

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner



SEPTEMBER 2019

Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT
ANGIE HAMBERG

We are so fortunate to live in a community that is full of residents who are willing to share their expertise with our district. Specifically, we appreciate the many community members who help make our district better each day by serving on our various advisory committees. Over the next few months, I will feature these committees in *The Eagle Examiner*:

- Academic Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- Elementary Redistricting Committee (starting this month)
- Facilities Committee
- Finance Committee (pictured to the right)
- Safety Committee



Back row: Andy Wecker, Dave Burgett, Paul Gartner, Scott Alexander, Sherri Dorsch, Angie Hamberg, Jonathan Kelly
Front row: Warren Cox, Kristina Heller, Justin Largent, Jeremy Buskirk
Not pictured: Branda Allen

This month, I want to share some information about our Finance Committee. Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk started this committee last year. Members were selected through an application process, and all community committee members have a background in finance. In addition to our community members, we also have two Board of Education members, the treasurer, and me on the committee. We spent the last year bringing the committee up to speed on school funding and our specific district finances. We have begun sharing options for our levy renewal (which will need to be renewed in 2020) and other future financial needs of the district. Over the next year, we look forward to discussing these options with the committee as we continue to plan for the growth in the Big Walnut area. As I shared in July, the increased residential growth in our district has been a challenge for us (if you missed the article, our EE editions are all available on our web site). We continue to work on ways to be more efficient everyday and “do without” when possible, but as our percentage of state funding drops and our enrollment grows, it will become increasingly difficult for us to deliver the same services without additional local funding. I look forward to working with our Board and the volunteers on our Finance Committee to work through these challenges.



ATTENTION PARENTS

Mark your calendar

NEED HELP WITH OR WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOOLGY?
VISIT THE SCHOOLGY HELP DESK TO GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

WHERE
COMMUNITY LIBRARY MEETING ROOM 2
(44 BURRER DR | SUNBURY, OH 43074)

WHEN
SEPTEMBER 23, 6:00-7:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 25, 4:00-5:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 27, 9:00-10:00 A.M.
OCTOBER 1, 5:00-6:00 P.M.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Brad Schneider, President



Andy Wecker, Mindy Meyer, President Brad Schneider, Doug Crowl, Vice President Liana Lee

Traditionally, we have looked at levies in terms of 5-year renewal cycles. The maximum renewal period by law is 10 years. However, we can make a levy “continuing.” A continuing levy means that the levy remains on the books unless the Board eliminates it or if a public referendum brings the collection of the levy to a public vote.

We are considering asking for a continuing levy term because the trends (state/federal funding, enrollment growth, need for commercial/industrial development) don’t show any reasonable scenario where this renewal would not be needed every 5 years, for at least the next 30 years.

These projections show that the District will need additional operating revenue to meet the demand of enrollment growth. If our growth reflects the growth patterns of similar communities, the pressure of this will be impacting this community and District for decades.

To maintain the quality of education offered today, new operating levy requests will be part of the revenue strategies to help meet the demands of growth. When and how much are to be determined; however, there will be requests as we continue to grow.

The more accurately we can predict revenue, the more efficient these requests will be. A continuing levy would afford an important level of certainty to the most unpredictable component of our financial modeling.

How can you help?

Tell Board Members your feelings about renewing a levy on a continuing term, as opposed to a 5- to 10-year term. Ask questions, and give us your feedback. We would like to know how you feel as we consider this important issue.

Did you know these BWLS PRESCHOOL FACTS?



School districts must identify students with disabilities, ages 3-22, and educate them



4-year-old typically developing children serve as social and academic role models



Our preschool students attend a half-day program, morning or afternoon, and each of our preschool classrooms have a maximum of 16 students, with a ratio of no more than 8 students with disabilities to 8 peer models



We have 6 preschool classrooms currently housed at Big Walnut Elementary, Harrison Street Elementary and Hylen Souders Elementary



Each preschool intervention specialist teacher has 2 separate classes of students – a.m. and p.m. – for a total of 11 sections (Hylen Souders has 1 classroom split that is .5 preschool/.5 kindergarten)



Peer role models pay a monthly fee of \$180, while the district cannot charge students with disabilities



Each classroom requires an intervention specialist teacher and at least one educational assistant, and students receive support services from a team of related-service specialists (speech language therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist)



BW peer model program promotes development in communication skills, motor skills, independence and a positive self-concept



BW provides a developmental screener three times a year for children ages 3-5 to see how students are developing in relation to their same-age peers



Our preschool classrooms are exciting, active and fun learning environments for preschoolers



All BW preschool classrooms will be housed at the current Harrison Street Elementary building next school year, and peer registration for the 2020-21 school year will take place in February 2020

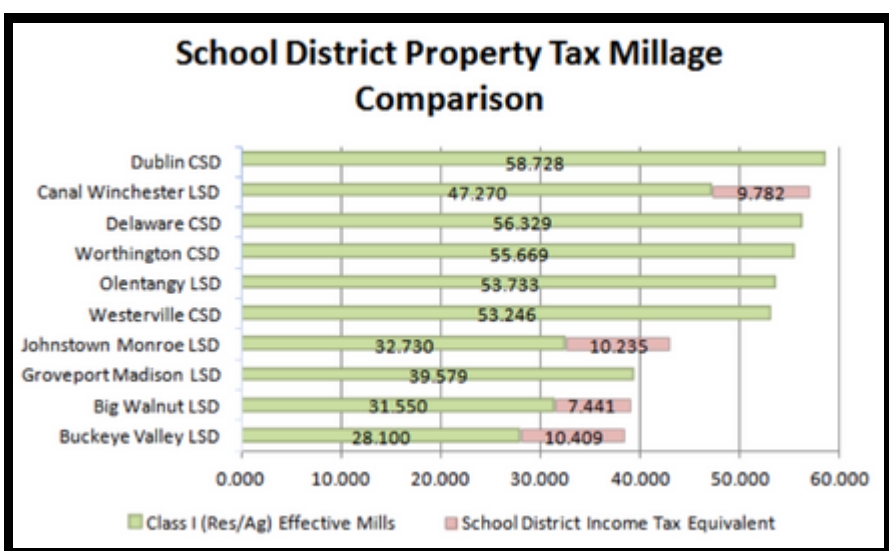


PROVIDING A QUALITY EDUCATION WITH A LEAN BUDGET IS CHALLENGING



Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

We are now a couple weeks into the school year, and our district has again seen growth in our student population. This confirms what we hear many people express; this is a great community where people want to live and raise a family. As a school district, we work hard to listen to feedback given on educational and extracurricular expectations, while trying to maintain a lean budget that is affordable for our residents. When we compare our tax rates to surrounding districts, we feel we are achieving this goal, but it is a real balancing act.



Based on current county property valuations for Big Walnut, approximately 80% of our community composition is residential or agricultural property, which means we are reliant on our residents to operate our schools. Per review of our operating revenues, we see that over 75% of our resources come from local sources with property (residential, commercial, and utilities) and income taxes being the majority of these revenues.

As new homes are built in our community, we are challenged to balance the amount of new revenue provided with the costs of providing instruction and support services to the increased number of students. As a district, we are constantly evaluating district needs versus available resources and working to stretch our dollars as far as possible. With over 80% of our budget going toward personnel costs, the majority of our planning comes down to evaluating the staffing needs in each of our buildings. We expect to see tight budgets in our financial forecast and will continue to work hard to meet the needs of our students, expectations of our parents, and the desires of our community.



2020 VISION

ONE MORE YEAR UNTIL OUR VISION BECOMES OUR CULTURE

Advisory period at Big Walnut Intermediate is a time used to develop meaningful relationships with our students, provide structured academic support, and contribute to the positive climate and culture of our school. To facilitate more personalized experiences for our students, teachers have opportunities to meet with students individually or in groups for the purpose of reteaching and/or enrichment. Students have the time to collaborate with each other on academic or service-learning projects.

Advisory is also a time for community building and social-emotional learning. RISE (Responsibility, Integrity, Safety, Empathy) lessons are incorporated into the advisory period with a focus on positive choice-making and social skill development. RISE is our school-wide positive behavior program that teaches school-wide expectations and reinforces positive behavior.

Students have already begun taking advantage of this collaboration time. Mr. Wion's advisory is planning a service project to raise money for the Rutherford B. Hayes statue that is being placed in Delaware. Look for more information coming soon! A group of young entrepreneurs from Mr. Firchau's advisory pitched an idea to Mrs. Sandrock and Mr. Powell to begin a book review stand. They are in the development stages and are currently working on finalizing their plans to share in a follow-up meeting. It has been wonderful to see students use the time to follow some of their passions, especially those benefiting our school and surrounding community.



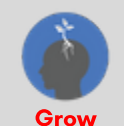
Students brainstorming service-learning projects



Students practicing mindfulness exercises

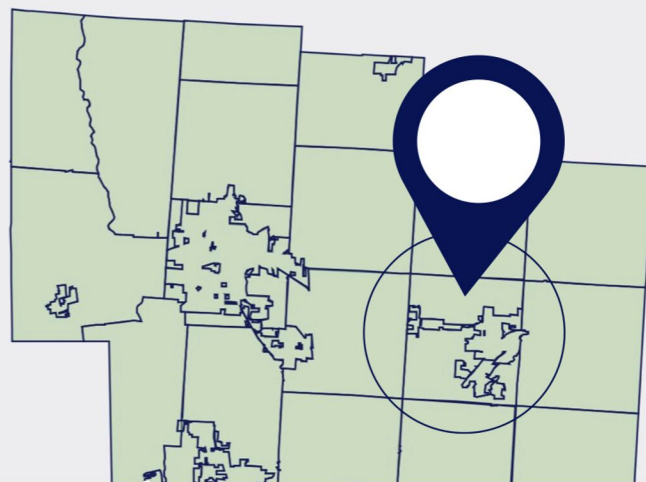


Students making random acts of kindness notes to put on their peers' lockers





New! SUNBURY LOCATION



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MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:30AM-4:00PM (CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1:00-1:30PM)



CLINIC SERVICES

MON 9AM-1PM

- IMMUNIZATIONS
- TB TESTING
- HEALTH SCREENINGS
- PREGNANCY TESTING

WEDS 1:30-3:30PM

- IMMUNIZATIONS
- HEALTH SCREENINGS
- PREGNANCY TESTING

THURS 10AM-1PM

- HIV TESTING



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**REGISTERED SANITARIAN & PLUMBING INSPECTOR AVAILABLE
MON - FRI 8-9AM FOR QUESTIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

- PLUMBING PERMITS
- RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PERMIT APPLICATIONS
- AFTERNOON CONSULTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT REGARDING FOOD LICENSES, NUISANCES, MOSQUITO CONTROL AND OTHER SIMILAR SERVICES



VITAL STATISTICS

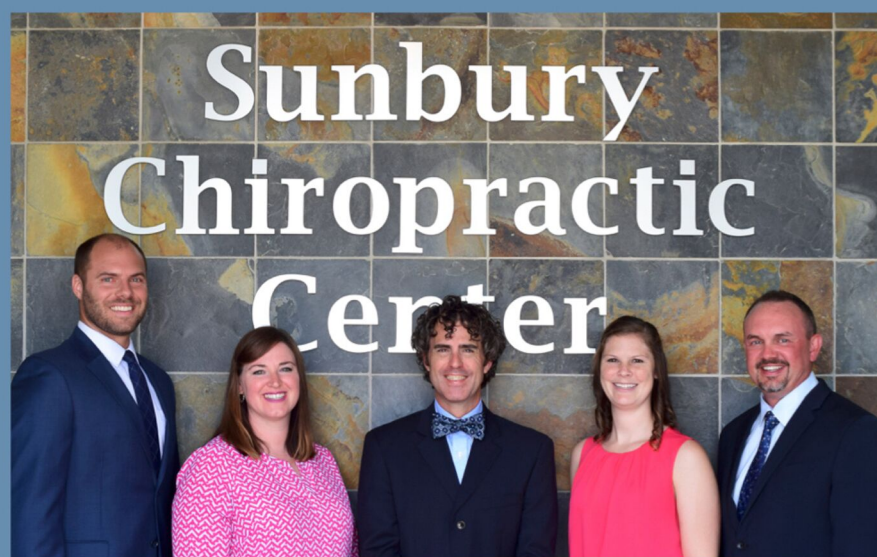
BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE DAILY

CERTIFIED COPY OF A BIRTH AND DEATH RECORD IS \$24.00 PER COPY

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James Hildreth, Agent

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**CLEANERS
AND
LAUNDRY**

Local Support is **Critical** to Library



Chauncey Montgomery
Director/ Fiscal Officer

The Community Library in Sunbury has served the Big Walnut area for over 75 years. We are busier than ever with over 160,000 visits annually – a 20% increase over five years. As the area has grown, we have responded by offering new materials, services and programs. The library is a community, cultural, and life-long learning center. In addition to free books, movies, and Internet access, patrons depend on the library for kindergarten readiness, homework assistance, employment services, public meeting space, passports, and much, much more.

We could not have such a positive impact on the community without local support. We depend on local funding for over 50% of our operating revenue. On November 5, the community will have the opportunity to renew its support. The library is asking voters to renew a 1 mill levy for 5 years. This is not a tax

increase. The levy, however, does allow the library to keep growing with the community. With local support, the library can continue the vital role it plays in the Big Walnut area.

Remember to vote on November 5. The deadline to register is October 7. For more information about the library's levy renewal, visit <http://levy.yourcl.org>. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 740-965-3901 or chauncey@yourcl.org.

**For more
information, visit
our website at
www.yourcl.org**



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

**This space was paid for by the
Community Library.**



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1 in 5* Americans will experience mental illness in their lifetime.

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www.dmmhrs.org

Or

text helpline to **898211** for support.



**Delaware-Morrow Mental Health
& Recovery Services Board**

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JOIN US FOR OUR

Elementary Redistricting Community Forum

Join us for a community forum to provide feedback on draft options for new elementary attendance zones. We will be explaining options and criteria for new attendance zones for the opening of Prairie Run Elementary (2020) and the conversion of the current intermediate building to an elementary (opening 2023). Stay tuned for a video of the options and a feedback survey, which will be available on our district website after the meeting.

WHEN:

Monday, September 30
6:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Big Walnut High School
Innovation Center



BWHS Print Shop produces professional-quality work for our local fire department



Interested in Print Shop services? Visit their website at tinyurl.com/BWHSprintshop



CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

Artifacts and Stories from the Red Edwards' Big Walnut Museum

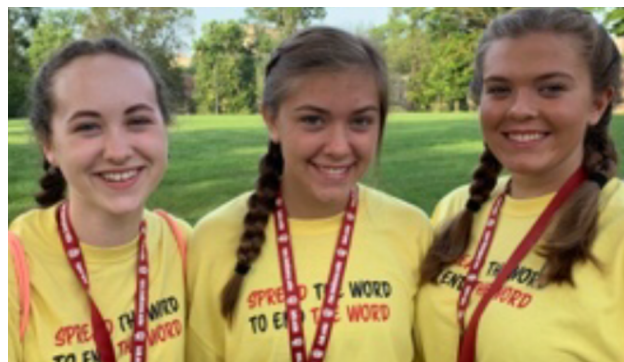


Do you remember?

Check out these class pictures from 1972 and 1980.



INCLUSION IN OUR COMMUNITY



This past summer, three high school students, Erica Curtis, Aubrey Koon and Kaitlyn Maze (pictured above) participated in the 2019 Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Bloomington, IN. Best Buddies is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Leadership Conference provided

opportunities for over 2500 attendees from 14 different countries. Over the weekend, the students participated in workshops, seminars and evening events to gain knowledge and skills to benefit those with intellectual and developmental delays. We would love to bring more students and advisors to the leadership conference with us next summer.

The Big Walnut Best Buddies high school chapter will be starting our 3rd year, and members have many fun and exciting plans for the 2019-20 school year. We look forward to growing our membership with an increase in buddy participants, as well as having more consistent monthly activities planned. We are working with the high school football and cheerleading coaches to plan a Big Walnut Best Buddies Camp.

This year, we are excited to add a new Friendship Chapter at our middle school. Middle school participants will be encouraged to participate in monthly activities at the high school, as well as create meaningful friendships within their school setting.

Big Walnut will participate in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk on October 12, 2019 at COSI in Columbus, Ohio. If you would like to join our team or donate, please visit:

tinyurl.com/BWbestbuddies



Erin Curtis
Transition and Student
Services Coordinator

NEW BUILDINGS CONTINUE ON SCHEDULE



Director of Facilities
Doug Swartz

I am pleased to announce that the bond-funded new school project achieved a critical milestone in late August. At a special meeting on August 29, the Board of Education approved a resolution to award the new HS contract amendment to our Construction Manager, Gilbane Building Co. With this action, we now have contractors working on Prairie Run Elementary, the Central Energy Plant and the new BWHS, as well as site work that includes utilities, grading, parking lots, and driveways.

Of special note is the progress that is being made on Prairie Run Elementary (PRE), which is currently on track to open in August 2020 to serve K-4 students in the 2020-2021 school year:

- Completed foundations and footings
- Completed exterior concrete masonry unit walls (see top photo)
- Began installation of structural steel columns and beams (see bottom photo- beams over the gym, cafeteria, and main entrance lobby)

The District Planning Team will be focusing on the design of the site athletic components during the next few months. The outdoor athletic areas will be the final areas to be designed and will include the new artificial turf multi-sport stadium, the baseball and softball complex, a tennis facility and other support structures providing concession, restroom, storage and other needs. Completion of this effort and award of these related contracts is scheduled for the 2nd quarter of 2020.



More progress being made at Prairie Run Elementary



CHECK IT OUT

Want to see what the new Prairie Run Elementary and high school look like from a visitors' perspective?

Use the links below to find access to a 3D walkthrough of both schools and see how the design will support our District objective to inspire and guide.



Prairie Run Elementary:
<https://www.vswc.com/bwpre/>



New High School:
<https://www.vswc.com/bwhs/>