

# Ottawa Hills Schools

October 2023 Finance Update  
& Conversation with the Board of Education  
Dr. Fineske, & Cajon Keeton, Interim Treasurer



# Welcome and opening comments

- Maara Fink, *School Board President*
  - Roll Call and Adopt Agenda
  - Introduction of Cajon Keeton, *Interim Treasurer*
  - Perspective from the Board
- Dr. Fineske, *Superintendent*



## Tonight's outline

- Where were we?
- Where are we now?
- What have we learned and changed?
- What is our plan moving forward?



## The last 3 years...

- Passage of November 2020 operating levy & **bond levy**
  - To add staff, services and support
  - To update facilities (JHHS)
- Success of educating during the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Enrollment & student need increased



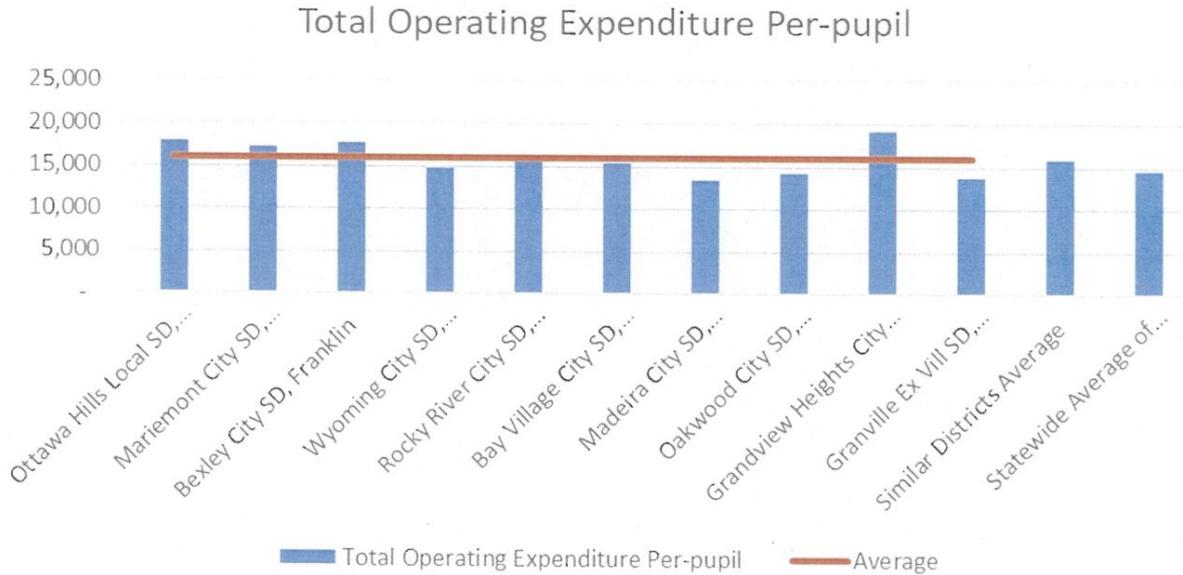
# What was added to meet growth and needs?

- 1 math teacher at JHHS
- 4 elementary teachers
- 1 school counselor
- Additional nurse
- Special education staff increases due to learning needs
- Full time school psychologist
- Dean of Teaching & Learning



# Cost per pupil comparisons for 2022

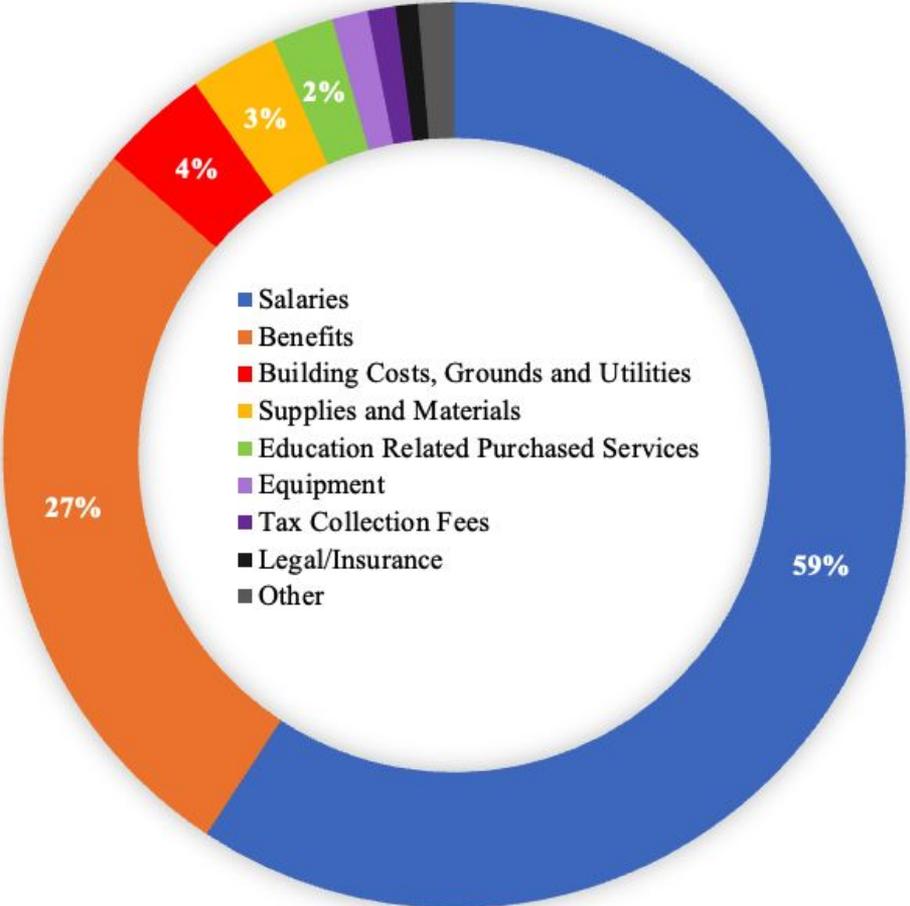
## Operating Expenditures



OH total expenditure per pupil is \$17,926, which ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> amongst the group and is 12%/\$1,921 above the average.

Expenditures are grouped into Instructional, Administration, Pupil Support, Staff Support, and Building

# Fiscal Year 2023 budgeted operating expenses



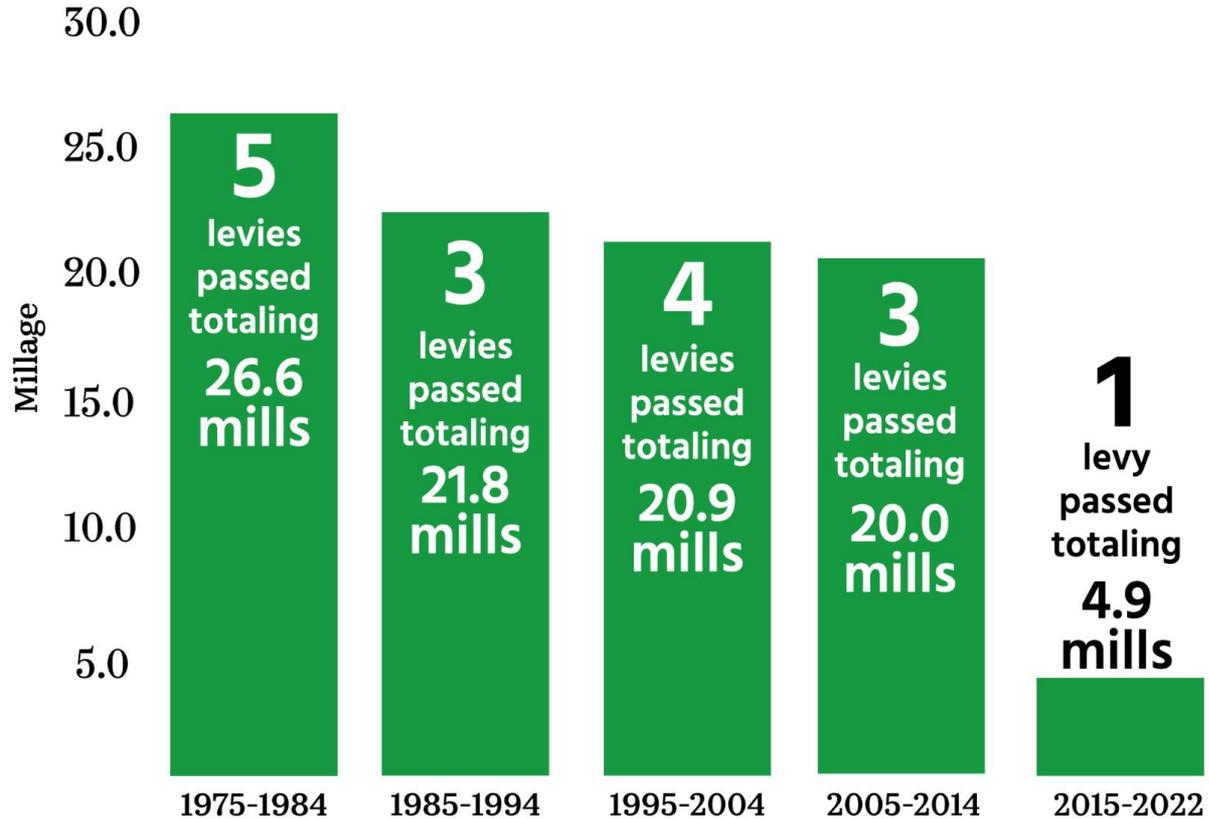


**Where are we NOW?**

**Interim Treasurer Cajon Keeton**

**[LINK](#)**

# Historic Levies Passed in Ottawa Hills





# Hard facts that we have learned and changes we are making

- Ensure better balance between meeting needs and maintaining cost controls
- Continued action to streamline and reduce expenses to offset costs for growing needs
- Act on need for levy sooner
- Clearly identify wants vs. needs
- Recognize that we can and MUST do hard things
- Engage in reflection needed to create mindset shift (internally and externally)
- Critical realignment of costs



# Spring/Summer 2023... implemented cost savings

(estimated cost savings have been added in parentheses)

- **Administration Efficiencies (\$250,000)**
  - Compensation cut and elimination of travel/conferences, etc.
  - Reduced three administrative positions
- **Faculty and Staff Efficiencies (\$700,000)**
  - Eliminated Consumer Science Program & teacher
  - Gained savings through attrition (English teacher, paraprofessionals)
  - School nurse, one tech support, 1/2 time secretary, 1/2 time PE teacher, 1/2 time Spanish teacher, two gifted intervention specialists
- Cut substitute, discipline, noon duty & instructional budgets (\$685,000)
- Delayed implementation of new ELA curriculum (\$240,000)



## September 2023...implemented cost savings

(estimated cost savings have been added in parentheses)

- Reorganization and hiring of new technology director and assistant director (\$56,000)
- More attrition savings (custodian, paraprofessional) (\$75,000)
- Instructional budget freeze for remainder of year (\$200,000)
- Eliminate additional ½ time secretary (\$25,000)
- Cut fitness center coordinator position to ½ time and OH Boosters & Foundation paying remainder of year (\$44,000)
- Noon duty adjustments at the JHHS (\$18,000)



# By January 2024 additional cost savings

(estimated cost savings have been added in parentheses)

- Faculty, Staff & Administrators will take a 0% increase to salaries- Admins will also forgo 1% All A/5 Star Report Card stipend (\$10,000)
- Insurance moratorium savings (\$216,000)
- 0% renewal rate on health care benefits (\$70,000)
- Move assistant to the treasurer position to ½ time (\$40,000)
- Savings on treasurer transition (\$50,000)
- Reorganization of operations facilitation (\$4,000)

*Cost savings work still in progress...*



# Moving forward, our plan...

## *Phase 1 now-April 2024*

Board directive to get back to 30 days cash balance of \$1.4 million by June (end of Fiscal Year 24)-Cost reduction of \$1.3 million this school year.

- \$1 million reduction achieved (\$600k sustainable)
- November 5-year forecast- additional reductions next summer
- Spending and cash balance policy review
- **Pass the 12.9 mill levy in March 2024**



# Moving forward, our plan...

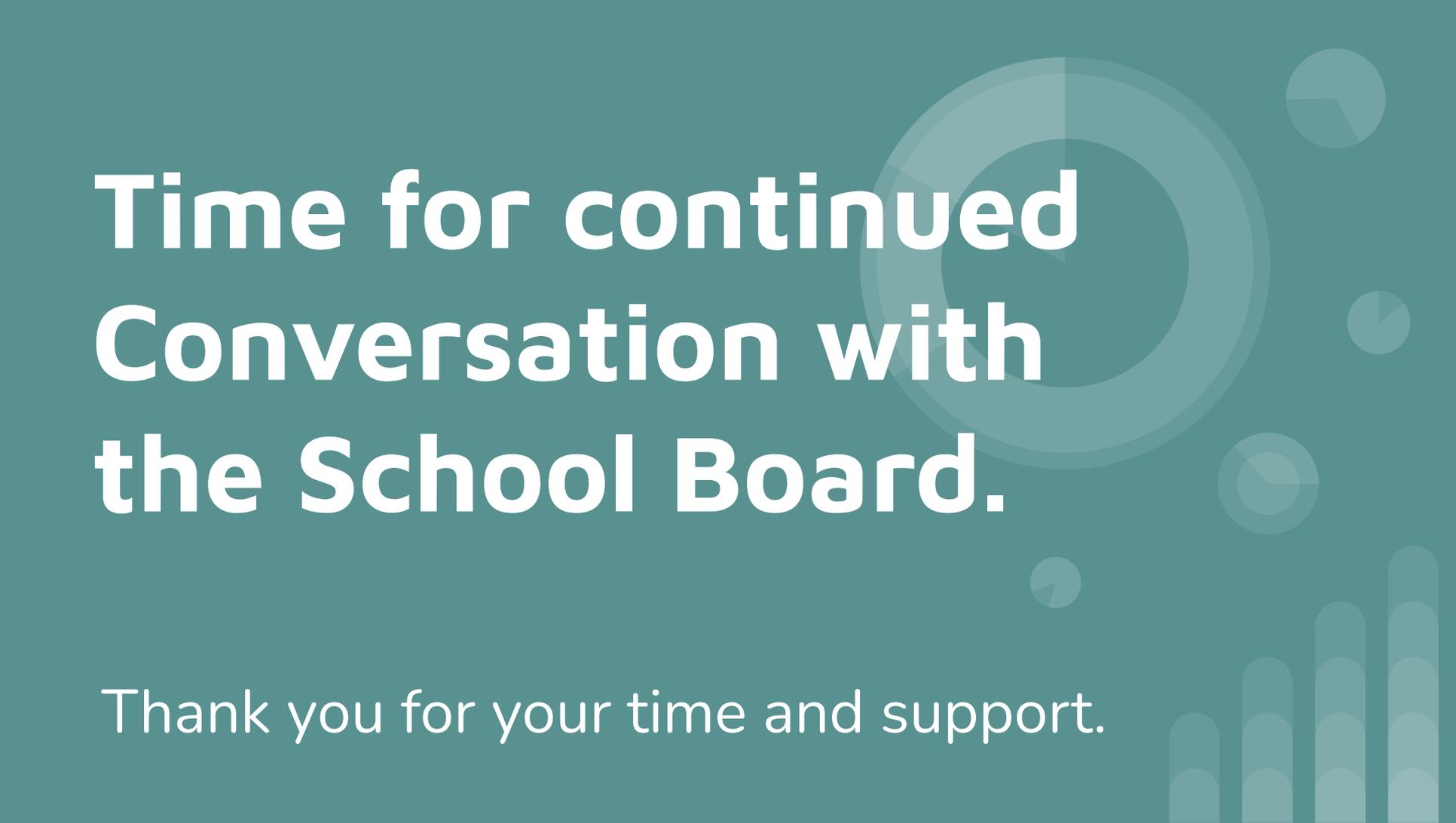
## *Phase 2 May/June 2024*

- **With levy passage**
  - Goal to stay off ballot for 3 years
  - Build a sustainable, lower cost FY 25 budget- personnel reduction through attrition/retirements and strategic realignment
  - Continue to get costs in line with comparable performing and sized districts in Ohio
- **Without levy passage**
  - To balance FY 25 budget, expect \$1.5 million in reductions



## How can you Help?

- Be engaged and ask questions
- Offer support
- Understand and respect funding limitations
- Focus on the positives!
- Support the levy in March

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# **Time for continued Conversation with the School Board.**

Thank you for your time and support.