

Spotlight

News for the community about the Streetsboro City Schools

www.streetsboroschools.org

Here's how to contact us

Administration Building

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Linda T. Keller, Superintendent**Neil Barnes**, Treasurer**Jeff Watkins**, Director of Pupil Services**Diane Longstreth**, Director of Teaching and Learning

High School

330-626-4902

Michael Berner, Principal**Natalie Winingar**, Assistant Principal**Bruce Johnson**, Athletic Director

Middle School

330-626-4905

Steven Hatch, Principal

Defer Intermediate

330-422-2480

Lisa Shannon, Principal**Joe Timco**, Assistant Principal

Campus Elementary

330-626-4907

David Kish, Principal

Wait Primary

330-422-2400

Jon Natko, Principal

Food Service

330-626-3796

Darlene Wheeler, Supervisor

Transportation

330-626-4909

Sharon Dove, Supervisor

Q&A

about the levy

Q: What are the facts about the levy?

A: Streetsboro City Schools has placed a 9.5-mill continuing operating levy on the November 3rd ballot. If the levy passes, the district will not attempt to renew or replace the current 3.5-mill levy set to expire on December 31, 2009, collections upon which will cease during the second half of calendar year 2010.

Q: How much will the levy cost?

A: The 9.5-mill levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$291 in additional taxes during calendar year 2010. However, taxes will **decrease** in calendar year 2011 due to the expiration of the 3.5-mill levy that is currently in effect as passed by the voters in August 2005. Based upon millage rates currently in effect, the owner of a \$100,000 home will see a reduction in taxes for calendar year 2011 of approximately \$92. **As a result, the net increase of the 9.5-mill levy when coupled with the expiration of the 3.5-mill levy will be approximately \$199 for calendar year 2011 and beyond.**

Q: What cuts will be made if the levy does not pass?

A: Final decisions have not been made, but reducing bus transportation to state minimum standards (No high school busing and no busing for students who live within two miles of school) is under serious consideration, as well as eliminating 20 or more teachers over the course of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. This will increase class sizes and possibly reduce high school course offerings. Potential reductions may also include eliminating all tutors, student monitors (lunchroom and playground) and library aides. Additional reductions under consideration include eliminating five custodial positions, one mechanic, one exempt support employee and one administrator. Increasing participation fees for athletics, band and other co-curricular activities, as well as eliminating sports teams with low participation, are also ideas under discussion. Others include eliminating transportation service provided to Surround Care, outsourcing various departments, closing school buildings early and eliminating most field trips.

Q: What have the Streetsboro Schools done to cut costs?

A: Our district has been fiscally responsible and is carefully scrutinizing all expenditures. Supplies and equipment budgets have been cut in all departments and buildings. A number of tutors, aides and consultants have been eliminated, as well as professional development and technology.

Q: How will the schools use these operating funds?

A: Funds will pay for books and technology to challenge our students, as well as equipment, utilities, transportation and contractual obligations.

Q: How does Streetsboro's tax rate compare to others in Portage County?

A: Streetsboro has the second lowest average property tax rate in Portage County. According to the June 2009 issue of *Cleveland Magazine*, Streetsboro has the lowest property tax rates of the 76 communities considered to be suburbs of Cleveland.



From the

Superintendent

Linda T. Keller

I am asking for your help. Streetsboro City Schools are in a very serious financial crisis. We estimate a cash deficit balance of more than \$900,000 for this school year alone.

The situation is real, and the need for support is urgent. School districts in Ohio are dependent on funds received from property taxes, and the economic downturn has hit us hard.

We are asking voters to approve a 9.5-mill continuing operating levy on the November 3 ballot. If the levy passes, the district will not attempt to renew or replace our expiring 3.5-mill levy. If the levy does not pass, severe cuts impacting our children's education will be absolutely necessary.

In my 15 months as your Superintendent of Schools, I have been so impressed with the students in our district and their passion for education. Our teachers and staff are committed to ensuring that each student achieve and excel.

An excellent school system will continue to attract families to our growing community. We believe the citizens of Streetsboro want a fiscally sound and strong school district to ensure that each one of our 2,217 students receives a good education. That is an investment in the future of our community.

Thank you,

Linda T. Keller
Superintendent of Schools

BOE member honored by OSBA

Streetsboro Board of Education member **Cynthia Pennock-Hanish** was recently recognized as one of four Outstanding Board Members in the Northeast Region by the Ohio School Boards Association. In addition, Pennock-Hanish has been nominated for the All Ohio Board Member award for 2009.

Currently serving her fourth term, Pennock-Hanish began her Board duties in January 1996. In addition to serving as the Board's Vice President, she is also the Performance Outcomes liaison and Streetsboro's representative on the Maplewood Career Center Board of Education.

"Ms. Hanish's ability to always ask questions and make her decisions based on what is best for students is consistent," says Superintendent **Linda T. Keller**. "She always considers what is best for kids—now or in the future. She does not shy from any issue and will address any topic that will lead us to better serve our students."

A Streetsboro native, she is a high school principal in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and has served as an officer in the United States Army Reserves for over 20 years. She and her husband have a son who attends Streetsboro High School.

Pennock-Hanish has been honored with four OSBA Awards of Achievement, as well as the "Master Board Member Award," a lifetime distinction from OSBA.



Cynthia Pennock-Hanish

Family Math Night at Defer challenges parents

More than 70 parents and students tested their math skills together at Family Math Night, held earlier this month at Defer Intermediate.

Participants chose math games, puzzles or brain teasers as they moved from group to group. Pizza was provided by Teresa's Pizza and Pizza Pan. Orange drink was donated by McDonald's.

"It was a great way for parents to interact with their child's teacher," explains Defer Assistant Principal **Joe Timco**. "The centers were challenging for parents, but it was clear that the students were used to thinking about math problems in a different way than adults do."



Hannah Kubicki and her mom Anne Kubicki.



Emma Kushmaul and her dad Chris Kushmaul.



Rayshawn Dublin and his mom Selina Dublin.



Sophomore biology students concentrate on a photosynthesis lab. From left, Nick Whaley, Dakota Luzader and Samantha Rydzinski.

Rigor emphasized in high school biology classes

Sophomores in biology classes at Streetsboro High School are incorporating technology and learning scientific research techniques.

According to teacher **Dr. Tracey Schneeman**, “We have great kids and great things happening at our high school.” A graduate of Streetsboro High School, Schneeman worked as a molecular immunologist after receiving her doctorate from the University of Kentucky. This is her second year of teaching biology at the high school. “I love it here and it is good to be back,” she says.

“Dr. Schneeman teaches us like we’re college kids,” explains student **Dakota Luzader**. “It’s hard to get an ‘A’ and not many people do. She is a very intelligent lady.” **Samantha Rydzinski** agrees. “Dr. Schneeman has high standards because she worked in industry.”



Campus students **Kaylee Klein** and **Kayla Swallow** work on a literacy activity in one their classroom learning centers.

Guided reading model incorporated at Campus

At Campus Elementary, reading instruction for second and third graders has changed this fall. Students are taking part in a balanced literacy model, which incorporates guided reading and student-led centers as well as more traditional core instruction.

According to Principal **Dave Kish**, “Guided reading gives all students the opportunity to learn by reading challenging books that are unique to their individual ability level. Student-led centers encourage students to work together to master concepts in small groups while doing engaging activities based on Ohio indicators.”

Director of Teaching and Learning **Diane Longstreth** says that durable materials, including DRA reading kits, were purchased with one-time federal stimulus funds. “This is a best practices model,” she says.

Ohio Report Card reflects Streetsboro’s gains

Streetsboro’s “Effective” rating on the 2008-2009 Ohio Report Card shows a number of gains, including:

- ✓ Rated “Excellent” in two buildings—Campus Elementary and Streetsboro High School.
- ✓ Scored 25 out of 30 indicators—improving by two indicators over 2007-2008.
- ✓ Gained points in 22 of 30 indicators.
- ✓ Received a 97.5 Performance Index score, improving from 94.7 last year.
- ✓ Achieved 10 points or more gain in all fourth grade achievement indicators.
- ✓ Earned fifth grade reading and eighth grade math achievement indicators, improving over last year scores.

“Streetsboro Schools are on a very rigorous track of academic achievement,” says Superintendent **Linda T. Keller**. “We are proud of the work of our students and staff.”

Reading Recovery gives Wait students individual help

Some beginning readers at Wait Primary receive intensive, one-on-one tutoring to help them master the complex set of concepts needed in order to learn to read and write.

Students spend a half-hour every day for a specified period of time with a teacher. Each lesson includes reading a familiar book, working with letters, writing and assembling a sentence and reading aloud.

Three veteran teachers trained in the Reading Recovery method include **Nancy Ewing**, **Lorrie Taylor** and **Rita Terzano**. “I love doing this because you see such progress from the beginning of the year,” says Taylor. “It’s wonderful to see such gains.”

Ewing agrees. “This is the best program for getting children to read.”



Reading Recovery teacher **Lorrie Taylor** listens to Wait first grader **Jordan Mauer** read aloud.

Points of Pride

Treasurer's office recognized

Streetsboro City Schools recently received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report.

This certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Golfer qualifies for districts

Sophomore **Brandon Manhard** qualified for the Portage Trail Conference district golf tournament for the second time in his high school career. Manhard is a two-time Honorable Mention All-PTC golfer.

Volleyball team heads PTC County Division

Streetsboro's volleyball team clinched at least a share of their fifth straight Portage Trail Conference County Division title. The team holds a 15-3 overall and 12-1 league record with a match against East Canton remaining. Over the last four seasons, the team has posted a 55-2 record, while winning four league titles in a row.



Facilitator Shemariah Arki leads students in a diversity awareness exercise.

Middle School students involved in diversity project

A group of Streetsboro Middle School students are participating in ACT, Awareness and Action for Change Team, offered through the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio.

Twenty-eight students are taking part in six different hour-long sessions at school, as well as two conferences where they will interact with students from other schools. Through activities and discussion, students are empowered with skills and resources to help bring positive change and foster diversity and inclusion.

In September, facilitator **Shemariah Arki** led a "human knot" team building activity followed by a discussion of the aspects of diversity that can create issues in middle school.

Spotlight

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