

Board of Education President's Report

Matt Cellura

March 7, 2018

Good evening and thank you again for attending. Over the past few weeks, school security and the safety of our students have dominated the national spotlight, and it has been a hot topic of discussion in our District as well. As the Superintendent stated in one of her Blackboard Connect messages a few weeks ago, and I reiterated in my last report, our ultimate priority is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors to our school campuses. In order to help address some of the community's concerns and address some of the rumors on social media, the District, in conjunction with local safety forces, will be holding "A Community Conversation about School Safety" on Wednesday March 14th at 7 pm at the high school auditorium. I strongly encourage you to attend and to help spread the word about this important and informational event.

As my colleagues have mentioned over the past few weeks, HB 512 has been making its way through the legislative process in Columbus, and is now moving quite quickly, as the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee had a hearing on it today. This proposal as it stands will essentially strip the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of nearly all their duties and authority, and transferring that authority to an appointee of the Governor. This legislation was drafted without the input of the students, parents, educators, administrators, and school boards who would be most affected, and instead appears to further serve the political wants of those in power. Had the drafters of this bill actually paid attention to what K-12 Districts are doing in this State, they would see how Districts like Twinsburg are expanding programming and offering our students real world experiences and opportunities to better prepare them for life after high school. Tonight, this Board will vote on a resolution to publicly express our opposition to HB 512. It is my hope that the residents of our District will join us in our advocacy and reach out to your elected officials in Columbus as well. I am pleased to already have seen many circulating contact info and sample letters online and look forward to a strong voice coming from the residents of our

District to join this Board and Administration's continuing efforts in stopping this bill.

In keeping with the District's Strategic Planning Flowchart and timeline, the Board voted in January to place a 6.9 mil renewal levy on the ballot in May. This is the first of three renewal levies that the District will be facing over the next few years. This levy was originally approved in 1993 and has been renewed every five years since then. It generates \$4.8 million dollars annually, more than 10% of our operating budget. This levy will not increase your property taxes, as it is not a new levy nor is it an increase of the current levy. Passage of this levy will allow the District to maintain the current educational opportunities and programs offered to the students we serve. As always this Board and Administration are grateful to the community that continues to support our efforts and the education of our students. We will continue, as has been the practice, to monitor our expenses and trim where possible, and exploring grants and other funding sources to enhance opportunities for our students. In doing so, we continue to fall below the State average in our per pupil spending by nearly \$670, and less than our surrounding communities ranging from \$804 to \$3892 per student based on the FY2017 dollars. I would ask for your continued support of our kids and your schools leading up to the election in various volunteer opportunities through our Blue Ribbon Committee, at the Pancake Breakfast on April 15th, and on your ballot by voting yes.