

Board of Education President's Report

Mark Curtis

January 4, 2017

Good evening and welcome. I am Mark Curtis and I am pleased to be your new board president. Now that the holidays are behind us, I trust our students and staff all are well rested and eager to tackle the second half of our school year. Although we have a change in leadership this evening, our priorities remain the same. We remain committed to fulfilling the goals that have been set forth for this academic school year in partnership with Superintendent Kathi Powers, her administrative team, and the teachers and staff of the school district. As a reminder, these goals are:

- Student growth with a focus on developing the whole child
- Financial – with maintaining fiscal integrity and transparency
- Community Relations – active communication and engagement with the community
- Facility and Grounds – with a focus of addressing both long and short term needs based on our most recent facilities assessment

Financially, we continue to face significant challenges. As has been reported by Mr. Felber, as well as the previous board president, the district is in the midst of the total elimination of the Tangible Personal Property tax also known as the business tax.

The district has made difficult decisions to address the impact of this loss by implementing the operational change plan in 2012 which entailed a combination of staff and budget cuts, academic/pay to participate fees and a new levy. At that time we made a commitment based on our forecast that it would not be necessary to seek new money until 2017. In keeping with that commitment, at an earlier board meeting we charged the superintendent to engage the community in a meaningful way to gather reliable feedback and data to inform our next steps. To that end, a number of focus groups were conducted as well as a comprehensive phone survey to gather the necessary data.

Tonight, we will get a summary from administration as to what we have gleaned from these efforts. Generally speaking, our community has been very supportive of the district, and any new dollars sought are for replacement of the loss state dollars. As a board, community input and transparency is always critical and held in high regard and cannot be understated. As such, we remain committed to allowing data to inform the decisions that we make.

On a sad note, the president of the Twinsburg Public Library's board of Trustees, Ms. Carrie J. Hinton, died just before the holidays. Ms. Hinton was very active in the community. She was very dedicated to the Library, and served the interests of the entire school district. Her passing is a great loss and she will be missed.

In closing, this board along with our superintendent and administration will continue to actively address issues that impact us financially and academically by, working with our elected officials in the general assembly and state board of education as well as our partners in the Ohio Department of Education. Progress or lack there-of, in these efforts will be provided in future reports to keep our community abreast. In doing so, you as parents and the greater Twinsburg community represent the loudest voice and can impact the most change. Activism on your part is what is most crucial to our district and our children.

We appreciate your continued support and our commitment is to do our level best in continuing Twinsburg's tradition of excellence.

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