

## **Board of Education President's Report**

**Matt Cellura**

**April 18, 2018**

Good Evening and thank you for attending tonight's meeting. We have a lot of important things and students to celebrate this evening so I will try to keep this report short.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, voters in our communities of Twinsburg, Reminderville, and Twinsburg Township will be voting on Issue 3, the 6.9 mill renewal levy for our District. As I have stated previously, this levy has been in effect since 1993 and has been successfully renewed every 5 years since then. This levy generates approximately \$4.8 million dollars, approximately 10%, of our annual operating budget. I want to thank the countless number of community members who have volunteered their time, placed a sign in their yard, written letters of support, and helped to spread the word and garner support for this levy. This is a vital part of our budget and will allow us to continue providing the high quality programming and opportunities that our students currently have access to.

While I fully respect each and every person's right to their opinion of this levy and its importance, it has become increasingly disturbing to me to see so much false and invalidated information being put out in public as truth. One of these mistruths that have become popular lately is that this levy will increase our taxes because of the recent property reappraisals done by the County. This could not be farther from the truth. In 1976, House Bill 920 was enacted, which put a freeze on a school district's voted mills. This means that once a levy is voted on and passed, since 1976, the income received from that levy is frozen the moment it is passed. The only increase that comes from each voted levy would be a one-time increase for new construction. Therefore, when Summit County reappraises property values every three years, if values increase, the auditor cuts our tax rate to keep our collection amount at the same value as it was previously. The increase in your taxes is not attributed to this renewal levy, or any other voted on levy that the District currently receives. This, in tandem with the vast discrepancies between Districts in state money's received per student, is a main reason why we continue to seek the support of the local community in levy passage. We realize that how education is funded in this State is not proper or

with the best interest of the student's in mind. We continue to advocate for proper per pupil funding, and a fair formula. However, we can not throw caution to the wind and not plan for nothing to be done, as has been the case for over 20 years with funding in this State. We will continue to budget accordingly, we will continue to forecast conservatively, and we will continue to use our cash reserves only when necessary. Not doing so would be foolish, and would endanger our ability to ensure our students that our students receive their full education through high school.

I would strongly urge our community members to thoroughly research any outlandish claims that they may hear or see. Your Administration and Board are always open to answering questions with facts and figures, not emotion and conjecture. This levy is an important part of our education, and one that this Administration, Board, and previous Boards have highlighted for years on our Strategic Planning Flowchart. There has been no secrecy surrounding this levy, or any of the other two in this renewal cycle, and any statement contrary to that is demeaning and untrue. This Administration, Staff and Board work hard with the dollars that this community entrusts us with, and we continue to provide great opportunities and programming to our students. That will not be possible without this levy.

In closing, I would like to thank the Councils of the Village of Reminderville and the City of Twinsburg for passing resolutions recognizing the quality education we as a District provide and formally supporting Issue 3. As you head to the polls on May 8<sup>th</sup>, or as you are filling out your absentee ballot, please vote with your head, vote with facts, and vote with your conscience. Support your children, your grandchildren, your neighbors' children, and your community and vote yes on Issue 3.