

OLENTANGY MARCH LEVY UPDATE

The Olentangy Schools Board of Education placed a combined 4.25 mill levy on the March 19, 2024, ballot. The resolution combined a 3.00 mill operating levy and a 1.25 mill permanent improvement levy to address the district’s operational and facility maintenance needs. The resolution also authorized the Board to seek the authority to issue up to \$350,000,000 in bonds, which would fund the building of five schools to address enrollment growth.

The levy did not receive enough voter support and was the first ballot issue to fail since 1998.

Superintendent Todd Meyer expressed his disappointment that the levy did not receive the level of support to pass, stating that “district leadership is evaluating resource alignment, class sizes, modular classrooms, and potential redistricting and/or overflow of students to balance enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year.”



In reviewing 2024 home values, Treasurer Ryan Jenkins estimated that the levy would have cost homeowners \$148.75 annually for each \$100,000 of their home’s appraised value. Jenkins stated, “The key reason for the bond issue was to seek authority for the district to issue bonds for the construction of five additional Olentangy school buildings; three elementary schools (elementaries 18, 19, and 20), a seventh middle school, and a fifth high school. It also addressed the direct need to protect and preserve our taxpayers’ investment in the

assets owned by the community. Olentangy Schools will continue to provide educational excellence for an exceptional value, and we are committed to being diligent stewards of our taxpayer dollars.”

Peachblow Crossing Elementary School is scheduled to open this fall and is the last of three new schools approved in the 2020 bond issue.

THE OLENTANGY FOUNDATIONS: WHERE LEARNING OCCURS

Olentangy teachers actively embrace professional learning and collaboration, focused on the Olentangy Portrait of a Learner and The Olentangy Foundations frameworks, as the basis for instruction. The Olentangy Foundations are where quality curriculum, assessment, instruction, and context in an inclusive environment intersect to ensure the opportunity for every student to maximize their learning.

For Liberty Middle School eighth-grade students in Mrs. Gillespie and Mr. Mills’ social studies class, The Olentangy Foundations’ components are embedded into a larger classroom culture of thinking

and learning. Self-assessment drives students’ learning and teaches them goal setting and progress monitoring. Students, in turn, see the curriculum as relevant and meaningful to their lives and supports the development of transferable skills. Leveraging the foundations and how they work together also impacts the context of the classroom, sending a clear message that students are valued and belong at the center of the learning process. Overall, the teaching approach is student-focused, encouraging active engagement and collaboration, and the eighth-grade social studies content is used as a vehicle for critical and creative thinking.

MEET SUPERINTENDENT TODD R. MEYER:

From the moment the Olentangy Schools Board of Education presented me with an opportunity to lead our district last summer, my priorities have included reaffirming our collective commitment to the District’s mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student and the future of our One Olentangy community.

For me, these two areas go hand-in-hand and have served as guiding principles in the work of our district leadership team – especially those opportunities awaiting Olentangy Schools over the next ten years. I joined Olentangy Schools in 2007 – which does not feel that long ago – to open Orange High School, and over these past 17 years, I have watched our Olentangy and Delaware County communities grow and change at an incredible rate. In my first year in the District, our enrollment was 12,010 students. Today, it is almost double that number with more than 24,000 students. This growth is expected to continue over the next decade, with Olentangy Schools projected to open the 2033-2034 school year with nearly 29,000 students.

Thirty years ago, we served 1,925 students in two buildings. It is likely no one would have imagined Olentangy Schools would blossom into Ohio’s fourth-largest school district and one of its highest-performing, but here we are. Our explosive growth is a point of pride for everyone in Olentangy Schools; it says that our district and community are destinations for families new to Central Ohio.

Keeping up with growth has not come without challenges in the forms of modular classrooms,

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DANA BUELL

Q: What schools did you attend at Olentangy, and when did you graduate?

A: I graduated In 1979 as an Olentangy Delaware JVS student.

Q: Is there an Olentangy Schools staff member that impacted your professional path?

A: I was influenced by my senior year Agri Mechanics teacher Ted Richmond. He taught me to trust my mechanical aptitude and that the key to success was knowing where to find the information and answers to the problems in front of me.

Q: What experiences contributed to your career path?

A: I started my maintenance career in 1983 at Liebert Corporation, and then came to Olentangy Schools in 1997 to work on the custodial, maintenance, and facilities team.



Q: Can you give us a summary of your work in Olentangy?

A: There is truly little I have not been involved with as far as servicing our Olentangy buildings. I have been a plumber, an electrician, a kitchen equipment service tech, and worked on heating and cooling. Today I am responsible for the heating of our 28 school buildings, the administrative offices, and the transportation depots. I have four teammates helping me take care of the HVAC units. Most of my time is spent working on the programs that run our buildings. I educate my staff to be ready to take over the reins and keep the district in good operating condition down the road.

Q: We hear you are from an extensive line of Olentangy graduates. Can you share about your family?

A: My family has lived on the same farm on Cheshire Road since 1828, all the way back to when women and children would go to Fort Cheshire to escape the threat of Indian attacks. My grandchildren are the 9th generation to live in the area, and they are currently at Berkshire Middle School. I had a Great Uncle Glenard who served as principal at the original Berlin School, and my Great Aunt Louis worked in the kitchen in Berlin. My Grandmother Dorothy worked in the kitchen at Olentangy High School, my mother was a bus driver, and my late wife Tammy worked in the kitchens at several buildings. And of course, I am carrying on the tradition of working for Olentangy myself.

Q: Obviously, the district has GROWN over the years. How has it changed, and how has it stayed the same?



A: The growth has made the district unrecognizable. Olentangy was a great district then and still has that great feel today. The biggest difference is that we used to know and consider

those on the other side of the district neighbors. Today we do not know those that live three houses away from us.

Q: Why have you stayed a part of the Olentangy community for this long?

A: Obviously, my roots are so deep in the dirt that I cannot move! Olentangy Schools has treated me well over the years and I am still honeymoon phase of the job.

Q: Anything that you can share on what is next for you?

A: I am looking forward to retiring soon. After that, I am sure most of my time will be consumed by the homestead. We have been raising and selling produce for about eight years now and it seems like the produce doubles every year!

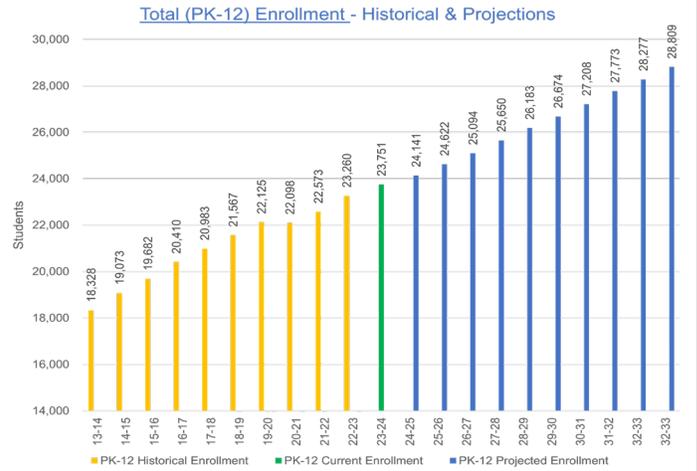
OLENTANGY ENROLLMENT & BUILDING GROWTH

Each year, Olentangy Schools has a long-term student potential analysis performed to measure the impact that housing development has, and will have, on Olentangy's student enrollment. This analysis informs the work and decisions of the Facilities and the Attendance Boundary Committees, which are both comprised of community members.

The ten-year projections also ensure student programming is in place and anticipates the potential impact on transportation.

Overall, Olentangy Schools will continue to see growth throughout the next 20 years. As currently zoned, 78% of the land within the 95 square mile Olentangy Schools attendance area is built out. Once all the currently planned development is complete, providing that nothing else comes online, the district will advance to 87% developed. The housing study reviewed planned neighborhood development, different types of housing, and the age of homes in the district to forecast potential housing units and student yield. Utilizing this model, the additional development could produce another 12,000 housing units over the next 10-15 years. Olentangy's Facilities Committee presented student enrollment projections and future facility needs.

Below is a look at Olentangy's student enrollment history and a ten-year projection.



FOUNDATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Olentangy Schools' mission is grounded in its pursuit to facilitate maximum learning for every student and allow students to flourish.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- In U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best High School Rankings report, all four Olentangy schools claimed spots in Ohio's top 25 rankings.
- Olentangy Schools earned an overall top rating of five stars on the 2023 Ohio School Report Card.
- Students at all grade levels are succeeding at state and national-level competitions for geography, spelling, STEM, robotics, business classes and much more.
- Our ACT score average for 2023 was 24. The national average is 20 and the state average is 19. All 11th-grade students take the ACT, which measures what students are learning in high school to determine academic readiness for college.
- Many of our students earn college credit while still in high school. Olentangy offers a College Credit Plus program and 26 Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL ACCOLADES

CLASS OF 2001

Justin Clarke-Doane (OHS) earned tenure at Columbia University in NYC, in the Department of Philosophy, in 2021 and is currently the Director of Graduate Studies.

CLASS OF 2009

Meghan Feasel (OHS) is teaching in Las Vegas and has been there for eight years.

Tera Parrella and Anthony Zabonik (OHS) are happily married and welcomed their first son, Brock Anthony, on March 12, 2024.

CLASS OF 2010

Erik Fulton and Angelina (Cugini) Fulton (OHS) are married and parents to Luca (4) and Giovanna (3). Luca currently attends Olentangy's preschool program. Erik works for the city of Westerville and Angelina is a nurse at Nationwide Children's Hospital.



CLASS OF 2013

Tenley Arrington (Becker) (OOHS) graduated from The Ohio State University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and now works with students with learning differences. Tenley has her Classroom Educator Certificate from the Orton Gillingham Academy. She married husband Zachary in 2020 and they are expecting their first child in May.

Josie Darr (OLHS) is a Rescue Coordinator and Veterinary Technician, and is married to her high school sweetheart.



CLASS OF 2018

Trend Grotelueschen (OOHS) works at Huntington National Bank and sits on the Junior Board of the 2nd&7 Foundation, helping run book drives and plan their annual football camp.

CLASS OF 2020

Maddie Flanagan (OLHS) is living abroad and working in a university spider lab.

CLASS OF 2021

Caden Konczak (OOHS) is playing baseball at the University of Toledo. At a March 23 game against Ball State, Caden had two late inning home runs to lead the Toledo baseball team to a dramatic 7-5 victory. This captured the series win for Toledo, and Caden had a career-high five-hit day that included five RBI's in addition to the two home runs.



CLASS OF 2022

Lisa-Marie Schwingshandl (OHS) graduated Olentangy High School at 15 years old with an associate degree, received her bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University at 16 years old, and is now working towards her MBA from the Fisher College of Business.

Submit accolades & milestones to:
[**OLENTANGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS**](#)

MEET SUPERINTENDENT MEYER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

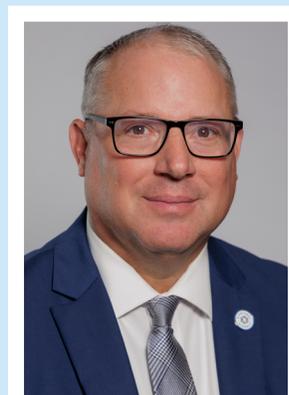
buildings near or over 100% capacity, and adjusted attendance boundaries.

Our March 2024 ballot issue did not receive enough voter support to provide our growing student population with the additional five school buildings over the next ten years. The combined 4.25-mil levy was the district's lowest operational ask of this community in 30 years, and we continue to evaluate our resource alignment and priorities as we work to meet the needs of an ever-growing student population.

Our One Olentangy community has come together in support of our schools in the past, and we will ensure that Olentangy continues to be a recognized leader in K-12 education.

With Gratitude,

Todd R. Meyer
Superintendent



The Oleantangy Education Foundation (OEF) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the education experience for the students in Oleantangy Schools.

The foundation does this through a variety of programs, with the primary focus on providing classroom grants for innovative programs and learning opportunities that fall outside school budgets.

In 2023-2024, OEF awarded more than \$68,000 in grants to classrooms across the district. These grants provide a wide range of opportunities for Oleantangy Students ranging from a middle school robotics team, to instruments and equipment for an elementary music program.

For a full listing of the grants awarded, more information on other OEF initiatives, or how to get involved, visit the OEF website:

olentangyeducationfoundation.org

Schottenstein Center May 19, 2024

Liberty High School: 9 a.m.



Orange High School: 12 p.m.



Berlin High School: 3 p.m.



Oleantangy High School: 6 p.m.



ALUMNI GATHERINGS



Reconnect At Your Class Reunion

Holding a class reunion? Make sure to register the reunion to be shared through the Oleantangy Alumni Association by sending the reunion details to alumni@olentangyef.org. We will feature class reunions on our Oleantangy Alumni Association social media sites, webpage and in the Oleantangy Schools Alumni Connection!

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH



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OLENTANGY SCHOOLS