

Community Fiscal Meeting Questions & Answers

How much did we borrow for the Flightline project?

The district borrowed \$3,000,000, which will be repaid over 20 years. The annual payment is approximately \$235,000.

How does our local income tax compare to other districts?

Local school district income tax rates in the area are:

- Greenville – 0.5%
 - Franklin Monroe – 0.75%
 - Versailles – 1.0%
 - Tri-County North – 1.0%
 - Tri-Village – 1.5%
 - Arcanum Butler – 1.5%
 - Mississinawa Valley – 1.75%
 - Ansonia – 1.75%
 - Bradford – 1.75%
 - National Trail – 1.75%
 - Miami East – 1.75%
 - Milton Union – 2.0%
 - Covington – 2.0%
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Were budget cuts made across the board or within specific departments?

Budget cuts were made in areas that the administration and Board of Education felt had the least negative affect on students. No reductions that were made were easy, but reductions had to be made to maintain a minimal level of fiscal stability for next year. Staffing reductions were made through attrition (retirements and resignations) wherever possible, and some staffing cuts were directly tied to a decline in enrollment over a number of years.

How will one music teacher effectively serve grades K–12?

The schedule will be restructured to ensure all students interested in music can continue to participate in the band and choir programs.

Have you considered creating a community group to brainstorm revenue ideas?

Community members are welcome to organize and initiate a group to explore additional revenue ideas for the district.

Why do we now have both an athletic director and a facilities coordinator?

We have always had an athletic director. The responsibilities of this position have changed many times over the years to respond to state and OHSAA requirements as well as community feedback.

Currently, the district operates with three custodians and one facilities coordinator, rather than four custodians. This change allowed us to make a necessary reduction in staffing while still maintaining all services.

When a custodian voluntarily left earlier this year, we were able to restructure responsibilities within the department to ensure that all maintenance and custodial needs continue to be fully covered while also reducing cost by eliminating a custodial position.

How long could the district operate with a negative balance before closure?

The district will not close due to financial challenges. Adjustments will continue through cost reductions and/or increased revenue to maintain financial stability.

Are administrative salaries in line with other districts?

Yes, administrative salaries are within the typical range compared to similar districts in the area.

Is state funding based on student enrollment?

Yes, funding is enrollment-based. However, the district is currently on the state funding guarantee, meaning funding cannot fall below 2020 levels under current law.

Can increasing enrollment improve revenue?

Yes. If enrollment increases enough to move the district off the guarantee, the district would receive additional funding per student. The threshold to move above the guarantee is fairly small—less than 10 students.

Will staff reductions impact students with IEPs or special needs?

Although all students may be impacted in some manner by reductions, students on IEP's and students with special needs will continue to receive all services as required by state and federal law as spelled out in their IEP's and 504 plans

Why do similar districts have higher cash reserves?

Each district's financial situation is unique based on many factors such as state funding, property values, income tax collections, and district expenses.

What would a 1.5% income tax generate?

A 1.5% income tax would generate approximately an additional \$1,000,000 annually.

Who votes on income tax increases?

If the Board of Education places a levy on the ballot, all registered voters within the district are able vote on the measure.

Why not switch to single bus routes to save money?

State transportation funding is based on miles driven. Reducing routes would lower state funding, resulting in no savings to the district.

Why can't the highest-paid employees take a pay cut?

To attract and retain qualified staff, the district must offer competitive salaries comparable to other districts. All district employees are giving up the 4% pay increase scheduled for next year.

Why was the Flightline project not brought to a public vote?

The financial situation was very different at that time. The district has a large carryover cash balance and was consistently operating with positive cash flow each year. The board used available resources and financing for the project instead of putting a bond issue on the ballot for the voters.

What does College Credit Plus cost the district?

The district spends approximately \$100,000 total on College Credit Plus annually. The cost per student varies depending on the number of courses taken.

Does the district receive funding for high test scores?

Yes. The district currently receives \$27,075 through the state's School Performance supplement, based on its 4.5-star rating.

Can staffing reductions wait until after a levy decision?

At this time, no levy has been placed on the ballot.

- Filing deadline: late July / early August
- Current staffing reductions will take effect in 2026–2027 school year
- Staffing for 2027–2028 will be reviewed next winter/spring based on the financial outlook and classroom needs at that time.