In addition to having the highest millage rate in the state, our district has the 9th highest median income in Ohio. Why does this matter? The two main factors that determine the state share of state funding are property valuation and income. We have seen a decrease in per pupil funding from the State, while our peer districts have seen over a 9% increase. Our taxpayers are paying a much larger share of state income tax (which funds the fair school funding plan) than other districts, but we are not seeing the direct benefit to our state funding revenue.

Ottawa Hills has the highest effective millage rate across the entire state. Even though our valuation is high, due to the confined area that our district encompasses, the amount of revenue that a mill generates is far less than our peer and surrounding districts. 98.4% of all property taxes are paid by residents. We have a very small share of commercial real estate. This puts an enormous tax burden on our residents.

To make matters more difficult, unlike most districts across the state, we have seen a steady increase in enrollment over the past seven years. Even with this increase in enrollment, we have seen less revenues per pupil from the Fair School Funding Plan. With increased enrollment, comes the increased cost associated with the employment of additional Teachers, benefits, and other services.

We understand that the Fair School Funding Plan works for most districts across the State of Ohio. Given how unique our district is, as described above, we believe that we are an outlier in the Fair School Funding Plan. We are asking for your assistance in taking some burden off of our highly taxed residents and provide additional state funding to our district.