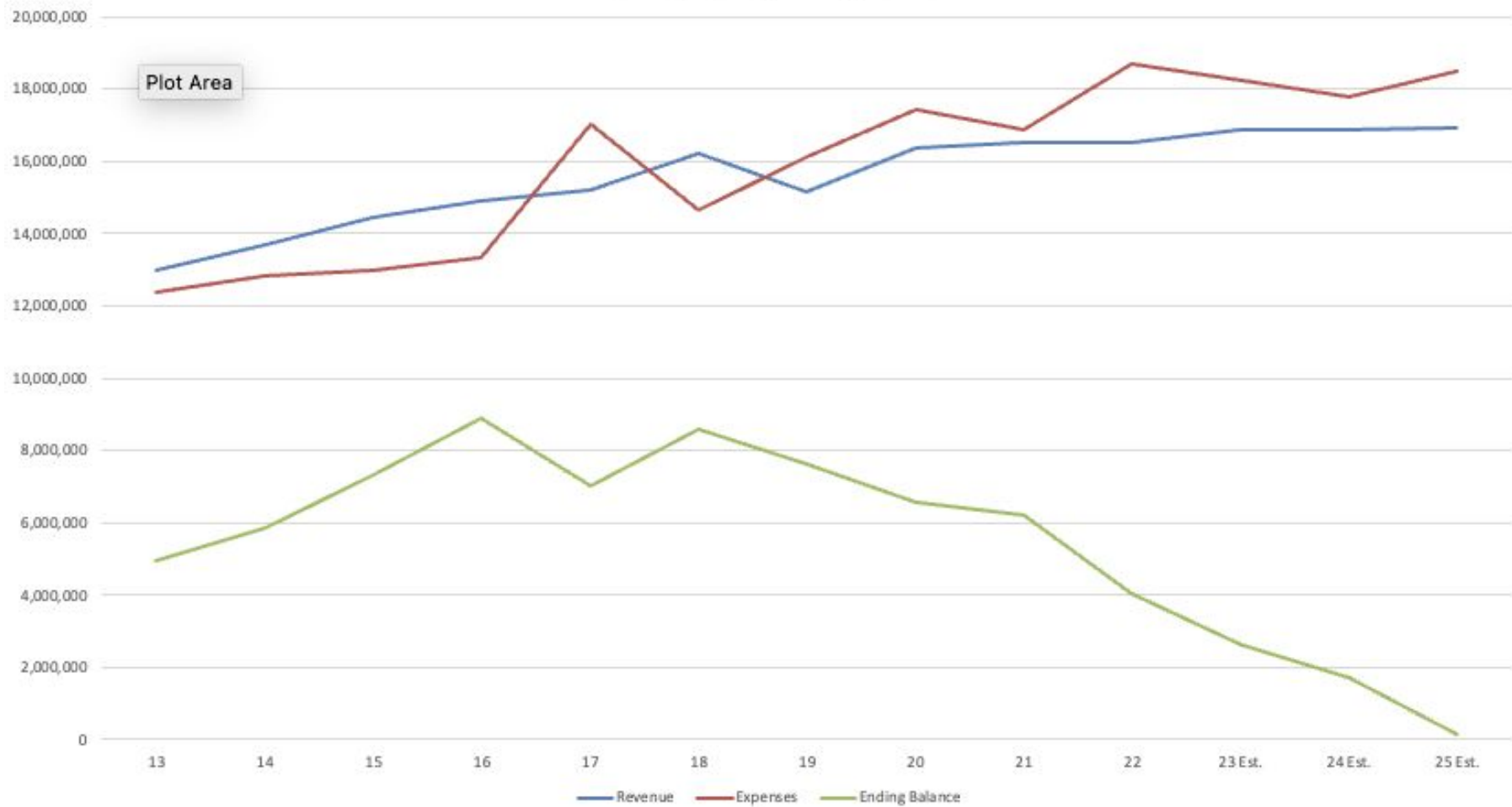




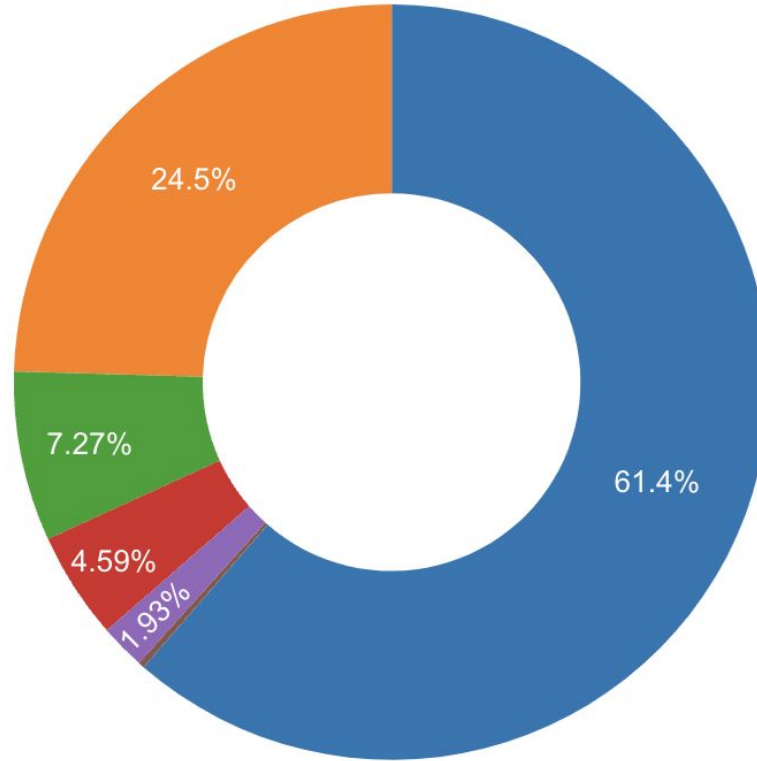
## Where are We Now...and WHY?

- Success Of Educating During The Covid-19 Pandemic
- Passage Of November 2020 Operating Levy & **Bond Levy**
  - To Add Staff, Services And Support, As Well As To Update Facilities (JHHS)
- Capped School District Due To District Financial Profile
- Enrollment & Student Need Unexpectedly Increased (Projections Were That It Would Continue To Decline)
- Currently At One Of Our Largest Enrollments Ever

Revenue, Expense, Ending Balance



## General Fund Current Year Expenses by Object



■ Salaries & Wages (100)

■ Benefits (200)

■ Purchased Services (400)

■ Supplies (500)

■ Other (800-900)

■ Capital Outlay (600)





# Taxes On Average Currently going to the School District...

- Average Home In Ottawa Hills = \$325,075
  - \$11,155 a year, around 70% (**\$8,172**) goes to the district
- On A \$500,000 Home In Ottawa Hills
  - \$17,158 a year, around 70% (**\$12,570**) goes to the district



## **Comparable Tuition a Year for Private Schools in our Area (*without fees*)...**

- Maumee Valley- \$27,800
- St. Johns- \$16,000
- St. Ursula- \$13,600
- St. Francis- \$13,200
- Notre Dame- \$14,500
- *Ottawa Hills Tuition Program-\$12,589 per student*



# Cost per pupil Comparisons

**2022**

\$25,447 Orange  
\$22,423 Beachwood  
\$19,330 Indian Hill  
**\$17,927 Ottawa Hills**  
\$17,848 Chagrin Falls  
\$17,658 Bexley  
\$14,793 Wyoming  
\$14,324 Oakwood  
\$13,475 Madeira

**2021**

\$24,291 Orange  
\$21,122 Beachwood  
\$17,200 Indian Hill  
\$16,802 Bexley  
\$16,745 Chagrin Falls  
**\$16,185 Ottawa Hills**  
\$14,129 Wyoming  
\$13,760 Oakwood  
\$13,405 Madeira

**2020**

\$24,854 Orange  
\$20,272 Beachwood  
\$17,126 Indian Hill  
\$16,315 Chagrin Falls  
**\$15,741 Ottawa Hills**  
\$15,588 Bexley  
\$13,710 Wyoming  
\$13,284 Oakwood  
\$12,618 Madeira



# Cost Savings We Are Making to Help Budget

- Securing as many Grants as we can - school safety related (\$100,000), facility related, technology grants (\$400,000), etc.
- Private Donations- The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation
- Board Finance Committee Looking Hard At Current District Spending (Making Savings
- Evaluating More Cost Savings Measures For The 23-24 School Year

**Without Increased Revenue We Will Soon Be In “Fiscal Caution”**

**And Will Have To Make Deeper Staffing Cuts**



# Cost Savings Already Made

- Administrative Pay Cut, Retire/Rehire of Asst. Principal at JHHS and eliminated all travel and conferences for Admin and the Board (-\$73,000)
- Eliminated Administrative Position- Full Time Comm. Director (-\$85,000)
- Eliminated 1 Gifted Intervention Teacher- ESC position (-\$55,000)
- 10% Budget Cuts in all District Budgets (-\$225,000)
- Delayed new English Language Arts Curriculum Adoption (-\$240,000)



## Cost Savings End of School Year

- Eliminate Consumer Science Program and Teacher (-\$160,000)
- Attrition of an English Teacher at JHHS (-\$145,000)
- Eliminate Junior High Gifted Intervention Teacher-ESC position (-\$55,000)
- Eliminate 1 School Nurse (COVID related hire) (-\$42,000)
- Eliminated ½ World Language Position (retire/rehire savings) (-\$62,000)
- Retirement Savings for *Lindsay/Mendez/Lavetter* (-\$144,000)
- PE Program Changes- allowing for ½ time PE position cut (-\$23,000)



# **Our Pursuit; Moving Forward Towards A “Blended Funding Model”**

More Equitable for each Participant in the System...

- **Property Tax Operating Levy**- Primarily For Operating Expenses in the area of 10 mills, (November 2023)
- **Future School District Income Tax** - Percentage On Income Of District Residents (May 2024 or November 2024)
- **Aiming to Achieve Other Income Generators beyond Levies**



# Operating Levy Costs to Homeowners

Based on a 10 mill levy:

For every \$100,000 of Home Value= about \$30 a month

Average Home Valuation In Ottawa Hills = \$325,075

10 Mill Levy Cost = \$94.79 a month

Home Valuation For A \$500,000 Home

10 Mill Levy Cost = \$145.83 a month





# **Income Tax Levy- *What would it generate in the future...***

Ohio Department Of Taxation  
Estimated Income Tax Collections For 2023

<b>Rate</b>	<b>Traditional Base</b>	<b>Millage Equivalent</b>
0.5%	\$2,773,065	15.229

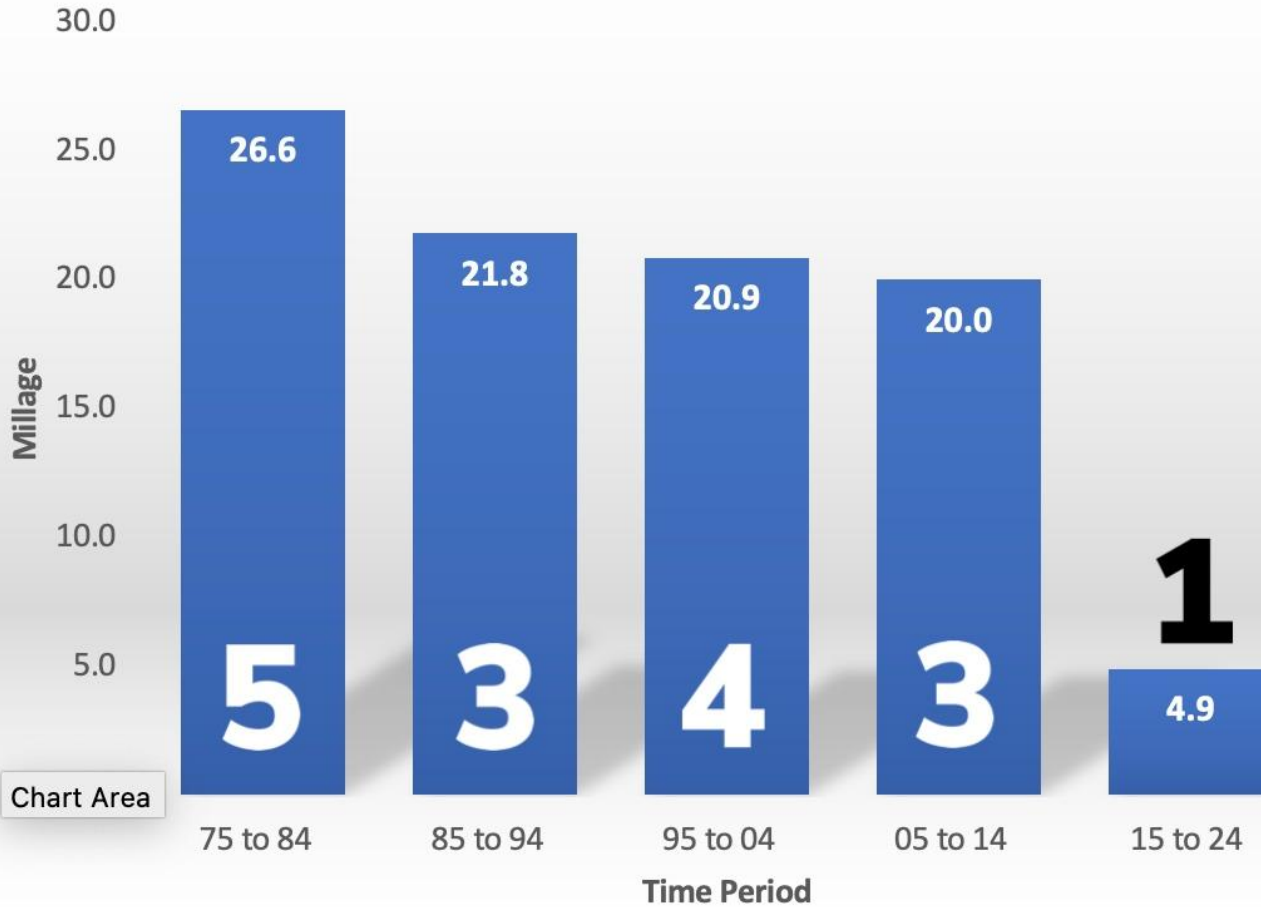
<b>Rate</b>	<b>Earned Income</b>	<b>Millage Equivalent</b>
0.5%	\$1,653,318	9.12



# Exploring Other Income Generators

- Working with the Foundation to turn their focus with private fundraising to help support the operational areas of the district (curriculum, technology, programming, etc.)
- Renting out the use of our facilities for income
- Is there a future where Ottawa Hills has a Preschool that brings in Income?
- Should we expand our Tuition Program at Grade Levels that can absorb growth (Est. Tuition= \$12,500 at student)
- Open to other Ideas and Feedback from the Community

# Voted Millage





# Next Steps for Communication and Decision Making

- Continue Internal & External Communication On District Financial State
- Monitoring District Expenses And Enrollment To Accurately Set Need Amount-should be set by June after getting new state funding amount
- Continuing To Gauge Community Feedback And What Will Be Supported To Be Successful
- Begin To Build A Community Led Levy Team and Select Levy “co-chairs” before Summer

# Time for Continued “Conversation with the School Board.”

Thank you for your time  
and support.

