

## **President's Report**

**Mark Curtis**

**January 18, 2017**

I'd like to call to order, the regular meeting of the board of education for Twinsburg City Schools. Good evening and welcome families of Wilcox elementary, Dodge Intermediate and Twinsburg High School. I am Mark Curtis and it is my privilege to be your board president. We intentionally begin most board meetings by recognizing the success of our students and staff. These outcomes represent proof of the efforts of the administration and this board to ensure that resources are impacting the classroom. Proof that if we commit to employ only those who are most qualified to work in our district, we will continue our tradition of academic excellence.

While we have been able to maintain this tradition, it has become increasingly difficult to sustain over the last several years. The way in which we are funded has changed dramatically. Our district has experienced a significant reduction in state revenue totaling \$6.4 million dollars. The operational change plan was implemented in 2012 to help in offsetting the loss. At this time, a combination of cuts, fees, and a levy allowed the district to maintain adequate services and programs without sacrificing academic achievement. Once complete, this planned phase-out of funding (totaling \$9.8 million) will account for 23% of our current budget. We understand that these state budget cuts increase the financial burden at the local level and have repeatedly expressed this problem to our representatives in the legislature. However, we are now at a point where it will be necessary to seek additional dollars to replace the continued phase out of these dollars.

As no decisions are made lightly, we always seek data to help inform our actions as a board. Since September, we have sought to gather public feedback by conducting a series of focus groups targeting residents, business leaders, elected officials, parents, staff, and students. In addition, we conducted a statistically valid phone survey of various sectors of our electorate. This information has

allowed us to determine to the best of our ability what you, the community is willing to support.

Two weeks ago, we passed the first of two resolutions required to place an operational levy on the ballot in May. Tonight we will vote on passing the second resolution that is required to complete this process.

Although much has been discussed in the way of additional programming such as technology and pre-school, **I must be clear that the primary purpose of the levy dollars is to replace the dollars being lost in state revenue.**

As we continue to act responsibly in all financial decisions, we will continue to examine our operational expenses and seek ways to reduce our spending. This is and always will be our philosophy moving forward.

We appreciate your unwavering support of our school district and remain committed to doing all that is necessary in providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century education to your children. That is why we are all here.

So without further delay, I will now turn the meeting over to Mrs. Powers for the Superintendent's report.