



# Hurricane Watch

A publication designed to share the excellent stories of the Brooklyn City Schools

Winter 2024

*Tradition. Pride. Excellence.*

## **Brooklyn Student Selected to The Ohio State University Honors Band**



*Junior Florin Socol was recently honored with the selection to participate in The Ohio State University Honors Band.*

Brooklyn High School junior Florin Socol was recently honored with the selection to participate in The Ohio State University Honors Band, the oldest honors band program for high school musicians in the state. Florin joined a select group of student musicians from across Ohio on January 12th – 14th in Columbus and had the special opportunity to work with Ohio State music faculty in a series of classes, clinics, and rehearsals that culminated in a performance onstage. Selection to The Ohio State University Honors Band involves a rigorous application process that begins with a nomination from the student's band director and an evaluation using specific criteria established by the university. Upon being selected, students must submit a video audition of required music featuring contrasting styles to showcase their talent and proficiency.

Florin is an exemplary member of the Brooklyn High School music department which is demonstrated by his participation in multiple groups and recognition by his peers. A trombone player in the marching band and concert band, Florin is also the lead player on his instrument in the jazz ensemble where he is featured regularly as a soloist. As a participant in the annual Ohio Music Education Association's Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event, he has received *Excellent* and *Superior* ratings for his impressive performances. Florin also accompanies the drama club for their yearly spring musical as a member of the Pit Orchestra. At the start of the 2023-24 school year, Florin was nominated by his peers to serve as Vice President of the Band. This noteworthy recognition is well deserved as Florin consistently takes opportunities to motivate and educate younger students.

The Brooklyn City Schools proudly congratulate Florin on his selection to perform with The Ohio State University Honors Band and applaud him for representing himself and Brooklyn High School with Hurricane Pride!

## **Students Join with Cleveland Browns to Promote School Attendance**

The Brooklyn City Schools celebrated the importance of school attendance and the Cleveland Browns' playoff clinching season by joining Stay in the Game! Network (SITG) for a Brown and Orange Spirit Week from January 8th - 12th. Each day featured a new and exciting theme and classrooms had the opportunity to show their engagement on social media with the chance to win a variety of prizes from the Cleveland Browns. Activities included showing off their best touchdown dance, door decorating contest, writing out an attendance resolution, and wearing matching outfits with their friends. For the final day, students and staff wore their favorite Browns gear and received a special visit from Browns' mascot, Chomps. Congratulations to all Brooklyn students for showing their commitment to school attendance!



*Brooklyn students had a blast meeting Chomps during the **Brown and Orange Spirit Week**.*



*Cleveland Browns mascot Chomps visited Brooklyn City Schools on Friday, January 12th to congratulate students for 'staying in the game' with their strong attendance!*





## Proposed School Improvement Bond Issue Frequently Asked Questions

At the October 17th Board of Education Meeting, the Brooklyn Board of Education approved by a majority vote (5-0), the placement of a Bond Issue in the amount of \$20,000,000, on the March 19, 2024, ballot for the public's consideration. The information being provided is merely factual, district personnel are not allowed to advocate for or against the passage of the levy or bond issue during times they are being compensated by the district.

March 19, 2024

# ISSUE 21

### If approved, what would funds generated by the bond issue be used for?

If approved, funds generated from the bond issue would be used for Capital Improvement Projects, including to renovate the Brooklyn High School Campus, Auditorium, Brooklyn HS Main Gymnasium, Board of Education Office and Brooklyn Athletic Complex at Hurricane Alley as a part of the Brooklyn City Schools School Improvement Project.

**QUESTION:** How much would the proposed School Improvement Bond Issue cost the average homeowner if the measure were approved by voters?

**ANSWER:**

\$100,000 home value	\$150,000 home value	\$200,000 home value
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\$104/year additional



\$156/year additional



\$208/year additional

**QUESTION:** If approved by voters, would property taxes increase for the proposed bond issue if the value of my home increases?

**ANSWER:** No. While the School District has the ability to propose a variety of different types of tax levies for different purposes, not all taxes stemming from levies and bond issues increase with increases in tax valuation. The proposed bond issue is for \$20,000,000. As a result, if approved and property values increase, less millage would be collected to meet that amount.

**QUESTION:** How long will it take to complete the Renovation Projects?

**ANSWER:**

- Architectural design work on the project will take 9-12 months from passage of the bond issue
- Actual construction phase will take 24-36 months after the design phase of the project
- In total, the project may take up to 4 years to complete from the passage of the Bond Issue

**QUESTION:** If approved, could funds generated by the bond be used to hire more teachers, staff, administrators or increase salaries?

**ANSWER:** No. Bond dollars can only be used for the purpose stated in the Ballot issue considered by voters. Funds generated by a bond cannot be used toward operating expenses, such as salaries to hire more teachers, administrators or other additional staff. Rather, bond funds are restricted for use on brick-and-mortar projects such as constructing, equipping, maintaining, and furnishing district facilities. That means that any funds generated by the approved bond issue cannot be used to pay for additional teachers or staff.

**QUESTION:** Will community groups have access to the new facilities?

**ANSWER:** Yes. The District and City have an ongoing partnership that allows each entity to access our facilities for student and community use throughout the year. The District will continue to partner with the City of Brooklyn and community groups to access and use our school facilities. This includes the use of fields and gymnasiums, as well as the new and current common spaces.

**ELECTION DAY**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

**Polls Open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

## Planned School Improvement Project Frequently Asked Questions

For additional information regarding the proposed school improvement bond issue, please visit the News & Announcements section on the district's website homepage at [www.bcshurricanes.org](http://www.bcshurricanes.org), or email [askdrcleris@bcshurricanes.org](mailto:askdrcleris@bcshurricanes.org) and your question will be addressed directly by Dr. Caleris, Superintendent of Schools.

**QUESTION:** What are some historical facts about Brooklyn High School Campus and Hurricane Alley Athletic Complex?

**ANSWER:**

- Brooklyn High School was built in 1957 (190,000 square feet)
- Auditorium was constructed in 1955
- Brooklyn Stadium was built in 1966 (4,200 square feet)
- Brooklyn School (PK-7) Complex opened in 2015



Proposed Renovations of Brooklyn Auditorium



Proposed Renovations of Band Room at Brooklyn HS



Proposed Main Gym Renovations at Brooklyn HS



Proposed Renovations of Brooklyn HS Science Labs

### What specific areas of the District Campus would be renovated as a part of the school improvement project?

- Improved Security and Visual Enhancements at Exterior Entrances
- Brooklyn Athletic Complex Enhanced Recreational and Competition Areas at Hurricane Alley
- Community Walking Path at Hurricane Alley
- Band and Choir Wing Renovation at Brooklyn HS Campus
- Energy Efficient Initiatives - Window Replacement at Brooklyn HS Campus & Board Office
- Renovation of Brooklyn HS Campus Science Labs
- Renovation of Auditorium
- Renovation of Restrooms at Brooklyn High School Campus
- Various Common Area Interior Improvements at Brooklyn High School Campus
- Main Gymnasium Renovations at Brooklyn High School Campus
- Renovations Associated with Converting the Existing Brooklyn Library to a District Facility



Proposed Athletic Wing Entrance



Proposed Community Walking Path



Proposed Renovated High School Entrance



Proposed Renovated BOE/Auditorium Entrance





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## BCS Hall of Fame Now Accepting Nominations for Class of 2024

Applications are being accepted through **March 10, 2024**. All applications must be submitted by completing the official Hall of Fame nomination form on the Alumni/Hall of Fame Page at [www.bcshurricanes.org](http://www.bcshurricanes.org).



## Brooklyn Drama Club to Perform The Little Mermaid

The 2024 Brooklyn Drama Club invites parents, families, and community members to take a musical adventure under the sea with their upcoming performance of Disney's The Little Mermaid. Performances will take place in the Brooklyn High School Auditorium (9200 Biddulph Road) on Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th beginning at 7:00 p.m., with additional shows on Saturday, March 16th at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the door with cash, credit card, or check. Please join the Brooklyn City Schools in supporting the talents and dedication of our students and staff at this year's spring musical performances!

2024 Brooklyn Drama Club Presents



## District Financial Update



**Treasurer**  
**Robert Schirhart**

The Brooklyn City Schools values the continued support of the community and is committed to maintaining the financial stability of the district. This commitment is reflected in the implementation of an ongoing cost savings plan over the next four years. Examples of cost savings achieved by the district include making early payments to take advantage on discount savings. The district also utilizes state and federal grants to offset some of the operating costs (i.e. salaries and benefits). As a participant in the Suburban Health Consortium which pools health insurance coverages with other school districts, the Brooklyn City Schools can stabilize health insurance rates and keep cost increases under control. In other positive news, the district has been able to capitalize on current market rates and is receiving an average 5% return on investments.

In May of 2024, the district will be releasing an updated Five-Year Forecast (FY24 thru FY28) which will include the financial impact of the new Fair School Funding Plan which was passed by the Ohio Legislature in June of 2021. The new school funding plan takes into consideration the local share of property taxes and will have a positive impact on the Brooklyn City Schools, increasing state aid from \$1,929 to \$2,416 per student. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, thank you for your continued support and partnership with the district.

[www.bcshurricanes.org](http://www.bcshurricanes.org)

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