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

Total Operating Expenditure Per-pupil

OH total expenditure per pupil is $17,926, which ranks 2nd 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

- Salaries: 59%
- Benefits: 27%
- Building Costs, Grounds and Utilities: 4%
- Supplies and Materials: 3%
- Education Related Purchased Services: 2%
- Equipment: 2%
- Tax Collection Fees: 3%
- Legal/Insurance: 3%
- Other: 4%
Where are we NOW?

Interim Treasurer Cajon Keeton

[LINK]
Historic Levies Passed in Ottawa Hills

- **1975-1984**: 5 levies passed totaling 26.6 mills
- **1985-1994**: 3 levies passed totaling 21.8 mills
- **1995-2004**: 4 levies passed totaling 20.9 mills
- **2005-2014**: 3 levies passed totaling 20.0 mills
- **2015-2022**: 1 levy passed totaling 4.9 mills
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, ½ time secretary, ½ time PE teacher, ½ 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
Time for continued Conversation with the School Board.

Thank you for your time and support.