

Dear WCS Staff, Families, and Community Members,

Happy Monday! I hope everyone is safe and dry. Though it was necessary to cancel our parade on Friday due to inclement weather, Wyoming City Schools and the City of Wyoming are working to build a plan for a rescheduled 2024 Wyoming High School Homecoming Parade! We're looking at Thursday, October 10 - our next home football game. We hope to share more in the coming days.

Below are several highlights from the regular Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Monday, September 23, 2024. I'll continue to share information after our meetings to connect you with essential updates.

You will find links to the agenda and meeting video from the September BOE Meeting below. At this meeting, the minutes for the August 26th BOE meeting were approved and those are also linked below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

- August 26th BOE Meeting: [Agenda](#), [Minutes](#) and [Video](#)
- September 23rd BOE Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Video](#)

Sincerely,

Tim Weber

Committee Updates - Board of Education and Superintendent Committees focus on work within specific areas of the school district and play a critical role in updating the Board of Education and Wyoming community on specific topics. As these committees meet, information is shared each month during the Board of Education regular meetings. This month, committees began meeting with new members for the 2024-2025 school year. Committees are listed below and this month's updates can be viewed through the following link - [Committee Updates: September BOE Meeting timestamp 1:07](#).

- Belonging and Inclusion Collaborative
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- District Leadership Team/Student Achievement
- Facilities Committee
- Finance Committee
- Policy Review Committee

Primary Facilities Update - On Monday, September 3rd, we held our 4th Primary Facilities Community Forum, reviewing the primary facilities planning process, the [Primary Facilities Master Plan](#), and information about the bond levy. During the forum, Mike Ruetschle shared the conceptual diagrams of the proposed new primary buildings, and Ronda Johnson shared financial information regarding the bond issue that is on the

ballot for November 5, 2024. After the forum, the Primary Facilities Steering Committee Members met with forum attendees to answer questions regarding the master plan and bond issue.

The [Wyoming City Schools website](#) includes all primary facilities planning information, including the video and slides from the September 3rd Community Forum. We have also created diagram boards of the conceptual plans for each new school, which are displayed at our primary schools and the central office.

The 7.98 mill bond issue will raise \$72.5 million for the construction of three new K-4 primary schools on the sites of the current primary schools. A 7.98 mill levy would normally increase taxes by \$279.21 annually for each \$100,000 of market home value.

- **However, through the district's strong fiscal stewardship, the current Wyoming High School bond levy is being paid off three years early, decreasing taxes** by \$117.60 annually for each \$100,000 of market home value at the end of 2024 and removing 3.36 mills from the community's residential taxes.
- **The overall net impact on taxes with the passage of the bond levy is an increase of \$161.61 annually for each \$100,000 of market value** (4.62 mills). For example: If your home is valued at \$400,000 on the Hamilton County Auditor's Website, the passage of the bond issue will add \$646.68 annually to your tax bill, or \$53.90 per month.

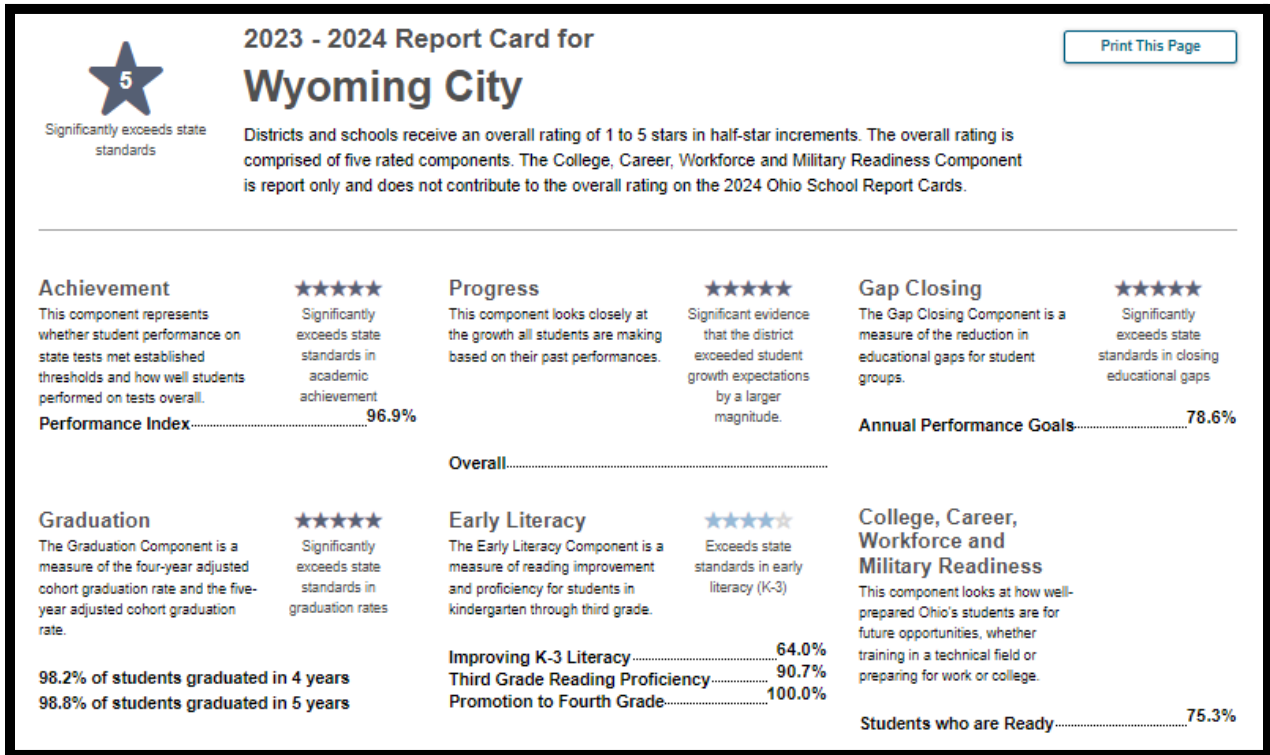
The \$72.5 million project cost is an all-in cost, including demolition, site work, temporary instructional space, construction of three new schools and all classroom and building furnishings. Treasurer Ronda Johnson explained during the meeting that the 37 year life of the bond issue is calculated assuming a 40 year life of the buildings and a 10 year life of the furnishings and equipment inside the buildings.

Finance Committee - The finance committee reviewed the fall collection of real estate taxes. Property tax revenue for 2024 increased 3.89% from the previous year, despite a 29% increase in property values from the 2023 reappraisal.

Local Report Card - The Ohio Department of Education recently released the 2023-2024 District and School Report Cards. The district overview can be seen in the image below and you can access Wyoming City Schools state report card information through the following link- [2023-2024 Wyoming City Schools Ohio School Report Card](#). A guide to understanding this new report card is available here - [2023-2024 Ohio School Report Cards User Guide](#).

During the meeting, we reviewed this data and discussed ways in which we use this data to identify areas of celebration, opportunities for growth, and specific strategies to support continuous improvement in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. We're excited to see the continued positive trends with our student data

and are looking forward to exploring this information more to support instructional planning!



2024 Wyoming City Schools Quality Profile - In addition to the rollout of report cards, we have created the 2024 Quality Profile highlighting some of the success of our students and staff not captured on a state report card. Wyoming students excel in academics, the fine and performing arts, athletics, and many more areas. The Wyoming Strategic Plan calls for our district to focus on the whole child and all areas of development and this tool helps to show how this is happening in Wyoming. Take a moment to see the incredible success of Wyoming students in the following link - [2024 Quality Profile](#). The Quality Profile will be mailed to all homes in Wyoming in the coming weeks. Congratulations to our students and staff for their continued success in so many areas!

Science of Reading Training - The Board of Education approved the payment of stipends for Science of Reading Training. This training requirement, created by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, supports all instructional staff in obtaining the skills to provide effective literacy instruction in the science of reading. This training further supports the work that has been occurring in Wyoming to support literacy for all students. Science of Reading Stipends are paid by the district and

reimbursed by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Overnight Field Trips - Student engagement is a critical component for student success. One of the exciting ways Wyoming students engage in learning well beyond the walls of our classrooms is participation in school-sponsored travel. These excursions provide our students with incredible opportunities to further their learning and engagement with others. The trips below are just a few examples of the great opportunities that have been approved for students for the current school year:

- WHS French Students - France: March 20 - 29, 2025
- WHS Latin Students - Rome, Italy: March 22 - 30, 2025
- WMS 8th Grade Trip - Chicago, IL: May 4 - 6, 2025

Intervention and Special Education Audit - Wyoming is partnering with the Hamilton County Educational Service Center (HCESC) to complete a full review and audit of our intervention and special education practices with the goal of identifying areas of strength and specific areas where improvement is needed. The process began this summer and the most recent action is a stakeholder survey that was shared with instructional staff and Wyoming City Schools families on September 20th. HCESC Coordinator for Intervention and Support Services Melissa Heitzman is leading this work. The key areas for HCESC's work are:

- How well the district's special education goals align with state and federal requirements,
- The ways in which students with diverse learning needs are identified and evaluated,
- How different services (like inclusion, resource rooms, and support staff) are being provided to students,
- Efforts to promote equity and inclusion, and how well students with disabilities are included in general education classrooms,
- The qualifications and training of special education staff,
- How the district partners with parents and the community to support students,
- How well the district resolves concerns and follows legal guidelines, and
- The efficient use of resources and funding for special education services.

During the meeting, we reviewed the plan for this audit, the timeline for feedback from the Hamilton County Educational Service Center, and the goals for continuous improvement that this feedback will help to support.

Reminder: Stakeholder surveys were distributed from Melissa Heitzman (melissa.heitzman@hcesc.org) on Friday, September 20th. The window to complete these surveys closes at 4:00 PM on Friday, October 4, 2024. We appreciate the engagement of our staff and families in this process!