



OUR

Olmsted Falls City Schools

FINANCIAL

STORY 2025

Treasurer's Message



It is my pleasure to present this year's Financial Story—an in-depth look at how Olmsted Falls City Schools continues to be responsible stewards of the public funds entrusted to us.

Inside this report, you'll find a clear overview of our district's financial position, including our operating budget, long-term forecast, and the work we do every day to maintain and enhance our facilities, technology, and transportation systems. You'll also see how we strategically manage resources to sustain the high-quality education our community expects—balancing student needs, aging infrastructure, and economic realities.

At the heart of our financial planning is a commitment to delivering a well-rounded Triple A experience—supporting growth in Academics, Arts, and Athletics. Every dollar we manage is carefully aligned to ensure students not only meet academic benchmarks, but also have access to creative, collaborative, and physical learning opportunities that build confidence and character.

This year's report highlights:

- Day-to-day financial operations
- Facilities Master Planning progress
- State-level funding impacts
- Use of local tax dollars
- Community advisory committee work

As always, our goal is to be transparent, proactive, and thoughtful in how we manage public dollars—ensuring every investment supports student growth and well-being across the board.

On a personal note, after much reflection, I have made the decision to retire at the end of 2025. Serving as Treasurer of Olmsted Falls City Schools has been one of the greatest honors of my professional career. I have truly enjoyed working alongside our dedicated staff, talented leadership team, and engaged community to ensure that every dollar entrusted to us supports the success of our students.

While this was not an easy decision, I leave with full confidence in our Board of Education and their ability to select a successor who will continue the district's financial stewardship. The future of Olmsted Falls City Schools is bright, and I am grateful to have been a part of its story.

Brett Robson
Treasurer/CFO

Superintendent's Message



Our schools are at the heart of this community—and the strength of that connection is built on trust, transparency, and shared responsibility. I'm proud to support the release of this year's Financial Story, developed under the leadership of our Treasurer, Brett Robson.

This report reflects how Olmsted Falls City Schools continues to steward public resources with care and purpose. It outlines the financial decisions that support the day-to-day operations of our district—from classroom instruction and student services to transportation, technology, and facility maintenance—while also helping us plan responsibly for the future.

I'm continually encouraged by the fiscal responsibility demonstrated not only by our finance department and

administrative team, but by staff across every building and department. From educators making the most of classroom resources to custodians, bus drivers, and support staff ensuring daily operations run smoothly, financial stewardship is truly a districtwide commitment.

I want to thank our Finance Advisory Committee and Facilities Master Planning Committee, whose work and guidance play an important role in shaping our long-term strategy. Their dedication—alongside the efforts of our administrative team and Board of Education—ensures that we keep students at the center of every conversation about resources and investment.

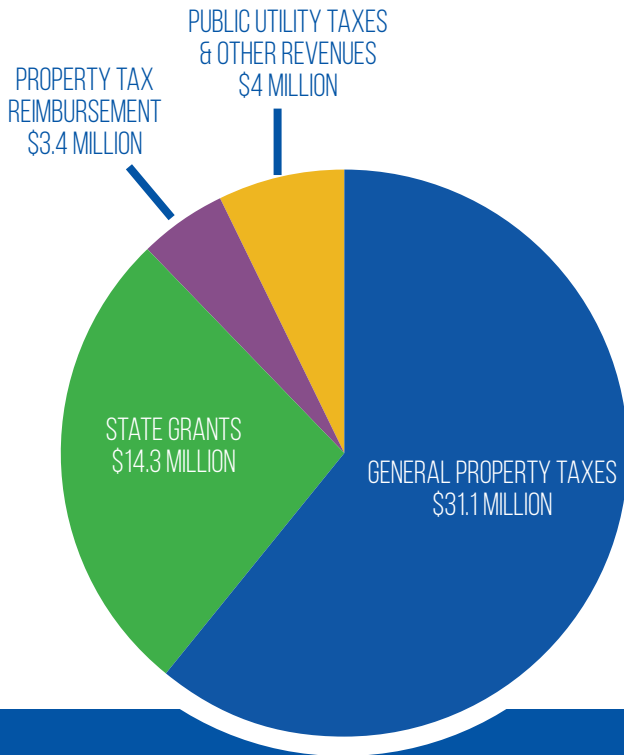
Thank you for your continued support of Olmsted Falls City Schools. Together, we are building a strong and sustainable foundation for the future of our district and community.

Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Finances at a Glance

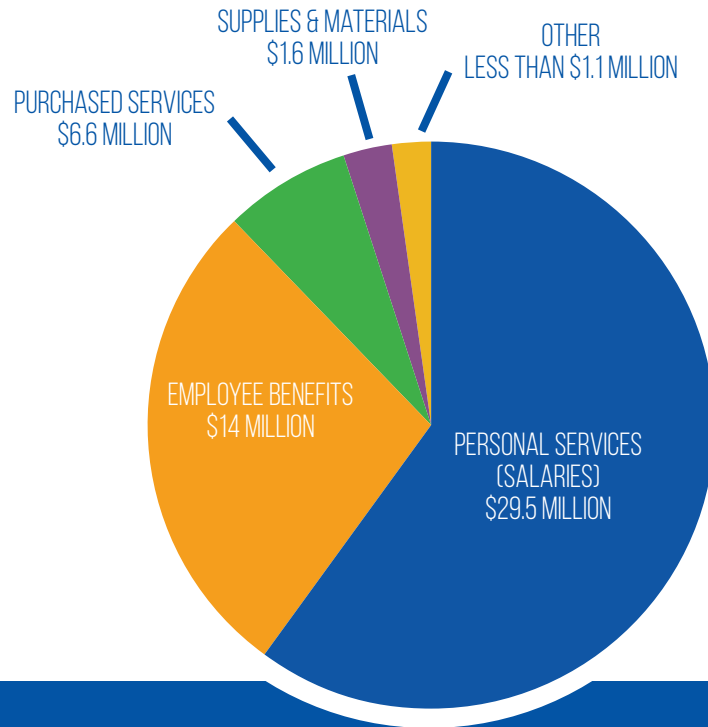
Revenue Sources

Our district's operating revenue comes from three main areas: local property taxes, state support, and other local revenues.



Expenditure Categories

The majority of district spending goes directly to people—teachers, support staff, and benefits—reflecting the fact that education is a people-centered profession.



ODEW Updates School District Forecasting Requirements

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) has recently revised school district forecasting requirements. Districts are now required to submit four-year forecasts (the current year plus three forecasted years), reduced from the previous five-year requirement. In addition, submission dates have shifted from November and May to October and April. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, districts must submit their forecasts in August and February.

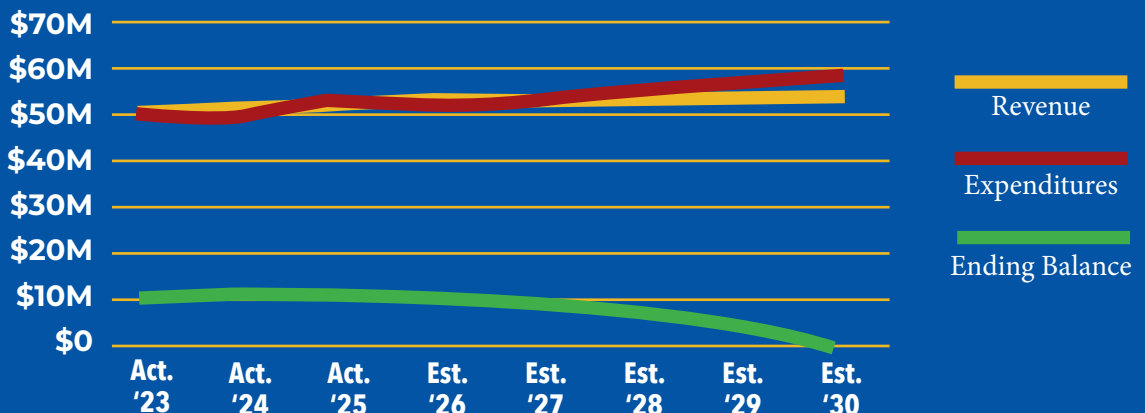
Despite these changes, Olmsted Falls City Schools will continue to internally forecast over a five-year period. While only the first three years will be submitted to ODEW, we believe years four and five often reveal early signs of emerging financial trends. By

identifying potential challenges sooner, we can make smaller, more strategic adjustments that minimize disruption and preserve long-term stability.

The five-year forecast remains one of our most important tools for long-range planning and public transparency. It provides projected revenues and expenditures, historical financial data and key planning assumptions.

Below, you can view a graph from the forecasting process. Scan the QR code to access Olmsted Falls City Schools' most recent five-year forecast.

See more from the Treasurer Here



Understanding Property Taxes

All Residents Pay the Same Property Tax Rate

When it comes to funding our schools, one question we often hear is whether residents in different neighborhoods pay different property tax rates. The answer is clear: every resident within the Olmsted Falls City School District pays the same school property tax rate.

This means that whether you live in Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, or another area within the district boundaries, the portion of your property tax bill that goes to the schools is calculated at the same rate.

Property taxes are determined in two steps:

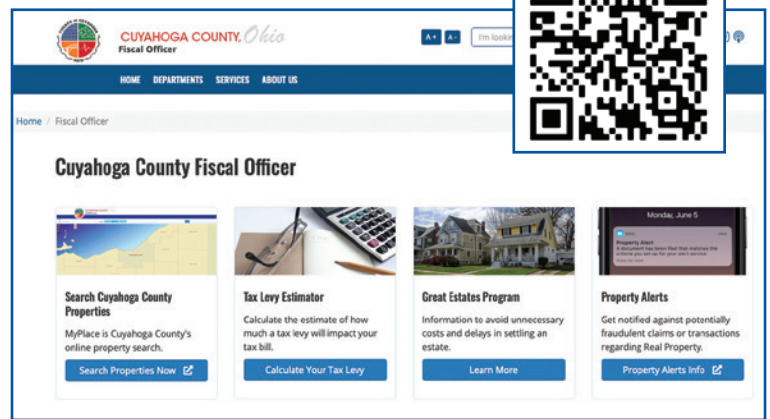
- 1 Tax Rate**
The school tax rate is set by district-wide voter approval. Once approved, that rate applies equally to all taxable properties within the school district's boundaries.
- 2 Property Value**
The Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office assigns a taxable value to each property. The dollar amount you pay depends on this value.

Estimating Your Taxes

You can go online to view your property tax bill. Scan this QR code to estimate your property taxes using the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer's website.

By entering your property's address or parcel number, you can:

- View the current taxable value of your property.
- See how school tax rates are applied.
- Estimate what your annual school taxes amount to based on your home's value.



Funding Tools for Schools: Operating, Bond, and PI Levies

When a school district needs additional funding, Ohio law allows different types of levies or bonds to be placed on the ballot. Each one serves a specific purpose:

Operating Levy	Bond Issue	Permanent Improvement (PI) Levy
<p>What it does: Provides money for the day-to-day operations of the schools.</p>	<p>What it does: Provides money for major construction or renovation projects.</p>	<p>What it does: Provides money for durable items that last at least five years.</p>
<p>What it pays for: Teacher salaries, classroom supplies, transportation, utilities, and general student programs.</p>	<p>What it pays for: Building new schools, repairing roofs, upgrading heating and cooling systems, or building athletic facilities.</p>	<p>What it pays for: School buses, technology, textbooks, playgrounds, building repairs.</p>
<p>Think of it as: The district's "checking account" for everyday expenses.</p>	<p>Think of it as: A "mortgage" the district takes out to pay for long-term improvements, repaid over a set period of time.</p>	<p>Think of it as: A "maintenance and equipment fund" to keep schools running smoothly.</p>

Balancing Needs and Resources

Olmsted Falls City Schools, like many districts across Ohio, is navigating ongoing financial challenges. Our revenue stream is under pressure due to factors outside of our control, including state funding priorities, legislative decisions, and inflationary costs. In addition, the realities of maintaining aging school buildings add to the strain on limited resources.

Master Facilities Planning Update

Olmsted Falls City Schools is making important progress on its Master Facilities Plan, a community-driven process designed to address aging infrastructure, support student growth, and create modern learning environments. This plan will help guide long-term decisions about renovations and new construction, ensuring that our schools meet the educational needs of students now and into the future.

This work began in September 2023 with pre-planning and an overview of facility conditions. Since then, the committee—made up of nearly 40 volunteers—has been reviewing assessments of each school building, identifying priorities, and exploring options for future projects. Over the next several months, the committee will:

- Share updates through community forums.
- Provide opportunities for those unable to attend in person to share feedback.
- Narrow down recommendations for the district’s most urgent facility needs.

A final plan is expected to be presented to the Board of Education in spring 2026.

The district’s facilities include:

- Transportation Garage (built in 1940)
- Early Childhood Center (built in 1957)
- Falls-Lenox Primary School (built in 1957, joined in 1992)
- Olmsted Falls High School (built in 1967, updated in 1996 and 2019)
- Olmsted Falls Middle School (built in 1996, with a 2010 addition)
- Olmsted Falls Intermediate School (constructed in 2009)

The most pressing facility needs include the transportation facility, the Early Childhood Center, and Falls-Lenox Primary School. Options under consideration include significant renovations or constructing new facilities. In some cases, buildings may be beyond cost-effective renovation, requiring the district and community to weigh new construction as a practical solution.

As we plan for the future, we are also faced with current infrastructure realities. One of those realities is the need to address HVAC and roofing preventive maintenance at each of our buildings. The anticipated cost of this work is \$12 million. Many of our HVAC units have outlived their expected life spans, and parts have become increasingly difficult to obtain. In some cases, our maintenance personnel must fabricate components to keep the systems running.

Please join us for one of our two upcoming forums to discuss our OFCS facilities and provide feedback: Monday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. at Falls-Lenox Primary School (East Gym, 26450 Bagley Road) and Monday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Early Childhood Center (Gym, 7105 Fitch Road). For those unable to attend, the district is developing additional ways to share input on the overall plan.

The community plays a critical role in shaping the plan. Feedback gathered through forums, surveys, and other opportunities will help ensure that the final recommendations reflect the district’s shared vision and long-term priorities. Ultimately, the Board of Education will make the decision, and the community will have the final say on any funding needed to move the plan forward.



Scan this QR code to learn more about our Facilities Master Planning process



Ohio's Changing Tax Landscape

Olmsted Falls City Schools is committed to keeping our community informed about financial issues that affect schools and families. One area that continues to generate questions across Ohio is the state's property tax system and recent discussions about possible changes.

A statewide effort is underway to place a proposal on the ballot that would abolish property taxes altogether. While the proposal has not yet been certified, it has gained support from voters frustrated with rising costs.

What remains unclear is how the state plans to generate the resources needed to provide at least the current level of funding for schools, libraries, and other local public services if property taxes are reduced or eliminated. Options such as increasing income taxes, reducing services, or identifying new revenue sources have been discussed at the state level, but no replacement plan has been finalized. State-level decisions could shift a greater share of funding responsibility from the state to OFCS residents and other tax-funded services, raising concerns about the stability of resources our community relies on.

Another long-term trend is the shift in who pays the bulk of property taxes. In 1991, residential property owners made up 46.1% of all property tax payments in Ohio. By 2023, that share had grown to 67.5%. As business contributions decline, homeowners have shouldered more of the responsibility for funding schools and local services.

At the same time, state revenues have not kept pace with inflation, leaving school districts more dependent on local property taxes. For Olmsted Falls families, this trend means increased pressure at the local level to maintain funding for quality programs and services.

To address these issues, Governor Mike DeWine formed a Property Tax Reform Working Group this summer. The group was asked to deliver a report with concrete proposals by September 30, 2025.

Olmsted Falls City Schools will continue to follow this issue closely and provide factual updates to our community. As always, our focus remains on being good stewards of taxpayer dollars while ensuring that students have the opportunities, support, and resources they need to succeed through the strong Triple A experience — in academics, arts, and athletics — that our community has come to expect.

The Impact of Vouchers on Public Education

Across Ohio, the expansion of private school voucher programs continues to shape the funding landscape for education—and has direct implications for public school districts like ours.

In recent years, the state has dramatically increased funding for vouchers, allocating nearly \$2.5 billion in the current two-year budget cycle to pay for private school tuition. These dollars come from the same state funding pool that supports public schools. At the same time, funding for public schools has not kept pace with rising costs. While the state's Fair School Funding Plan was designed to create a more equitable model for districts across Ohio, it has not yet been fully funded. That means many districts—including Olmsted Falls—are expected to do more with less.

Adding to the uncertainty, a Franklin County court recently ruled that Ohio's largest voucher program, EdChoice, is unconstitutional because it diverts public dollars away from the "thorough and efficient system of common schools" guaranteed in the Ohio Constitution. The program remains in place while the state appeals the ruling, but the decision highlights the ongoing debate about how taxpayer dollars should be used.



Voucher expansion means fewer dollars available for the students who attend public schools—the vast majority of Ohio's children. Unlike private schools, public schools are required to serve all students, regardless of background, ability, or need. This includes providing specialized services, transportation, and extracurricular opportunities. When state dollars are directed to private tuition, public districts face additional pressure to maintain staffing, programs, and facilities with fewer resources. In many cases, voucher dollars are going to families whose children were already enrolled in private schools—further straining the funding available to public school students. It is also important to note that not every family has access to private schools. In fact, ten Ohio counties do not have a single private school. That means vouchers are not an option for many families, as public schools in those communities lose funding.

The future of vouchers in Ohio will likely be shaped by both the courts and the legislature in the coming months. We will continue to monitor these developments closely and keep our community informed about the impact on Olmsted Falls City Schools.

Investing in People, Managing with Care

Staffing is the largest expense in Olmsted Falls City Schools. Teachers, specialists, and support staff are critical to student success, but we must also be careful not to overspend in this area. Funding is a balance between the number of staff we employ and the number of students we serve.

Maintaining this balance helps us:

-  **Keep class sizes manageable**
-  **Offer a full range of academics, arts, and athletics**
-  **Provide access to counselors, specialists, and support staff**

We are committed to using resources wisely so that staffing levels meet student needs while maintaining long-term financial stability.



Staffing

Administration

21

Exempt

8

Certified

271

Classified

192



Teaching Staff

Average teacher salary

\$81,800

Teacher starting salary

\$45,566

Average teacher experience

15 Years

Teachers with Master's Degrees or Higher

243



Student Enrollment

High School

1105

Middle School

762

Intermediate School

497

Falls-Lenox

690

ECC

364

OF On-line

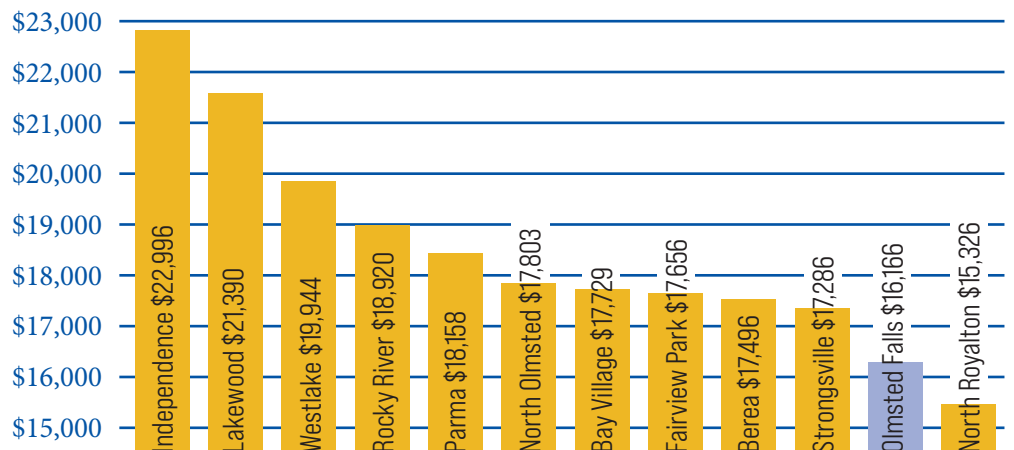
62

TOTAL Students

3480

Per Pupil Costs

Olmsted Falls City Schools continues to provide a strong education at a lower cost compared to most neighboring districts. According to the FY2024 Cupp Report, OFCS spends less per pupil than nearly all area districts, reflecting our commitment to maximizing every dollar while maintaining high-quality learning opportunities for students.



Central Office Project Now Under Construction

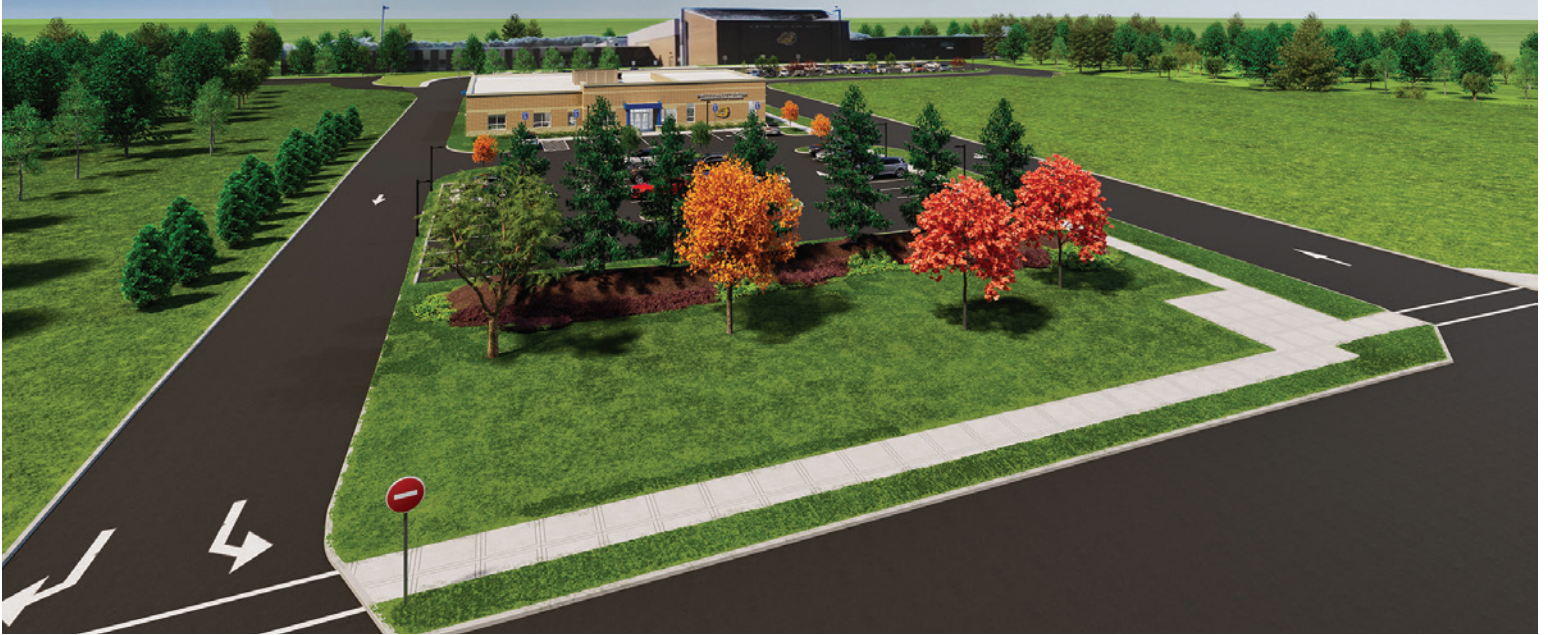
Olmsted Falls City Schools broke ground this summer on a new District Administration Building, now under construction behind the current offices on Bagley Road.

The existing building—a small white ranch house at the front of the high school campus—is outdated, overcrowded, and not ADA-compliant. The new facility will address these limitations and provide a more efficient, accessible workspace for district operations.

Once complete, the building will consolidate administrative staff currently housed in multiple locations, improving collaboration, streamlining communication, and enhancing service to students, families, and staff. The new facility is expected to be complete by March 2026.

This project is being funded through the district's permanent improvement fund, which is reserved for facility maintenance, repairs, and capital upgrades. The annual expense aligns with previous projects that have since been paid off, so there will be no added cost to taxpayers.

For a full overview of the project and answers to common community questions, scan this QR code.





S&P Upgrades OFCS Financial Outlook

We are proud to share that S&P Global Ratings has revised the outlook for Olmsted Falls City Schools' General Obligation debt from stable to positive while affirming our strong 'A+' rating (May 23, 2025). The upgrade highlights the district's improved finances and ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

S&P Global

Finance Team

Brett Robson
Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

Holly McFadden
Assistant Treasurer

Kelly Mendeluk
Fiscal and Human Resources Specialist

Char Conte
Assistant to the Treasurer - Payroll

Allison Wulfooop
Assistant to the Treasurer - Accounts Payable

Tim Wulfooop
Data Management & Accountability Coordinator



Back row: Tim Wulfooop, Brett Robson,
Front row: Char Conte, Allison Wulfooop, Holly McFadden, Kelly Mendeluk

Treasurer Search Underway at OFCS

With the upcoming retirement of Treasurer and CFO Brett Robson, the Olmsted Falls Board of Education has begun the process of selecting a new Treasurer to continue strong financial stewardship for the district.

The Board partnered with K-12 Business Consulting, Inc. to develop a customized and competitive search plan designed to attract highly qualified candidates who align with the district's vision and priorities. In September, Board members met with K-12 to finalize the timeline and process.

Key dates in the Treasurer search process include:

Week of September 29, 2025	October 24, 2025	Week of October 27, 2025
Position opening announced and recruitment began	Application deadline	Candidate screening and finalization of interview questions
Week of November 3, 2025	Week of November 10, 2025	Thursday, November 20, 2025
First-round interviews	Final interviews and candidate meet-and-greets	Goal to employ new Treasurer at the Board of Education's regular November meeting

The district extends its gratitude to Brett Robson for his years of dedicated service and leadership in guiding the financial operations of Olmsted Falls City Schools. The Board looks forward to welcoming the next Treasurer who will help carry forward this important work in support of students, staff, and the community.

Custodial and Grounds Teams Keep OFCS Running Strong

Behind the scenes of every classroom, concert, game and event is a dedicated team that keeps our schools safe, clean and ready for learning. The Olmsted Falls City Schools custodial and grounds maintenance staff play a vital role in supporting students and staff each day — and their expertise also saves the district significant costs by completing many repairs and projects in-house rather than hiring outside contractors.

The district's custodial staff includes one facilities coordinator, one building manager, eight custodians, seven utility workers and 18 cleaners. The grounds team includes one grounds manager and two staff members. Together, they bring an impressive range of certifications and skills to the district, including:

- ✔ Building Operator Certificate (BOC), held by two staff members
- ✔ Low-pressure boiler operator license, held by 10 staff members (soon to be 11)
- ✔ Commercial pesticide applicator license, held by two staff members (soon to be three)
- ✔ Aerial work platform operator training, held by 19 staff members
- ✔ Lean Six Sigma yellow and green belts, held by several staff members
- ✔ CPR/HeartSaver certification is held by the majority of staff

With decades of experience, Facilities Coordinator Larry Hamilton has become a key leader within the department, handling a wide range of building repairs — plumbing, electrical, HVAC and mechanical — and mentoring others on the team. His expertise, combined with the staff's professional certifications, helps ensure high-quality work while keeping costs down.

The teams also lead several unique initiatives:

- ✔ Completing annual preventive maintenance across all school buildings
- ✔ Refinishing gym floors in-house through specialized training and equipment investment
- ✔ Supporting Eagle Scout projects that enhance district facilities, such as the ECC pavilion and GaGa Ball Pit accessibility project



Each summer, the department also operates the Summer Casual Work Program, which offers students and recent graduates valuable job experience while supporting the district in completing major projects. Projects completed through this program include:

- Detailing the district’s bus and vehicle fleet
- Deep cleaning all buildings from top to bottom (ceiling tiles dusted or replaced, walls and windows cleaned, furniture cleaned, floors cleaned and refinished)
- Painting projects across the district (exterior sign painting, hydrant painting, interior wall and block painting)
- Technology support, assisting contracted staff with cleaning, maintaining and turning over all district devices for the new school year
- Grounds maintenance, assisting contracted staff with regular upkeep of district grounds as well as special landscaping projects

Our custodial and grounds maintenance staff are more than the people who clean and repair. They are skilled professionals, problem-solvers and mentors who make a lasting impact on our schools every day. Their work ensures the Triple A experience is supported by safe, well-maintained spaces where students can learn, create and compete at their best.



Finance Advisory Committee Provides Valuable Insight

The Finance Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 18, to review the district’s financial position and discuss key topics that will shape future planning. Current members include John Vas, John Parkowski, Mark McAllise, Jeremy Dobos, Holly McFadden, Edward August, Cynthia Tomasch, and Kelly Walker.

During the meeting, the committee examined financial trends, revenue challenges, and proactive steps being taken to reduce costs. Members also reviewed planned capital and facilities projects, considering project timing, resource acquisition options, and estimated millage needs for both individual projects and potential combined issuances. Discussion also included levy timing related to operations, permanent improvement (PI), and facilities.

Looking ahead, the Finance Advisory Committee will actively participate in upcoming sessions with the Facilities Planning Committee in October and the Facilities Community Forum in November. The group plans to reconvene in December, with an opportunity to meet the district’s new Treasurer and support a smooth transition of this important work.

This dedicated group represents the district, local residents, and area businesses. Their insight and forward-thinking approach provide tremendous value as we navigate financial planning for the future.



Pictured from left to right: Jeremy Dobos, Holly McFadden, John Parkowski, Brett Robson, John Vas, Mark McAllise, and Cynthia Tomasch. Not Pictured: Edward August and Kelly Walker.

Olmsted Falls Board of Education
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OUR FINANCIAL STORY



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Members: Justin Funk, Holly Neumann, Bob Perez

*****ECRWSS****

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Our School Facilities: A Community Forum

Please Join Us

Olmsted Falls City Schools is developing a Master Facilities Plan to guide the future of our buildings. The district's Facilities Master Planning Committee is presenting two community forum opportunities to provide updates and gather input from residents.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 | 6 p.m.

Falls-Lenox Primary School – East Gym
26450 Bagley Road

Tuesday, Jan. 13 | 6 p.m.

Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center – Gym
7105 Fitch Road

