KNOW THE FACTS
Ottawa Hills Local Schools will have a 12.9-mill operating levy (which will generate $2.3 million) on the March, 2024 ballot.

WHY NOW?
- Increased enrollment.
- Increase in student needs.
- District did not ask for large enough operating levy 2020.
- Cash reserves have been depleted.
- Without a voter approved levy in March the district will need to make $1.5 million in cuts for the ‘24-25 school year.

WHAT HAS THE DISTRICT DONE TO CUT COSTS?
- Cut administrator compensation and eliminated travel.
- Eliminated: communications director, school nurse, one tech support, secretary, two gifted intervention specialists, 1/2 time PE teacher, 1/2 time Spanish teacher, 1/2 time fitness center coordinator, consumer science program and teacher.
- Retirees/resignations not replaced.
- Reorganization of technology department.
- Instructional budget freeze.
- Increased pay-to-play fees.
- Reduction of hourly staffing needs.
- Negotiated health insurance premium reduction.

WHAT COST SAVINGS ARE PLANNED FOR 2024?
- 0% renewel rate on health care benefits.
- 0% increase in salaries for all staff.
- Administrative staff forgoing 1% bonus from all A’s state report card
- Reorganization of treasurer department.
- Reorganization of operations facilitation.
- Additional cost savings work still in progress...

FY '24 Budgeted Operating Expenses

- 59% Salaries
- 27% Benefits
- 4% Building Costs, Grounds, Utilities
- 3% Supplies and Materials
- 2% Educational/curricular/purchased services
- 3% Equipment
- 2% Tax Collection Fees
- 2% Legal/Insurance
- 2% Other

86% of the operating budget pays teachers and staff
Permanent improvement funding (for long term/greater than 5 years improvements/projects) cannot be used for operating expenses.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

| 901 students in 2016 | 1054 students today |

Increased enrollment with increase in student intervention, social-emotional, behavioral, and academic support needs.

State funding provides about $1,500 per additional student, which only makes up about 15% of our revenue.
Public school districts are funded through a combination of state funds, local property taxes, and federal funds.

House Bill 920 (passed in 1976) adjusts property taxes so that actual taxes collected remains the same based on past approved levies.

Ottawa Hills has a decades long history of approving requested millages to generate revenue for our school district. Property taxes make up nearly 70% of our revenue.