



Twinsburg

FEBRUARY | 2023
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's *Message*

Dear Community Members,

Our students and staff have been busy excelling inside and outside of the classroom. With so much happening throughout the District, it is hard to capture it in just the eight pages of this newsletter. However, we have curated a range of important news and highlights to keep you informed.

Inside this winter edition, I want to point out an important update on the District's Five-Year Forecast provided by Twinsburg City School District Treasurer/CFO Julia Rozsnyai. This extended update gives our community a thorough understanding of the state of our finances in the coming years and the actions our Board of Education and staff are taking to address these financial challenges. These are never easy conversations to have, but this showcases the reality of school funding in Ohio. As Mrs. Rozsnyai mentions, we are providing this information to you in order to be transparent and we invite you to contact us at any time if you have questions or need additional information.

Of course, despite the ongoing challenges of school funding in Ohio, Tiger staff and students continue to thrive. This issue highlights many of those stories. You will find stories of success and inspiration from each of our school buildings, and you will learn more about how students are finding joy and accomplishment through various arts and athletic activities.

We also provide important updates regarding challenges at George G. Dodge Intermediate School, where a flood provided an interesting Christmas Day for our staff. This event shines a continued spotlight on how essential our Tiger Legacy Project is in addressing the future needs of our buildings.

I hope you enjoy the highlights of our students and staff in this issue. I also hope it serves as a source of important information about the state of the District. As always, I want to thank you for your support of the Twinsburg City School District.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me at kpowers@twinsburgcsd.org or 330.486.2000.

Yours in education,

Kathi Powers
Superintendent

Vision

“Unwavering Commitment – Unlimited Possibilities”

Mission

“Partnering with the community...
Providing excellent educational programs...
Preparing future-ready students.”



Freeze and Flood Damages Dodge on Christmas Day

In the early morning hours on Christmas Day, a heating coil inside a rooftop energy recovery unit burst, causing water to go through the ventilation system and flood the Media and Wellness Centers in George G. Dodge Intermediate School. Surrounding hallways and nearby classrooms were also damaged. The frigid temperatures froze water on the roof, but not before the flooding damage had been done. While monitoring the HVAC activity of the building, Twinsburg City School District Maintenance Supervisor John Sommers noticed that the discharge water temperature for classroom heat was severely low, ultimately indicating an issue with the boilers and the water supply from the rooftop unit.

Mr. Sommers and Twinsburg City School District Superintendent Kathi Powers met at the school to discover nearly two inches of standing water in the Media and Wellness Centers, surrounding hallways, and nearby classrooms. Custodians Mike Roshetko and Rhonda Sakach provided a quick response and assistance in utilizing equipment to promptly help remove the standing water. In addition,

ServPro assisted with the water mitigation process. Throughout the following week, the District worked with various partners to assess the school's needs and ensure that students and staff could return to a safe, warm, and dry environment. While the first mold testing from EA Group

showed clean results, out of caution, the District will continue to conduct mold testing to ensure that any possible issues have been addressed and mitigated.

Dodge's infrastructure and critical components continue to present authentic challenges for the District. Contractors and vendors have told the District numerous times that the school's

systems are complicated to work on and difficult to modify due to various compatibility issues. As engagement continues with the community through the Tiger Legacy Project, it is as evident as ever that Dodge's structural and operational needs must be addressed as part of the District's Facilities Master Plan. The District will continue to invest in repairs to provide a safe, warm, and dry learning environment, while continuing to provide information about the need for the Tiger Legacy Project to residents and staff members.



Twinsburg City School District Staff Preps for New Laws Supporting Dyslexia

Recently, a new set of laws strengthening dyslexia support for Ohio's children was passed by state legislators. The dyslexia support laws apply to each local, city, and exempted village school district in Ohio. The new dyslexia support laws establish:

- Dyslexia screening measures;
- Professional development for identifying dyslexia and instructing students with dyslexia;
- A multi-sensory structured literacy certification process for teachers; and
- The Ohio Dyslexia Committee

The Twinsburg City School District welcomes best practices for screening and new methods for identifying dyslexia, along with the latest recommendations for instruction. Through these efforts, each of our students will be able to succeed. At the same time, the Ohio Department of Education set forth

requirements that kindergarten and first-grade teachers, along with Intervention Specialists who work with primary school-aged children, must complete eighteen instructional hours of professional development before the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, as they will implement new screening, identification, and instructional protocols for dyslexia.

The Wilcox Primary School staff began completing eighteen hours of professional development on January 13, 2023.

The next phase for the dyslexia committee is to evaluate the approved dyslexia screeners to determine which tool the District will use for screening our students starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, the Ohio Dyslexia Committee will develop a multi-sensory structured literacy certification process for teachers.

Change in Leadership for Pupil Services



The Department of Pupil Services saw a transition this school year as they welcomed a new director, Ryan Bandiera, and a new Pupil Services Supervisor, Marcy Spence. These new team members joined the very talented staff of intervention specialists, related service providers, school psychologists, and school counselors to help provide support for the students of the Twinsburg City School District.

Within the first semester, a significant focus of the department was updating procedures for compliance. In Special Education, there are constant compliance updates in preparing IEPs and Section 504 Plans for our students. Working with the state support team and legal counsel, the department updated our procedures and language when writing these essential plans for students.

In addition to compliance updates, the department has been working collaboratively with the Curriculum Department and Student Wellness to refine our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for students (MTSS). MTSS is a way for the District to support students academically and socially in efforts to meet their needs. Updated practices have been activated to ensure equitable support for students across all five school buildings.

Tiger Staff *Spotlight*

Get To Know New Director of Pupil Services Ryan Bandiera

What is your favorite part of working at our school district?

Being an alumnus of Twinsburg High School, it is important to give back to the community and District that has given so much to me. It has been a homecoming for me to come back to Twinsburg and work alongside some of the staff that supported me as a student. I also had the opportunity to start my professional career in Twinsburg. From beginning as a brand new teacher in Twinsburg at George G. Dodge Intermediate School to working my way to Director of Pupil Services, I have come full circle in my career.

What do you like most about working in education?

Working in education is a unique experience because every day presents new challenges and opportunities. It keeps me on my toes! I like the fast pace and the ever-changing tasks of the job.

What are you most proud of in your career so far?

In 2020, I was awarded the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators Assistant Principal of the Year Award. While my name was on this award, it was an award for the students, staff, and District.

What job did you hold before coming to our school district?

After earning my master's in school administration, I applied for administrative positions and found my way to Chardon High School, where I was an Assistant Principal for grades 8-12. In Chardon, I took on the role of Special Education Supervisor, working with students from preschool through 12th grade.

What's one thing people don't know about you that they would be surprised to find out?

I am a huge Cleveland sports fan. My favorite team for as long as I remember is the Cleveland Guardians. So when my wife and I married in 2014, we had a Cleveland Indians (team name) themed wedding.

What is one thing that you wish people knew about your job?

In working with families and students who may have learning plans (IEPs or 504s), it is important to note that sometimes things take some time to come together and see progress for a student. Anytime we identify a student with a disability, it is a big decision for the team and family. We must not over-identify students with disabilities and utilize the support available to students within the buildings to support their learning needs.

What's one thing that surprised you about your current role?

One of the things that have surprised me about returning to the Twinsburg City School District in the role of Director of Pupil Services is all the support that is available for our students. Twinsburg City School District has invested in meeting students' academic needs. In addition to the academic support, Twinsburg is invested in the safety and well-being of our students.

Wilcox Students *Give Back*



At Wilcox Primary School, the teachers and staff members are specific and intentional about offering rigorous academic instruction to students in literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. They offer students real-world learning experiences through technology integration and hands-on projects. In addition to academics, the Wilcox educators understand the importance of setting a foundation for our community's youngest learners to become civic-minded citizens who can interact with each other and reach beyond their own personal needs to help others.

With this in mind, students at Wilcox Primary School learn about and practice positive citizenship daily. The school day begins with students reciting the Wilcox Pledge. Each class participates in a "Morning Meeting" where they talk about their feelings, ideas, and opinions. This is one way teachers and classmates get to know each other and build a classroom community. The

Zones of Regulation curriculum and school guidance lessons offer direct instruction in self-regulation and emotional control to classes, small groups, and individuals.

Supporting students to think beyond themselves has been a focus for teachers at Wilcox Primary School as educators set the stage for students to grow up to be adults who make significant contributions to our world. In February, the entire school will participate in a "Spread the Love" activity where students will create treat bags and cards to donate to the first responders in the City of Twinsburg, Twinsburg Township, and the City of Reminderville.

Wilcox students may be young, but they have a bright future ahead of them. Especially as responsible, respectful, caring, and safe young citizens.

Kindness Rules at Bissell

Samuel Bissell Elementary School students and staff welcomed veterans to the school to commemorate Veterans Day. The school was decorated with posters and patriotic messages thanking our veterans for their sacrifices for our country. Students waving American flags lined the entryway and playground to watch a Veterans Day Drive Thru Parade. The PTA provided leadership and planning for the event.

Samuel Bissell Elementary School is committed to educating the whole child. To that end, December was renamed "Kindness Month." Each day, students completed a kind act as part of the Kindness Quest, highlighting the importance of being kind to one another. Some activities included asking someone about their day, complimenting someone, and holding the door open for someone. Each morning, Samuel Bissell Elementary School Change Agents (Student Advisory Committee) read the kindness task for the day. Third-grade teacher Mrs. Rohwedder initially brought this activity to the school.

Samuel Bissell Elementary School Administrators Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Winter were recently joined in the office by three "Principal's for the Day." Mr. Uyenghua, Miss Gagne, and Miss Cameron spent the day learning what it was like to be a principal. They assisted in completing several different tasks, including making announcements, relocating instructional materials, and identifying the characteristics of a principal. They even had the opportunity to attend a Teacher Leader Meeting. The students chose to be "Principals for the Day" as that was one of the prizes awarded from Bissell's Read-a-Thon. The Samuel Bissell Elementary School PTA even gave the students shirts to wear to "work."

George G. Dodge *Updates*

George G. Dodge Intermediate School's Girls Group has been hard at work identifying ways to promote self-confidence and share ideas about ways to help our community. The girls created a variety of empowerment posters, which were displayed in the staff and student restrooms. During the month of March, the Girls Group will be overseeing a Women's Shelter Donation Drive to help two local shelters in Akron and Cleveland.

Recently, George G. Dodge was named an Ohio Schools to Watch (OSTW). This is a great honor which highlights all of the amazing learning that is occurring at our school. The application included an all day site visit where the OSTW Team interviewed students, teachers, parents, and other staff members. Dodge's Team has been invited to present on Blending Learning at the State and National Schools to Watch Conferences.

Four sixth grade Student Council Members were selected to go to the TCSD Board of Education Meeting to present awards to Dodge's January Students of the Month. These students had a very successful presentation and even received praise and compliments from our Superintendent Kathi Powers.



Highlights at RB Chamberlin



- The 8th grade Power of the Pen writing team took first place at the District tournament in Akron. Top individual finishers included: 7th grade: Anisha Mann (5th), 8th grade: Aleksandra Rosenblum (8th), 8th grade: Emily Balog (5th), and 8th grade: Laurel Marquis (4th).
- Congratulations to the RB Chamberlin students selected to the OMEA District 6 Honors Orchestra: Kara Honaker, Sarah Nana, Aleksandra Rosenblum, Cole Krajewski, Nicholas Pokalev, Alexis Weber, Garrett Monday, Anish Earla, Noah Sipusic, and Carly Cultrona.
- Congratulations to the following RB Chamberlin students selected to the District 6 OMEA Honors Band Festival: Aryaman Sigdel, Emily Balog, Cameron Banas, Alyssa Giancola, Cameron Ivory, and Owen Moseley.
- The Twinsburg Public Library is currently displaying work created by our seventh grade Art students.
- Seventh graders Marcus Foster and Jennifer Lin will be honored artists at the 43rd Annual Young People's Art Exhibition sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association.
- RB Chamberlin School Resource Officer Nate Milhoan wrote a grant to secure sensory bags for every Twinsburg police cruiser. These bags contain articles the officers use to communicate with individuals with autism and other disabilities.

Show Choirs Excited for Busy Competition Season

After a successful competition premier concert, Twinsburg High School's Great Expectations and Blue Harmony are working hard to prepare for several weeks of competition through mid-March. Of course, both groups' students are excited to return to the competition stage. Still, Blue Harmony is especially looking forward to coming back under their new name after a two-year hiatus.

In addition to preparing to compete, students and parents have been busy at work getting ready to once again host the Northcoast Show Choir Invitational on February 25. The competition will include several area show choirs and a few from out of town. Whether it's Northcoast or another competition, the group hopes to see hometown crowd support at every performance.



SAT | FEB 11

Great Expectations at DeKalb Choir Festival
(Waterloo, Indiana)

SAT | FEB 18

Great Expectations and Blue Harmony at Medina Midwest Showcase
(Medina High School)

SAT | FEB 25

Great Expectations and Blue Harmony at Northcoast Show Choir Invitational
(Twinsburg)

SAT | MAR 4

Great Expectations and Blue Harmony at Solon Show Choir Invitational (Solon)

SAT | MAR 11

Great Expectations at Marysville Showcase
(Marysville, Ohio)

Gymnastics Having Record Year



Twinsburg High School's Gymnastics team is having a record year! So far this season, the team set a school record of 135.02 at the District tournament. However, that record lasted only a short time, as the team scored 138.1 on January 6. The team followed this up by setting another record at the Senior Night Meet on January 21 with a score of 138.25.

Some returning athletes who stand out this season include Alyssa Whitescarver, Josie Davis, Erin Winfield, and Cassandra Appell. Whitescarver has placed first in the all-around multiple times and has remained undefeated on bars. This year, her Personal Records (PRs) include a score of 8.95 on vault, 9.15 on bars, 8.85 on beam, 9.35 on floor, and 35.8 on the all-around. Josie Davis has placed first on beam and in the all-around multiple times. Davis's PRs this year include a

score of 9.0 on vault, 8.95 on bars, 9.0 on beam, 9.4 on floor, and 36.05 in the all-around. Erin Winfield took first place on floor and helped contribute to the team's score on many events. Erin Winfield's PRs this year include a score of 8.6 on vault, 8.5 on bars, 8.9 on beam, 9.05 on floor, and 35.05 in the all-around. Finally, Cassandra Appell only competes on beam and has taken second place with a PR of 8.55.

Some outstanding newcomers include Audrey Horvath, who contributed to the team's score on vault and floor. Also, Madi Harchar contributed to the team's score on bars and beam.

The team is now focused on the upcoming conference championship and the OHSAA Sectional Meet. Last year, the team was seeded fourth at sectionals and moved on to Districts for the first time in decades. Through drive, determination, and teamwork, they aim to qualify for Districts for a second year in a row, with sights set on qualifying for the OHSAA State Meet.

Girls' Hoops Players Honor Staff Members

During the month of December, Twinsburg High School's Girls' Basketball players nominated staff members who have made a positive impact on their journey. This impact may have been one that was made in the classroom, in the hallways, or even outside of school at an event. Twenty (20) nominations were made and a brief write up of how the staff members made their mark was submitted by the players.

Before the game against Revere on January 14 these staff members were honored. Fourteen (14) teachers were introduced before the home crowd. Not only was it great to honor these amazing staff members, but the additional support they provided helped to power the Lady Tigers to a win!



Financial *Update* with Julia Rozsnyai, Treasurer/CFO

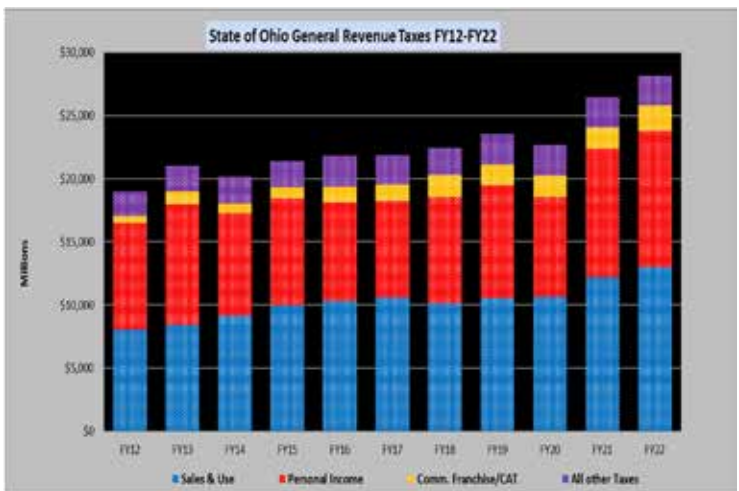
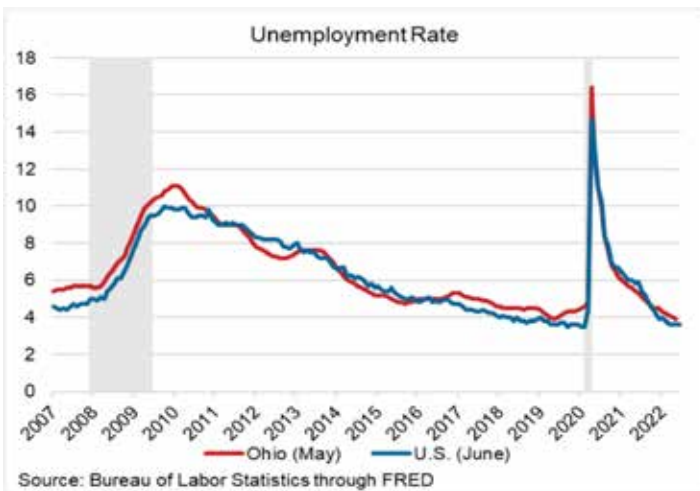


In December, the Twinsburg City School District received written notification from the Ohio Department of Education's Fiscal Monitoring and Oversight Committee. Based upon our Five-Year Forecast, the District faces an approximate \$2.1 million deficit in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, and much higher deficits in the following years. Because of that projected deficit, the District is placed in a "precautionary" financial state as public school districts are not able to operate when they run out of funds.

The Ohio Department of Education now requires the District to submit, by February 28, 2023, a written plan to address this deficit. Unfortunately, the revenue the District once received through Tangible Personal Property Tax/ CAT Tax has been totally eliminated as of this school year. House Bill 66 (HB66) was the legislation that eliminated the tax businesses paid on Tangible Personal Property (TPP)

However, multiple factors such as inflation and increased rates drive up school costs. Deficit spending is when expenditures are higher than revenues. The increased spending over decreasing or flat revenue uses up our cash balance by FY2025. Expenditures began exceeding revenues in FY20. Our District had a significant amount of cash reserves for many years, but now we're using it up, and we are forecasting negative cash balances.

During two weeks in January, Superintendent Powers and I conducted numerous staff meetings to share this information with everyone in order to be transparent. In the same effort, I am sharing this information with all of you now, our community members, so that you are aware of the District's financial situation.



in Ohio. The original legislation set forth that the State of Ohio would reimburse school districts for several years the amount of lost revenues. The replacement of TPP money has been reduced every year since 2006. A tax once under local/county control was eliminated and was replaced by a state collected Commercial Activity Tax (CAT). From FY15, through FY22 Twinsburg City Schools District has cumulatively lost an estimated \$24,031,504 in state TPP reimbursement.

Every three years, the value of taxable property in the school district is determined by the county auditor. Our District's current valuation is \$1,029,579,820. As property values increase, the auditor cuts the school tax rate so schools do not receive more money than the amount originally voted. This is done as a result of H.B. 920, which prevents schools from collecting more money. This is called the effective tax rate.

On January 9, 2023, the Board of Education met and discussed the development of the written plan mandated by the Ohio Department of Education. Reducing expenditures and/or generating additional revenue to decrease the District's approximate \$2.1 million deficit in FY 2025 is a very difficult task. Over 85% of our expenses are in payroll and staff benefits. This is similar to most public schools in Ohio, since we need to employ teachers and support staff to educate approximately 4,000 students. Every one of our employees is important to the individual students' success. However, we will strive to add efficiencies to our organization through changes in business practices such as centralized purchasing for supplies, reducing purchased services costs, which, we hope, will lessen the need to reduce the employment of our staff members as much as possible. Superintendent Powers, the administrative team, and I are working together, along with our staff, to develop this plan.



Twinsburg City School District

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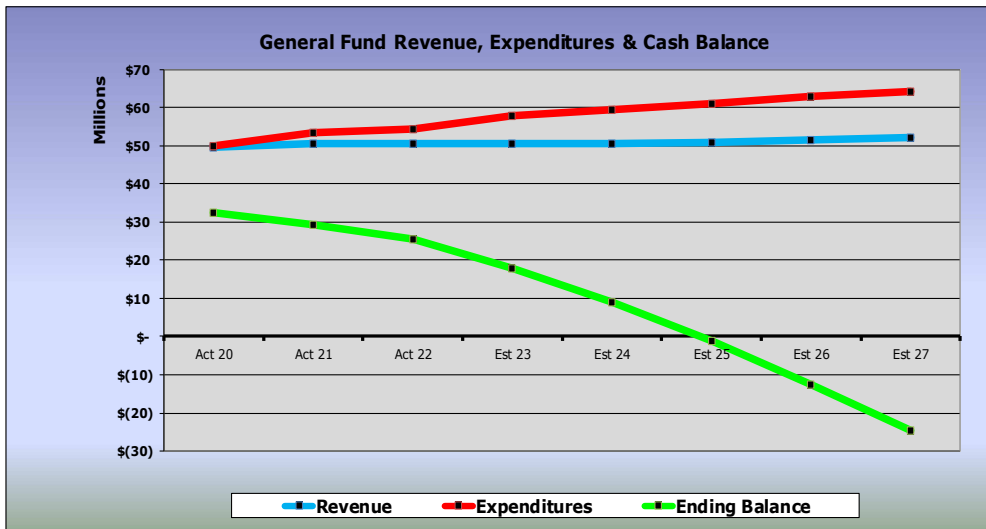
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Financial Update *(continued from page 7)*



For those of you interested in additional information regarding the Twinsburg City School’s finances, I would like to invite you to go on the Treasurer’s page on the school District’s website. Here you’ll find the Five Year Forecast, its assumptions and my presentation from November 2022.

We are certainly facing some difficult times regarding our finances. We are working together to address the financial issues. It is prudent that we look at years past FY25 and make some long-term plans as well. I am here and available to respond to any of your questions, and I welcome them.

Looking Ahead

To view all building/district events please visit www.twinsburg.k12.oh.us

March 2023

- Mar. 1 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Mar. 10 End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 12 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Mar. 15 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Mar. 17 Report Cards
- Mar. 27 – 31 Spring Break, No School Students & Staff

April

- Apr. 3 School Resumes
- Apr. 5 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Apr. 7 Good Friday, No School Students & Staff
- Apr. 19 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Apr. 21 Interim Grades

May

- May 1-5 National Staff Appreciation Week
- May 3 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- May 17 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- May 23 Commencement
- May 25 Last Day of School for Students
- May 26 Teacher Work/Records Day
- May 29 Memorial Day

Board of Education

- Rob Felber**, President
- Lea Travis**, Vice President
- Mark Curtis**, Member
- Rhonda Crawford**, Member
- Tina Davis**, Member

The Twinsburg Board of Education meets in regular session at the Twinsburg Government Center in Council Chambers on the first and third Wednesdays of each month with the exception of June when the meeting is on the first and fourth Wednesdays. All Regular and Special Board Meetings are open to the public.

Administration

330.486.2000

Kathryn Powers
Superintendent

Julia Rozsnyai
Treasurer/CFO

Matt Strickland
Business Manager

Ryan Bandiera
Director of Pupil Services

Jennifer Farthing
Director of Curriculum

Belinda McKinney
Director of Human Resources

Ryan Bandiera
Director of Pupil Services

Andrea C. Walker
Director of Student Wellness



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