
SHERRARD C.U.S.D. 200



2023 STATE OF THE DISTRICT

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BY: SUPERINTENDENT DR. CARL JOHNSON



Introduction

In this State of the District Report, I will review the events of the preceding calendar year and share my analysis of various aspects of our school district. These aspects include district finances, the staff, the students, our academic programs, facilities and transportation. I am proud to continue recognizing the long history and traditions of success and achievement of the Sherrard School District!

Warm regards,

Dr. Carl Johnson
Superintendent,
Sherrard CUSD #200

2022-23 Summary - Things to Note

Pandemic Changes

The District continued to move away from the restrictions made necessary by the Coronavirus pandemic. The following are noteworthy details related to the Coronavirus and how they impacted the school district.

- The District returned to paid, regular prices for all breakfast and lunch meals for the students.
- The school district retained 2 additional nurses hired in 2021.
- The district paid to broadcast an internet signal into each school's parking lot. Families who didn't have a strong internet signal at their homes could go to a school to access the signal.
- The District continued to utilize the three grants from the Federal government to help support the costs associated with the pandemic. Those grants included:
 - Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Grant: \$190,884
 - Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief II Fund: \$741,239
 - LEA American Recue Plan: \$1,737,913

District Level News:

- For the fourth year in a row (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), Sherrard received "Recognition Level" for its Financial Profile Rating given by the Illinois State Board of Education, the highest attainable (see attachment 1a).
- Construction continues on the Board approved projects, using the district's bonding capacity bond in order to make repairs and renovations to the district facilities.
- The issue of General Obligation Refunding School Bonds will be paid off in 12 years.
- With the assistance of the district's auditing firm Bohnsack and Frommelt LLC, the district strengthened its internal controls, eliminating past repeated findings.
- The district's Bullying Plan continues to be followed, with an informational video produced and posted online in August 2023. The Plan is revised bi-annually.

- During the summer, Troy Wolford resigned from the Board. The District wishes to thank Troy for his many years of service to this district, as his financial expertise, forethought, and collegial mindset will be missed.
- Four Board members and the superintendent attended the annual Board Convention in Chicago. Recognized as one of the nation's largest state education conferences, the Joint Annual Conference is an excellent training event for school board members, administrators, and business officials.
- In what has become a tremendous display of generosity, the Looser Flake Charitable Foundation Board again granted our district funds for education and technology-related purchases. The following is a brief description of the items that were obtained with grant money.
 - This year we received \$52,000 to be used for the MAP Accelerator and 3 years of SEL curriculum materials.
 - Over the past five years, this generous contribution has totaled over \$388,000 for Technology, Innovation and Curriculum!
- The caretakers of the Lowell N. Johnson Charitable Foundation again gave our district \$18,500 to be used by the K-6 buildings for equipment and supplies.
- This past year the district-wide Veteran's Day activities returned to Sherrard High School to celebrate the brave soldiers who have served and are currently serving our country. We were thrilled to have all students and community members with us! The celebrations began with a personalized address from Sherrard graduate Gen. Steven Gilland, current Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, West Point! Our speakers also included district parent Master Sgt. Matthew Schlehuber and award winning author Capt. William Albracht, (US Army, Ret.).
- RIROE Teachers of the Month- WG: Kim Powell (Reading); Penny Clayton (Cook) - recognized for retirement. SG: Stephanie Bohnert (K); Lauren Johnson (Title). MV: Christy Padgett, Allison Bedian and Deb Goben (Community Volunteer); SHS: Brian Adams
- Tiger Talent Awards- WG: Cyndi Adams (Evening Custodian); Carly Minch (4th). SG: Karen Millichamp, Kayla Hollins. MV: Dana Pickens. JH: Jen Diehl. SHS: Ryan Lilly
- The BHASED Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) program continues to be hosted by Sherrard, with elementary students at Winola and intermediate students at Matherville.
- Olympic medalists and Sherrard graduates - Dan and Darrin Steele - were commencement speakers at our graduation ceremony

Curriculum Related

- Social Emotional Learning
 - Closegap implementation
 - MooZoom upcoming implementation
 - SHS Pilot SEL curriculum in SPARKS program
- SHS - New dual credit courses for 2023-24
 - Physical Education
 - Welding
- Addition of SPARKS program

- Every junior and senior high course has been reviewed and articulated with new state curriculum requirements.

Facilities Related

- Sherrard Elementary School's interior received a new coat of paint in the summer.
- The Matherville technology room was renovated using funds from the Looser-Flake Foundation.
- A set of gender-specific bathrooms were renovated into 4 single use restrooms near Gym 2 at the high school. The cost was \$186,000.
- The District was again approved for a \$50,000 School Maintenance Grant from the State. Door closures and gas pipe removal were the priority projects.
- During 2022-23, the District started and completed facility work budgeted at \$14 million. Funding sources included a bond, sales tax revenue, property tax revenue, Federal COVID relief money, a school maintenance grant, and cash reserves.
- The Sherrard Grade School expansion project continues, with an anticipated completion date of January 2024. We hosted an exciting groundbreaking ceremony this past spring. The excitement of seeing the 1st significant expansion in the district over the past two decades shows!
- In a busy year for construction, these building projects completed throughout the District included:
 - New HVAC at Winola
 - New HVAC at Matherville
 - New windows and shades at Matherville
 - New windows and shades at Sherrard Elementary
 - Renovated science rooms at the high school
 - Renovation of gym 2 at the high school
 - Significant roof replacement at the high school
 - A new greenhouse
 - New hallway carpet at the high school
 - New lockers at the high school
 - Conversion of group shower rooms to single use shower rooms in the boys and girls high school locker rooms.
 - More concrete pavement on the north and south end of the bus garage
 - Work continues on the new addition at Sherrard Elementary that will include a gym, two classrooms, four offices, restrooms, two single use restrooms, and a new hard surface playground.
 - Gym 1 Video Scoreboards and fresh paint.

Staff Related

- Steve Miller added as Elementary Curriculum Coordinator
- The administrators are engaged in a book study using the book *The Happiness Advantage*. This text has been extensively used in improving the District's climate and culture, a need determined by staff survey.
- On the last staff attendance day, everyone was allowed to leave 3 hours early if they donated \$5 for each hour. We raised over \$1300. The money was donated to the academic foundation.
- The following staff members retired in May, 2023:

1. Penny Clayton (Winola)
2. Janet Wilson (SHS)

Student Related

- IPA Awards- WG: Zoey Shafer; Mason Lawson; SG: Skyler Shemek; Drake Bull; JH: Anna Churchill, Gavin Cottrell; MV: Brooklyn Relander; Hunter Shemek; SHS: Lauren Copeland and Nathan Strandberg
- SHS Illinois State Scholars- Carly Anderson, Katelyn Barnhouse, Lauren Copeland, Kyla Elsbury, Olivia Meskan, Addison Pickens, Hailie Shemek, and Gina Steckel
- Advance Placement test results had the second highest percentage (65%) of students who took the exam score a "Three" (3) or higher - thus earning college or university credit (Lauren Copeland, Samantha Phipps, and Alyssa Layer)
- 8th grade Scholastic Conference Champions: Max Denhke, Brennan Cresop, Will Ahrens, Mauriann Zippe, Brayve Wakeland
- Athletics- Senior Kelsey Hutchins was the State Champion in the triple jump; Three Rivers Athletic Conference "All Sports Champion" for second year in a row; Sectional champions in girls track; Regional champions in volleyball, baseball, girls basketball, boys golf, and boys soccer
- HS State Qualifiers - Girls cross country - Sarah Gibson, Hailie Shemek, Nadia Anderson, Alli Nielson, Kylie Foster, Beth Churchill, Grace Tucker, and Tori Browning; Boys golf - Andrew Boland; Wrestling - Walker Anderson and Bri Bynum; Girls track - Kelsey Hutchins, Cami Anderson, Beth Churchill, Aliza Dominique, Savannah Hickson, Sarah Neal, Madison Mathis, Lilly Russell, Jocelyn Skelley, Madisyn Skelley; Boys track - Brody Bernier and Alyus Johnson
- JH State Qualifiers / Conference Champions: Wrestling Quinn Zimmerman, Braden Krahl, Andrew Knox; Track - Payton Summers, Charlotte Meskan, Anna Churchill
- 8th grade Girls Basketball Conference Champions
- 8th grade Boys Track Conference Champions
- All State Music: Instrumental - Keaton Egel, Max Serre, Vincent Wiley; Vocal - Mike Diehl, Hailie Shemek, Mackenzie Volkert.
- FFA: State Champion Horse Judging team will represent Illinois at the national contest; State Runner-up in the Farm Bureau's "Harvest For all" competition which recognizes FFA chapters for their support of food pantries. Last year we donated just over 2.6 tons of produce!! -1st place Section 3 Greenhand (1st year members) Vet Science team; Presidential Award for our float in the New Windsor Rodeo parade; Held our 2nd annual Sherrard FFA Field Day; Conducted our 1st Annual Cattle Fitting Clinic held at the Mercer County Fairgrounds. This helped teach young exhibitors how to prep their cattle for the show ring; The welding team placed 1st in the Blackhawk welding contest. All five team members were in the top 10. This is the second year in a row that has happened; The Ag Mechanics team won 1st at the Section FFA contest, and placed 5th in the State FFA contest; With power now available in the FFA shed, the Ag Construction class installed lighting and outlets to make the space more functional; The Ag Metal Fabrication class built a trailer for a farmer in Iowa. He was very impressed with the quality! Two

Sherrard FFA members were elected as officers for the Section 3 FFA: Levi Schurr & Abby Weber

- Spelling Bee Winners- SG: Augie Spengler; WG: Cody Spriet; MV: Justine Elsbury
- Lincoln Poster Contest Winners- WG: Elana Dawson, Zoey Shafer, Cody Spriet; SG: Drake Bull, Mackenzie Hankins, Conner Jasper, Remi Page, Bryce Zentic, Maddie Cervantes, Jonathan Doty, Ally Fratzke, Justis Howlett, Charlee Jones, Nora Rasmussen, Hunter Tapp

Community Resources/Partnerships:

- Grants and Funding
 - Lowell Johnson Charitable Foundation
 - Sherrard Academic Foundation
 - Looser-Flake Charitable Foundation
- Fire Department
 - Supporting fire drills and safety awareness
- Libraries
 - SG: Library director attends/presents at Career Day and hosts 1st grade Field Trip (EOY)
- Y Before and After School Care Program
 - Continued AM/PM availability at SGS
 - AM availability at WG
- Ag in the Classroom
 - Monthly presentations for 2nd grade students and end of the year horse visit (May 2023)
 - Honored former WGS teacher and Ag in the Classroom partner, Ramona McMeekan (30 years)
- Junior Achievement
 - Connected with multiple classrooms throughout the district to provide financial literacy instruction
- Mercer County Historical Society
 - 4th grade Field Trip, Lincoln poster contest, and connection to long-time Lincoln presenter Michael Zecher
- Health:
 - Weekly updates on overall COVID cases/absences/impact for school year
 - Dental Bus (ToothMobile) visiting district during Spring (April 2023)
- Family Support:
 - Families of students attending WG stepped up to make sure that every student in the school received a school shirt for purple and gold days. Most students were able to buy one (at cost), and those unable to purchase were still provided one using the gracious donations of others.

Transportation Related

- The Board approved the Thomas bus bid at a cost of \$258,272 for the purchase of a 71-passenger bus with lift and a 77-passenger bus.
- The Board approved the 2023 Thomas mini-bus bid at a cost of \$87,629.

- The District purchased & implemented new transportation software, StopFinder, replacing a 25-year-old system. The features of the new software include GPS systems on all buses and an app allowing parents to see schedules and get notifications when the route is near their stop.
- All transportation department parking areas north and south of the bus garage are now paved with concrete.

Finance Related

- The district's finances continue to be strong. As mentioned in the "Things to Note" section above, the Illinois State Board of Education gave the district its highest Financial Profile Rating with a perfect score of 4.0. See attachments 1a and 1b.
- Prior to purchasing district bonds, Sherrard obtained a rating from Standard and Poor's. This favorable AA-/Stable rating allowed us to attract more investors, giving us a lower interest rate for the bonds.
- The District's operating expense per pupil is \$10,851.
- Investment Funds- Interest rates for the district Money Market and CDs were renegotiated to capture a maximum amount of revenue.

Final Analysis

Academic Analysis

Our district, from the Pre-K level to the high school has a wonderful, broad array of classes and experiences for our students. I feel we must continue to find ways for partnerships and pathways for our students through vocational courses, fine arts courses, high academic courses, and business-related courses. Our most significant challenge is to overcome the teacher shortage/vacancy issues that we are facing. We will continue to seek out the new teachers who are able to provide our students with the quality education Sherrard has always provided.

The addition of a curriculum coordinator has been tremendous. Steve Miller was hired at the outset of second semester and has quickly moved to ensure we are transitioning to consistent, effective, research based means to increase student achievement.

Our technology program continues to improve. Our instructional technology is phenomenal for a district this size and our IT framework is being upgraded to ensure we are ready for the future. We must make continuous improvement of technology a goal and offer any and all professional development to staff to ensure we take advantage of advances.

Student Analysis

- Sherrard low income average was 26.1% – the state's low income average 46.5%
- Sherrard students with IEPs 12% - the state average is 17%
- Sherrard drop-out rate is 1% - state's drop-out rate 2.5%
- Sherrard student attendance 91% – state's student attendance 92.5%
- Our student demographics are relatively stable and the vast majority of the students are compliant, hard-working and well-behaved.

- Student enrollment has somewhat stabilized falling within a 25 student range over the past three years.

Staffing Analysis

- Sherrard student to teacher ratio elementary 18:1 – state’s ratio 17:1
- Sherrard student to teacher ratio high school 14:1 – state’s ratio 18:1
- Sherrard average teacher salary \$53,000
- Sherrard teachers with master’s degree 47.3%
- Sherrard teacher retention rate 83.6% - state’s average 87.6%
- This is the last year of a 3-year contract with the SEA.
- The teacher shortage issue is nationwide and will likely continue to worsen in the coming years. Illinois has been impacted less than our neighboring states for a variety of reasons, but we are still feeling the effects.
- Sherrard was selected to be a participant in a Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot program due to our number of open positions. We are hopeful this can have an impact.

Transportation Analysis

- Like most districts in America, we continue to have a critical shortage of substitute bus drivers.
- Our bus fleet is in good working order and the cycle for replacing buses is adequate. Our mechanics are able to fix most problems and our bus garage is adequate for maintaining the vehicles.
- The finances for the transportation department are solid.

Facilities Analysis

Our district contains excellent buildings that are among the best in the area! The Board has made a commitment to the community to work to provide the very best opportunities and it certainly shows. The \$14,000,000 repair, renovation, and expansion project is a testament to this commitment. The Sherrard Elementary addition will help tremendously, creating a space where all district elementary students can gather at once.

Maintaining the facilities has been a focal point of the district as well. Our maintenance team and outside contractors have teamed up to make sure our top-notch facilities stay that way! Ken Hoffman with Outdoor Innovations has done an incredible job maintaining the landscaping. Recently transformed was the front of the high school. Outdoor Innovations created a school-color theme arrangement that enhances the main entrance to the high school building, giving it a fresh, quality look. In addition to the landscaping, the District has worked to keep the parking lots freshly sealed and striped within a rotating schedule.

Future projects to consider include: new floor tile at Sherrard Elementary and Matherville Intermediate; ceiling tiles, metal grid work and lights need to be replaced in many buildings; the JrHS/HS building still has some roof areas that need replaced; the playground equipment at Winola and Matherville needs some work; Matherville needs a bigger parking lot; our district could use always use another heated storage building; the parking in front of the high school needs to be expanded; the SHS Courtyard project will be a focal point in the upcoming year as well.

Finance Analysis

Property values (EAV) in the district continue to increase resulting in strong property tax revenue. Due to this increase in EAV, the Board has been able to lower the tax rates. To a level that makes our district even more attractive when compared to other local districts. Given the educator shortage and recruitment challenges, we will likely need to maintain it so that we can meet these financial challenges that are sure to come in the future.

Revenues are strong right now both due to the EAV situation and the Evidence Based Funding System created by the state of Illinois. However, the past shows us that strong revenues will not last. Inevitably, the District will be forced to implement budget reduction measures. If we fail to plan for this while times are good, we risk the wonderful things that have been accomplished with our collective efforts. The district will need to maintain cash reserves to ensure finances are somewhat "cushioned" against tough times.

Closing Remarks

The Sherrard School District has been placed in an excellent spot by the Board of Education and my predecessor, Alan Boucher. As a product of this very school system, I have a sense of pride and responsibility that goes much farther than my job title.

We have a phenomenal Board; I feel that the continued support from the community is what sets us apart from many districts in the state. In short, we are entrusted by the community to make it a better place each and every day. When I was given the opportunity to lead this district, I thought my professional dream had come true. After serving this district for the past 14 months, I am sure of that.

While our District faces many difficult realities present in today's educational world, I have complete faith we will not just survive, but thrive. My unwavering, overarching goal is to enhance the district and make it impossible for everyone else to ignore; when new families come to this area, we want the Sherrard District to be the first and last place they look.

Motto

Tigers Today, Transforming Tomorrow

Mission

To Inspire, To Empower, To Prepare

Attachment 1a

Financial Profile Score

The Illinois State Board of Education has developed the School District Financial Profile to help monitor the finances of school districts and identify which are moving toward financial difficulty. Five indicators are individually scored and weighted in order to arrive at a Total Profile Score. The results are slotted into a category of a four, three, two or one with four being the highest and best category possible.

Since 2003, Sherrard has received the "Recognition" designation in all but three years (2005, 2006, 2009) when we received the "Review" designation. The score range for "Recognition" is 3.54-4.00. Our FY22 score was 3.80. We have received a perfect score (4.0) on six occasions (2011, 2012, 2013, 2019, 2020, 2021). The score is based on five criteria.

Indicators

1. Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio – The result of dividing the ending fund balances by the revenues for the Ed, O&M, Transportation and Working Cash funds.
2. Expenditure to Revenue Ratio – Computed by dividing total expenditures for the Ed, O&M and Transportation funds plus Working Cash.
3. Days Cash on Hand – The number of days a district could meet operating expenditures provided no additional revenues were received.
4. Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining – The sum of unpaid Tax Anticipation Warrants divided by 85% of the EAV multiplied by the tax rates for the Ed, O&M and Transportation funds.
5. Percent of Long-Term Debt Margin Remaining – The District's EAV multiplied by its maximum general obligation debt limitation, reduced by any outstanding long-term debt.

Financial Profile Designation

Financial Recognition (highest rating)	3.54 – 4.0
Financial Review	3.08 – 3.53
Financial Early Warning	2.62 – 3.07
Financial Watch (lowest rating)	1.00 – 2.61

* Financial profile figures for Sherrard School District can be found on the last page.

Attachment 2

Overview of Finances

Fund balances

Ed Fund	\$7,698,515
O&M Fund	\$704,092
Transportation	\$1,330,426
Tort	\$54,181
IMRF/FICA	\$783,127
*Working Cash	\$763,517

History of district balances (cash reserve)

2022	\$11,368,959
2021	\$10,469,325
2020	\$10,793,783
2019	\$9,299,785
2018	\$7,108,372
2017	\$8,239,239
2016	\$8,277,867
2015	\$8,877,680
2014	\$8,987,641
2013	\$8,403,408
2012	\$8,152,993
2011	\$7,425,081
2010	\$5,859,426

Sherrard Student Enrollment

Year	Enrolled	Increase/Decrease
1989	1817	
1990	1814	-3
1991	1771	-43
1992	1782	11
1993	1806	24
1994	1835	29
1995	1919	84
1996	1936	17
1997	1989	53
1998	1886	-103
1999	1893	7
2000	1859	-34
2001	1802	-57
2002	1774	-28
2003	1794	20
2004	1765	-29
2005	1733	-32
2006	1770	37
2007	1751	-19
2008	1627	-124
2009	1590	-37
2010	1566	-24
2011	1559	-7
2012	1595	36
2013	1541	-54
2014	1578	37
2015	1520	-58
2016	1469	-51
2017	1464	-5
2018	1392	-72
2019	1402	10
2020	1375	-27
2021	1381	6
2022	1359	-22

	SG	WG	Tot.
PreK		62	
K	44	38	82
1	50	32	82
2	45	44	89
3	48	39	88
4	50	45	95
5			89
6			102
7			92
8			117
9			106
10			130
11			103
12			119
Total			1356

Winola annexation took place in the fall of 1988 & peak enrollment was in the 1997/98 school year.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL PROFILE SUMMARY
Financial Profile Website

District Name: Sherrard CUSD 200
 District Code: 490812000026
 County Name: Rock Island

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1. Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio:
 Total Sum of Fund Balance (P8, Cells C81, D81, F81 & I81)
 Total Sum of Direct Revenues (P7, Cell C8, D8, F8 & I8)
 Less: Operating Debt Pledged to Other Funds (P8, Cell C54 thru D74)
 (Excluding C:D57, C:D61, C:D65, C:D69 and C:D73)
 Funds 10, 20, 40, 70 + (50 & 80 if negative)
 Funds 10, 20, 40, & 70,
 Minus Funds 10 & 20

2. Expenditures to Revenue Ratio:
 Total Sum of Direct Expenditures (P7, Cell C17, D17, F17, I17)
 Total Sum of Direct Revenues (P7, Cell C8, D8, F8, & I8)
 Less: Operating Debt Pledged to Other Funds (P8, Cell C54 thru D74)
 (Excluding C:D57, C:D61, C:D65, C:D69 and C:D73)
 Possible Adjustment:
 Funds 10, 20 & 40
 Funds 10, 20, 40 & 70,
 Minus Funds 10 & 20

3. Days Cash on Hand:
 Total Sum of Cash & Investments (P5, Cell C4, D4, F4, I4 & C5, D5, F5 & I5)
 Total Sum of Direct Expenditures (P7, Cell C17, D17, F17 & I17)
 Funds 10, 20 40 & 70
 Funds 10, 20, 40 divided by 360

4. Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Maximum Remaining:
 Tax Anticipation Warrants Borrowed (P26, Cell F6-7 & F11)
 EAV x 85% x Combined Tax Rates (P3, Cell J7 and J10)
 Funds 10, 20 & 40
 (.85 x EAV) x Sum of Combined Tax Rates

5. Percent of Long-Term Debt Margin Remaining:
 Long-Term Debt Outstanding (P3, Cell H38)
 Total Long-Term Debt Allowed (P3, Cell H32)

	Total	Ratio	Score
1. Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio	11,317,752.00	0.720	4
2. Expenditures to Revenue Ratio	15,714,500.00	0.00	0.35
3. Days Cash on Hand	11,317,752.00	277.65	4
4. Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Maximum Remaining	40,762.37	0.00	0.10
5. Percent of Long-Term Debt Margin Remaining	5,216,018.01	100.00	0.40
Total	13,654,648.00	48.17	2
Total	26,348,346.76		0.20
Total Profile Score:			3.80 *

* Estimated 2023 Financial Profile Designation: RECOGNITION
 Total Profile Score may change based on data provided on the Financial Profile Information page 3 and by the timing of mandated categorical payments. Final score will be calculated by ISBE.