



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Piper, Superintendent, Troy City Schools

Trojan Families:

Although we have been back for a few weeks now, I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome you back to Troy City Schools for the 2023-24 school year.

I hope all of you had a safe, happy and healthy summer break. I know all of our staff members are excited to see the children in our schools once again. There is definitely a different feeling in the air any time our students return from a break, whether it be summer, winter, spring or even just a long weekend. It's a great feeling to see those smiling faces walk through our front doors, eager to learn and grow.

There are two groups of students we are especially excited to welcome back for the new school year.

To the Class of 2024, we are looking forward to all of you being leaders not only at Troy High School, but throughout our district. I would also encourage you and your family and loved ones to enjoy every moment this school year. As the father of two high school graduates myself, I can assure you this year is going to fly by. I know things can get hectic for seniors, but please remember to stop and take in both the big and small moments now and then. This will be a school year you will never forget.

To the Class of 2036, welcome to the Trojan Family. I would offer you and your families similar advice to what I would offer our seniors: Be ready, because it goes by in a blink. I know 13 years seems like a long time, but goes by much faster than you can possibly imagine.

As we do every year, we are looking forward to the new school year with a great deal of hope and optimism. We feel as though we made tremendous strides last year in the classroom, on the athletic fields, in the arts and in a vast array of extracurricular activities our district offers.

While we are certainly proud of all our accomplishments last year, we are looking for continuous improvement and growth from our students and staff members. We encourage all of you to remember our district mission: "To dream big, work hard, and succeed."

Chris Piper
Troy City Schools Superintendent

TROY CITY SCHOOLS WILL HAVE BOND ISSUE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

The Troy City Schools are placing a bond issue on the Nov. 7, 2023 ballot. Should the bond issue pass, it, along with state funding, would raise the funds necessary for the district to build four new elementary school buildings, a tax levy for maintenance of those new buildings, and improvements to the infrastructure at Troy High School.

COST TO TAXPAYERS

The total cost of the project would be \$154,026,690.

Should the bond issue pass, the district would receive \$45,665,637 from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, which oversees capital projects undertaken by state agencies and state-supported institutions of higher education; manages Ohio’s school facility programs which provide support for the construction and renovation of public K-12 schools; and administers the funding for community-based cultural and sports facilities projects.

The remaining costs after the OFCC funding would be paid for by 6.96 mill bond levy, should it pass. Of the 6.96 mill property levy, 4.66 mills would be assessed over the course of 37 years to pay for new construction. Over the course of 29 years, 1.8 mills would pay for infrastructure improvements to Troy High School. Also, the state would require the collection of 0.5 mills over 29 years for the maintenance of the new buildings. This is a requirement to receive state funding.

The monthly cost will be \$20.30 per \$100,000 of a home’s market value. The cost per \$100,000 value will not increase at any point for the duration of the bond levy.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS THAT WOULD BE REPLACED

Should the bond issue pass in November, the four new buildings would replace seven buildings currently in use: Van Cleve Sixth Grade Buildings (built in 1914), Concord Elementary School (built in 1919), Heywood Elementary School (built in 1930), Forest Elementary School (built in 1949), Kyle Elementary School (built in 1950), Cookson Elementary School (built in 1964) and Hook Elementary School (built in 1966).



The building plan includes three new preK-4 buildings at the locations currently occupied by Hook (see North School diagram) and Cookson Elementary School (see East School diagram), as well as district-owned property near the corner of State Route 718 and McKaig Road (see West School diagram), across the road from the current location of Concord Elementary School. A building for grades 5-6 would be built on property the district owns on Swailes Road (see South School diagram).

PLANS FOR THE OLD BUILDINGS

At Hook and Cookson, the older buildings would be used until the new buildings, which would be built on a different part of the property, were finished. At that point, Hook and Cookson Elementary Schools would be abated and demolished.

Van Cleve, Kyle, Concord and Heywood would be abated, demolished and turned into green space. Forest Elementary School, which has had the most work done to it recently, would be maintained and re-purposed for further use by the district.

PLANS FOR TROY HIGH SCHOOL

Funding raised through the bond would include several major improvements at Troy High School, including: new HVAC systems and the necessary electrical upgrades to maintain those systems. The district would also install new, energy-efficient lighting and ceiling tiles in areas of disturbance at the school. Asbestos abatement would also be a part of the project at the high school. All of these changes will extend the life of the high school, which opened in 1959, by at least 30 years.

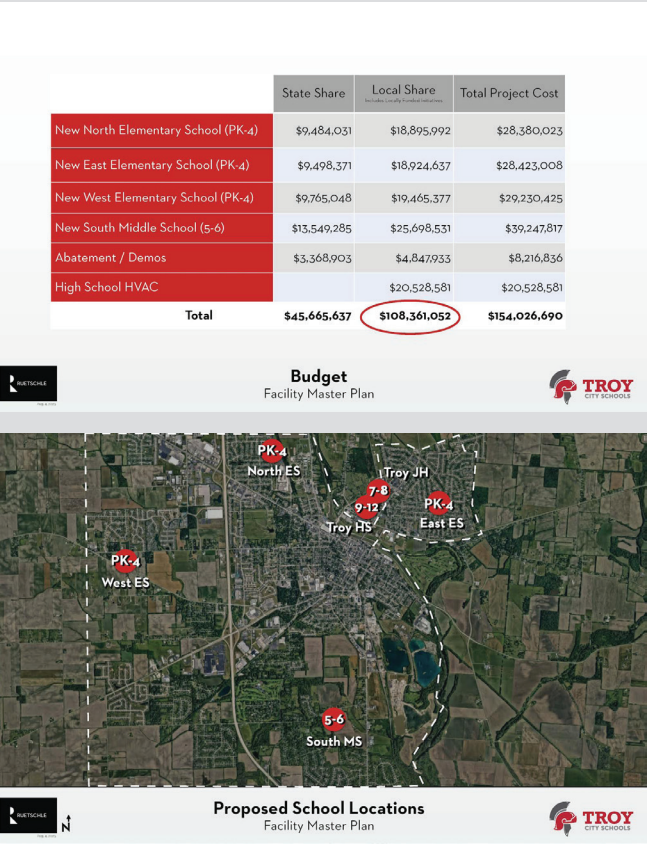
TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

Should the levy pass on Nov. 7, the following would be the timetable for the construction of the four new school buildings:

- OFFC Project Agreement: Spring 2024
- Design: Spring 2024 thru Spring 2025
- Construction: Summer 2025 - early Summer 2027
- Move in: Summer 2027
- Abatement / Demolitions: Fall 2027

VOTING INFORMATION

To register to vote, or other voting information, click [HERE](#)



TROY SCHOOLS RECEIVE 4.5 STARS ON STATE REPORT CARD



The Troy City Schools are one of the top districts in the region and Ohio, based on the Ohio Department of Education's state report cards, which were released Thursday.

The ODE gave each district 1-5 stars (1 being the lowest, five being the highest) in each of five categories: Achievement, Gap Closing, Progress, Graduation and Early Literacy. The ODE also gave each district an overall score, also based on the 1-5 star system.

Overall, the Troy City Schools earned 4.5 stars.

The district scored five stars in both Progress and Gap Closing, four stars in Achievement and Graduation, and three stars in Early Literacy.

"This is definitely a credit to all of our students," Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper said. "They are showing up every day ready to learn and grow. We are incredibly proud of the work they've put in. We believe our district is an excellent place for students to learn, and these scores reflect that.

"We also are so thankful to have an outstanding staff who are helping our students succeed. This is obviously a sign of how hard our teachers are working with our students. It also shows we have tremendous staff members who help put students in a position to succeed, whether it be by administering our school buildings, transporting our students to and from school, feeding our students, keeping our students healthy or keeping our students warm, safe and dry."

Troy City Schools scored highest Progress and Gap Closing, both of which are measures of how the district is doing compared to prior years. According to ODE, "Progress looks closely at the growth all students are making based on their past state test performances. The Progress Component measures the academic performance of students compared to expected growth on Ohio's State Tests. This calculation uses a 'value-added' model of measuring academic growth that compares the change in achievement of a group of students to an expected amount of change in achievement that is based on the students' prior achievement history."

"We are particularly proud of the progress we've made," Piper said. "We are focused on improving student learning and it's good to see that hard work paying off."

Piper said the hard work by students and staff will continue throughout the district.

The mission of the Troy City Schools is to empower students to dream big, work hard and succeed," he said. "We are confident we have the staff in place to do just that."

SCHELKUN CELEBRATES 55 YEARS WITH TROY CITY SCHOOLS



Tom Schelkun spent August 25 the same way he's spent every Aug. 25 for the past 55 years.

He spent his day making life better for Troy City Schools students.

"It's been great. Troy is a great town," said Schelkun, who celebrated his 55th year with the Troy City Schools Friday. He spent his first 35 years teaching physical education in Troy, and has spent the past 20 working in the district's technology department. "Good school system. Good people. It's been very nice."

Schelkun is a lifelong Trojan, born in Troy and a 1963 graduate of Troy High School. While at Troy, Schelkun played football and basketball, as well as running for the track and cross country teams. He also was a member of student council, the Scholarship T committee and the Varsity T committee.

He went on to graduate from Ohio Wesleyan and nearly took a teaching job in the Columbus area before fate seemingly intervened and brought him home where he belonged.

"I actually had a job lined up in Delaware, Ohio, and at the last minute they gave it to someone who came in and had a master's degree," Schelkun said. "So I called Jim Welbaum, who was the basketball coach. I had kept in touch with him, and he said, 'Hey, we've got a couple openings. My first job was originally going to be teaching fifth grade at Concord. That summer, Jay Dorsey moved from elementary phys ed to junior high phys ed, and that opened up, so I got it. So I never did go in a classroom.'"

For the next 35 years, Schelkun would teach physical education at Forest, Cookson and Van Cleve. He also coached track and football at Troy Junior High School.

"I loved doing phys ed," he said. "I did the exercises with the kids every day. I did as much as I could with them. Whenever we were playing games in the gym, if any administrators came through, we pulled them in and made them play with us."

And just as his career as a physical education teacher was winding down, Schelkun discovered his love for working with computers. That would eventually lead to a second career that has continued for the past two decades.

"The last two years of teaching, my brother-in-law got me into technology," Schelkun said. "He worked for (Hewlett Packard) and Cincinnati Bell. This is when computers were just starting to hit. So he and I would bring the computers that he got in and we would just tear them apart and play with them, see how they worked and things like that. So he just got me involved."

"The last few years, I started to help out around the school. The teachers would come to me and say, 'My printer is not working.' At the time, I think (the tech department) could only get around one day a week to the buildings. Several times, I would fix them before they could come over."

After he retired as a teacher, Schelkun would spend one year working with computers at the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School (now the Upper Valley Career Center) before returning to Troy.

"At the time, Tom Dunn was the technology director, and I told him, 'Hey, I'd love to work in the technology department if anything ever opens up,'" Schelkun said. "That first year, nothing opened up, but that second year he said, 'We're doing some reshuffling, and we've got something open for you if you want to do it.'"

Currently, Schelkun spends much of his day servicing, cleaning, and maintaining the district's nearly 5,000 Chromebooks.

He said he's had some trouble getting around lately and will need a hip replacement in the near future, but other than that, has no desire to stop doing what he loves, which is to the benefit of every student in the Troy City Schools.

"If I get up in the morning and say, 'Hey, I'm done with this,' I'll stop," Schelkun said. "But so far, I enjoy coming in every day."



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