

Board of Education President's Report

Matt Cellura

November 7, 2018

Good Evening and thank you for attending tonight's Board meeting. I would like to begin tonight by thanking everyone who took time to vote in yesterday's election. Whether at the polls, early voting, or by absentee, the turnout was higher than in many previous elections, and I feel proud to be a part of a community that showed up in the numbers that we did to make our voices heard, whatever side of the issues or candidates those voices fell on.

I would like to congratulate Kristina Roegner on her election to the State Senate, representing the 27th District and Casey Weinstein for his victory as our next State Representative for the 37th District. It was a long campaign season, and one where education and school funding was discussed at great lengths between all the candidates for both the State Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives. Over 20 years ago, the way that Ohio funds its public schools was ruled unconstitutional, and yet here we stand as 2018 nears its close and nothing has changed. We are stuck in a myriad of confusing calculations, ever changing formulas, caps and guarantees, and the two things that have remained constant is that our leaders at the State level have done nothing to fix the issue and our local taxpayers have continued to be forced to bear the burden of funding our schools and securing quality education for our students. It is unfathomable to me how our leaders can continue to think that an unequal system of funding, where in our District we receive on average \$1600 per student, is supportive of public education. While I know the wheels of progress spin slow, especially in politics, it is my hope that our newly elected officials will dive in to their new roles, reach across the political party aisles and bring about the change that they campaigned on these past months. I look forward to working with them and supporting their efforts on public education, and I would urge those in our community to do the same. In the meantime, our District will continue to make smart financial decisions, ensure that additional expenditures have a direct impact on the students in the classroom and their quality education, and continue to ask for our community's support when the time comes for our renewal levies, the first of which will be coming at some point in the next year.

On a much lighter, but very significant, note, I want to thank our Girls Varsity Soccer Team and their Head Coach Jon Garber. It has been a great season, and a wonderful ride. While the outcome last night was not in our favor, the culture and class exhibited by everyone involved with this team is the epitome of what we stand for. The family bonds formed between teammates and the support from the community that continued to grow as the season went on was unbelievable. I could not be more proud of this team, this coaching staff, and this community. I want to wish the best for the 13 young ladies moving on next year, your leadership and class will be missed. I look forward to watching those underclassmen and younger players step up and carry on this culture and excitement for years to come.