



Twinsburg

NOVEMBER | 2022
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's *Message*

Dear Community Members,

And just like that, the first quarter of this school year is in the rearview mirror and it's time to slow down and reflect on what's been accomplished. Fall is here, summer is past, and our students are busy performing, learning, winning, and connecting in and out of the classroom. I am happy to introduce our first newsletter of the year to highlight the first quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

Inside this issue, you will find information on the multitude of projects completed over the summer from our Permanent Improvement Funds and various grants that ensure the safety and comfort of our students and staff. These projects range from fixing roofs, asphalt repair, and room renovations at George G. Dodge Intermediate School to technology investments and safety and security improvements.

This issue will also allow you to learn more about two vital members of our staff Julia Rozsnyai, our new Treasurer/CFO, and Matt Strickland, our new Business Manager. This summer, we also hired a new Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach, Twinsburg High School Assistant Principal Ryan Looman. You can read about this hire in this issue. Exciting things always happen in our schools; highlights are provided throughout the newsletter. We also take note of the achievements of our Volleyball and Girls' Soccer teams, who both have competed well this fall. In fact, we are Tiger Proud of the performances of all our fall sport athletes and our Tiger Marching Band.

I hope you enjoy the highlights of our students and staff in this issue. As always, I want to thank you for supporting and being engaged with 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.”

Summer Projects

Keep Students Safe and Comfortable

Through the generosity of our communities, we receive approximately \$2 million annually in Permanent Improvement Funds. The District works hard to ensure that planned projects fit within this budget, so as not to stress the General Fund. The District also seeks numerous grant opportunities yearly for school buses, energy projects, and more. Projects and purchases completed during the summer included:

Asphalt & Paving

Asphalt, concrete, paving, seal coating, and striping needs were completed across the District.

Roofing

The District partnered with Garland Roofing, who conducted a full forensic assessment of all roofs and components. Roofing repairs were also completed at RB Chamberlin Middle School and the Transportation building.

Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

Through an energy conservation and efficiency partnership with Gardiner, the District worked through upgrading hardware and software components of all HVAC systems.

Room Renovations at George G. Dodge Intermediate School

The former Band Room and Vocal Music Room were each converted from one large space to two separate classrooms.

Stadium/Water Drainage Mitigation

Erosion on the backside of the District's home stands from water runoff has been a frequent problem. This summer, a trench and backfill were implemented from the maintenance garage up to the stadium to mitigate further issues.

Athletics

Gym floors were resurfaced, and the softball dugouts had roofs installed. Electricity was established in the backstop area at the softball diamond as well.

Technology Investments

The following investments were made in the District's technology infrastructure: interactive flat panels, new desktop monitors, USB-C docking stations, the continuation of the four-year replacement cycle of Chromebooks, staff computer replacement protocols, and responsible recycling of old technology.

Wayfinding Signage

Helpful signage is being installed around District properties. This was in response to valued community feedback on how to help better navigate District facilities.

Safety & Security

A facilities audit was conducted to assess doors, locks, security cameras, and more. The Board of Education approved five Security Liaison positions who are primarily assigned to security during the afterschool and evening hours.



Tiger Staff *Spotlight*

Get To Know New Business Manager Matt Strickland



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

My favorite thing about working here at the Twinsburg City School District is the diversity of our students and staff. Our emphasis on embracing our differences and celebrating our commonalities makes us unique and prepares our students for the real world.

2. What do you like most about working in education?

I believe that working in education is a calling and a passion. You must be invested in people and want to see them do their best. We have always heard that “it takes a village to raise a child,” which is undoubtedly true in education. It takes a lot of love, time, and commitment to help students, their families, and our colleagues be as successful as they can be.

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

I have had the opportunity to do some cool things in education. If I had to pick one, I would say the food program we ran during the onset of COVID-19

in my former district. With little time to plan and limited resources, we created home delivery routes for food needs in the community. Through that program, we built many strong connections with families and learned what servant leadership looks like.

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

I love music and love to sing! I am an absolute music junkie and love a little bit of something from every era of music.

5. What is the most interesting project you’re looking forward to working on here?

I am excited to work on the Tiger Legacy Project. I have learned so much about the proud history of the Twinsburg City School District and its communities. While we know that we have some genuine challenges with some of our facilities, I am excited to help guide our school community into the next step of what the futures of our Twinsburg Tigers can look like!

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

In the Business Department, it is indeed a new adventure every day. Business oversees custodial, grounds and maintenance, food service, athletics, technology, and transportation. While many of our efforts are to help in support roles, we do our very best to support the goals of all departments, staff, and students of the District.

7. What’s one thing that surprised you about your current role?

I continue to be pleasantly surprised at the emphasis on safety and security by Superintendent Powers and the Twinsburg City School District. Our students and staff have many external factors to compete with, let alone be worried about a safe learning environment. I am proud to be a part of the planning and work that goes into keeping our schools and facilities comfortable and safe for our families.



Dodge 5th grade students reviewing the school-wide expectations of Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.



Dodge’s 5th grade students at the Expectations Assembly. Mr. Holland, Principal, and Ms. DeVille, Assistant Principal, reviewed the school-wide expectations.



Dodge’s Music Teacher, Mr. Matthew Szekely, working with students on stretching and breathing exercises.



Mrs. Jensen’s 5th graders working on miniature eco-systems outside on the front lawn of Dodge Intermediate School.



Mrs. Judy Latsch, 4th grade teacher, and some 6th grade student actors model how to act during an ALICE drill.



Ms. DeVille, Assistant Principal, joins students in a “dance party” at recess on a Fun Friday.



Officer Ron Fruscella and Officer Nathaniel Milhoan train Dodge’s 4th grade students on the ALICE Safety Drill Protocols.

WHAT’S HAPPENING at Dodge

Letters, Sounds, and Words... Oh, my!

Learning to Read in the Primary Grades



Reading and writing are complex processes that require our brains to decipher a great deal of information quickly. However, a step-by-step, structured approach is the best practice in helping children create a basic understanding of word patterns as they learn to read. At Wilcox Primary School, teachers are engaged in a deep study of what has been named the “Science of Reading.” The Science of Reading is based on many different research studies over decades, pointing to a convergence of evidence that shows what works in early literacy instruction. Learning to read for understanding requires two main components: **word recognition** (decoding sounds) and **language comprehension** (developing a rich vocabulary to make meaning of words and sentences). Wilcox Primary School teachers have actively participated in book studies, podcasts, and professional development to build their capacity as early literacy experts.

Teachers at Wilcox Primary School apply the Science of Reading through explicit daily lessons in whole and small group instruction during their literacy block. For phonological and phonemic awareness in Preschool, Kindergarten, and first grade, teachers utilize a program called Heggerty, where students practice manipulating sounds by adding, deleting, and changing syllables in highly engaging oral lessons that include a high level of teacher modeling. Students then carry these auditory skills to the written word in decodable books and the Foundations phonics program. Sequential word patterns are practiced through reading, writing, and the use of letter boards to “build” words. Shared read-alouds allow all students to experience rich vocabulary by learning new words and words with multiple meanings. Discussions about high-quality literature help students recall details, retell stories, and make connections to build language comprehension.

Early literacy classrooms, like those at Wilcox Primary School, are language-rich, active places where students are engaged in word study that is often disguised as play or a fun game. The Science of Reading is a complex “recipe” with the same ingredients, but the proportions change for each child as they grow into skilled readers.

Great Things are Happening at Samuel Bissell Elementary School!

Samuel Bissell Elementary School building administrators Mrs. Misty Johnson and Mr. Scott Winter held 25 individual classroom conversations during the first week of school. The purpose of the meetings was to share PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) expectations with students, which included an overview of the different office recognitions students can receive for making positive behavior choices.

The State of Ohio will again recognize Samuel Bissell Elementary School for positively rewarding student achievement and behavior! The PBIS Bronze Award is given to schools implementing school-wide supports at the Tier I Level. The school's plan consists of various reward systems and performing kind acts. Before this school year, Samuel Bissell was last recognized as a Bronze recipient in 2018.

Fathers and father figures enjoyed a nice morning walk to school with their children on September 22. Approximately 325 fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, cousins, or other significant male caregivers walked their children to school as part of the Northeast Ohio Father/Father Figures Initiative – Fathers Walk. The idea behind the event is to highlight the importance of males in their child's education. Before the event ended, the Samuel Bissell Elementary School PTA gave attendees a treat bag.



RB Chamberlin Highlights

- RB Chamberlin Middle School sent students to Washington, D.C., for the first time in three years. The trip this year was scheduled for October 11-13.
- The middle school was again able to host parents for the Seventh Grade Orientation Night and the middle school Open House. Both of these events were well attended.
- RB Chamberlin Middle School was again awarded the Gold Medal for Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) by the Ohio Department of Education. The middle school was one of four Summit County schools to receive the award. This is the third consecutive year RBC was recognized as a PBIS Gold Medal School.

Twinsburg High School Highlights

- Congratulations to Seniors Pravallika Muramalla and Aiden Bennage, who were recently recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. Good luck as Pravallika and Aiden continue in the National Merit Scholarship Competition!
- The Twinsburg High School Tiger Marching Band performed at the 15th annual Solon Band Bash in September, one of eight high school groups that performed.
- Thank you to students, parents, and staff members who attended the Twinsburg High School Open House on August 31. It was the first in-person Open House in three years!
- Thank you to all students, parents, and staff members who donated non-perishable food items for the Fox 8 Chick-fil-A Rivalry Food Drive in September. The high school competed with Aurora High School for this worthy cause. All donations went to The Emergency Assistance Center. Twinsburg High School donated over 1,245 pounds of food.
- Thank you to the Boys' Soccer Team for their patriotic gesture in remembrance of the lives lost on 9/11. The team placed flags on the front lawn of Twinsburg High School to commemorate this solemn occasion.



Ryan Looman Set to Lead Varsity Girls Hoops

The Twinsburg City School District Board of Education has hired Ryan Looman as its new Twinsburg High School Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach.

"I am honored to take over the girls' basketball program, which has a rich history and tradition. I am excited for the opportunity to get back into coaching, and we will work incredibly hard to build a program that our school and community can be proud of," said Looman. "I would like to thank Superintendent Powers, Mr. Linn, and Mr. Fantone for having faith in me and the job that can be done. I cannot wait for the season to get underway!"

Looman, who currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Twinsburg High School, takes the helm after serving as the Head Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach at Mayfield High School from 2015-2021.

In six seasons as the Head Coach at Mayfield High School, he compiled a winning record of 75-63. He coached two 1,000-point scorers, four all-state players, one conference player of the year, and four players that went on to play collegiately.

Girl Power: Tiger Volleyball & Soccer Have Winning Seasons!



The Twinsburg High School Volleyball Team truly had a banner season, led by Seniors Kendall Matlock and Hailey Williams! For the first time in school history, the Lady Tigers won a Conference Championship! After graduating only two Seniors from the 2021 season, the young but experienced Tigers had great victories over Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Hudson, North Royalton, and Stow-Munroe Falls, while also winning the Championship at the Chagrin Falls Tournament. A victory over Stow-Munroe Falls in the OHSAA State Tournament advanced the Lady Tigers to the District Semifinal Game against Walsh Jesuit, where they ultimately fell in 4 sets to the Warriors. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches on a 19-5 record, and a Suburban League Championship Season!

The Lady Tiger Girls' Soccer Team is also having a season to remember, finishing the regular season undefeated with a record of 13-0-3, and a Suburban League Championship! Twinsburg was ranked #7 in Division 1 in the state of Ohio in the most recent state rankings as well. The team is led by a strong group of Seniors including Sophie Adick, Annikka Banerjee, Rien Cummings, Lauren Glessman, Tea Jimenez, Tyra Johnson, Jackie McKenna, Sophie Rodin, Emily Turle, and Olivia Zelenka. Senior captains include Alexis Cellura, Arriah Gilmer, Jadyn Harris, and Brenna Utrup. The Lady Tigers opened OHSAA Tournament play defeating Chardon, and defeated Stow-Munroe Falls in overtime to advance to the District Championship Game against Canton Glen Oak which they won 5-1 and are District Champs! Our Lady Tigers competed in the Regional Semifinal Game on November 1st, and although they will not continue any further, our Lady Tigers have had an amazing season!



Tiger Staff *Spotlight*

Get To Know New Treasurer/CFO Julia Rozsnyai



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

Seeing the dedication to do our best at all levels, from the Board of Education to central office staff, and all of our school buildings makes me come to work with a smile every morning.

2. What do you like most about working in education?

I truly believe in my favorite quote from Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

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

I am proud of my accomplishments in my prior District, specifically increasing Cardinal Schools' operating cash balances to where it hasn't been in a very long time. I feel that I have been preparing all these years to be here at the Twinsburg City School District.

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

Most people are surprised to learn that I have a motorcycle license which I just received a few years ago, and I enjoy riding my Piaggio Fly scooter.

5. What is the most interesting project you're looking forward to working on here?

I look forward to changing our internal purchase requisition and conversion process to a 100% electronic process, as opposed to a paper process.

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

Treasurer's office team members are not directly touching students' lives. However, my team is in some way a significant part of the success and accomplishments of the District. My staff ensures the behind-the-scenes daily necessary processes are working well and support those in direct contact with our students and parents.

Students Selected for OMEA Region and All-State Orchestras

Congratulations to Twinsburg High School Orchestra students for being selected for the OMEA Northeast Region Orchestra. This Orchestra represents the top orchestra students from Northeast Ohio. A challenging audition process selects students. The chosen students will perform with the Orchestra at the University of Akron, E. J. Thomas Hall, on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m. Additionally, Violist Rhea Ballani was accepted into OMEA All-State Orchestra. She was selected as the top violist in the northeast region. The OMEA All-State Orchestra represents the top Orchestra students in Ohio. In addition, Sarah Horvath, Kaiden Honaker, and Jaren Jenyk were chosen as All-State Alternates.



OMEA Northeast Region Orchestra

- Sarah Horvath, *violin*
- Deshna Naruka, *violin*
- Rhea Ballani, *viola*
- Joseph Jenyk, *viola*
- Grace Tschudy, *viola*
- Kaiden Honaker, *cello*
- Imaya Perera, *cello*
- Jaren Jenyk, *string bass*

OMEA All-State Orchestra

- Rhea Ballani, *principal viola*
- Sarah Horvath, *violin all-state alternate*
- Kaiden Honaker, *cello all-state alternate*
- Jaren Jenyk, *string bass all-state alternate*



Twinsburg City School District

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A New Era Begins in Treasurer/CFO Office



I joined the Twinsburg City School District on August 1, 2022, as the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, and I was part of the Twinsburg Support Staff Association negotiations on my first day. During my first month, I engaged in different District-wide initiatives, such as strategic planning, collaborating to define educational equity, discussing safety and security protocols, to name just a few. In addition, I made it a priority to become familiar with the District's fiscal history and focus on the District's finances and the efficiencies of the specific internal fiscal processes. At the same time, I reached out to the administrators and school principals to identify how my office could better assist students and parents.

In June 2022, the Board of Education contacted two professionals, K-12 Consulting Inc. and the North Coast Shared Services Alliance, and requested reviews of the District's most recently submitted Five-Year Forecast. Both concluded that the May 2022 forecast is reasonably stated. As a result, during the July 13, 2022 regular meeting, the Board of Education declared it necessary to renew the 6.9 mill tax levy for current expenses. The voters first approved this levy in 1993, and it generates \$5.2 million in revenue annually. This amount is close to 10% of the District's total revenues.

While the renewal will help support current operations, due to the District's deficit spending for the last three fiscal years (since COVID), we are looking into every possible opportunity to increase revenues and lower expenses. We were awarded \$313,019 in ESSER I, Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act; \$1,160,943 in ESSER II, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, and \$ 2,625,281 in ESSER III, American Rescue Plan (ARP). We currently have \$1.3 million of the ESSER III Act funds left to address students' academic and socioal/emotional needs during the next two school years or as long as the funds will last. A presentation regarding the use of those funds was held in a public hearing during the Board meeting on September 28.

Additionally, the District has received numerous small grants thanks to our dedicated staff who care to make a difference for the students. I would like to personally express my gratitude to those who seek alternative funding sources. I am excited to meet as many community members as possible during the coming school year.

Board of Education

- Mark Curtis**, *President*
- Tina Davis**, *Vice President*
- Rhonda Crawford**, *Member*
- Rob Felber**, *Member*
- Lea Travis**, *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 and September when the meetings are 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
- Andrea C. Walker**
Director of Student Wellness

Looking Ahead

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

November 2022

- Nov. 2 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Nov. 6 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 8 Election Day/Professional Day, No School Students
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov. 11 Interim Grades
- Nov. 16 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving Break, No School Students & Staff

December 2022

- Dec. 14 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- Dec. 21 End of Second Quarter
- Dec. 22 – Winter Break, No School
- Jan. 4

January 2023

- Jan. 4 Work/Professional Day for Staff, No School for Students
- Jan. 5 School Resumes
- Jan. 13 Report Cards Issued
- Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School Students & Staff



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