



The Roughrider- June 2022

LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD

I would like to thank everyone for their support during our 2021-2022 school year. It was a very successful year as we all learned again how valuable in-person learning is for our students. The pandemic has played havoc with so much in our lives the past couple of years. This affected our teaching and learning and the social/emotional health of our students.

We have engaged in a concerted effort to reestablish the protocol, work habits and expectations for in-person instruction. We have also invested additional resources in supporting the mental health of our students. These efforts will continue in our upcoming 2022-2023 school year as the effects of the pandemic linger. Having the support of staff, parents and our West Jefferson community plays an enormous role in helping our students adjust and flourish in today's challenging environment.

While Covid has not gone away, we do not anticipate any changes in our current policy as we begin the school year. While we are mindful of trying to be safe and wise in our practices, we have certainly learned the value of in-person instruction.



As we look ahead to the 2022-2023 school year we will be installing the latest technology (Clevertouch) in our elementary classrooms. These will replace our older Smartboards.

We will have in November a ballot issue to renew our nearly forty-year old Emergency Levy. This has been a critical staple of our funding for school operations for decades. While this will appear on the ballot as a Substitute Levy, it is simply a renewal, with no new taxes, for all existing homeowners. The Substitute Levy will allow the district to collect additional revenue on growth associated with the new construction occurring within the District. Our Treasurer will provide additional information about this critical levy.

Thank you again for your support of our schools. We eagerly anticipate the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Have a great summer.

Go Riders!

Mr. William Mullett

Superintendent, Jefferson LSD

West Jefferson Middle/High School Happenings

Please congratulate Matt Adams as the new principal at West Jefferson Middle/High School! Mr. Adams is a 20+ year employee, serving in various capacities throughout his tenure including as a teacher and a coach. Most recently, he has been serving as the assistant principal at the MS/HS. Kristen Kearns has been named assistant principal and will continue in her role as curriculum director as well as serving as assistant principal. Shawn Buescher and Mitch Daulton remain in their roles as Dean of Students and Athletic Director, respectively.

Mr. Adams will be replacing Michael Bute as principal. Mr. Bute has served as the principal at West Jefferson High School since August 2017 when he replaced long-time principal Dave Metz. Mr. Bute is leaving Jefferson LSD to become the new superintendent at North Central Local Schools in Williams County. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors and thank him for his service to Jefferson LSD.



West Jefferson High School Nationally Recognized



West Jefferson High School was named as one of the best high schools in the United States! The high school is ranked in the top 25% of all high schools in Ohio and amongst the top in the Columbus metro region, the largest in the state. Nationally it ranks in the top 40% of all high schools in the United States. This recognition is due to the hard work and diligence of the students and staff. We are proud of their efforts and honored to have earned this prestigious recognition.

CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2022

On May 21, 2022 graduation was held for the Class of 2022. These students put in the hard work and dedication to earn this achievement. The staff, administration, and Board of Education are proud of these students and are excited to see what they will achieve in the future.

The senior awards ceremony was held on May 20, 2022. This is an annual tradition that serves to highlight the achievements of the students prior to their graduation. Several scholarship awards were handed out during the ceremony, totaling over \$74,700 in scholarship dollars to deserving students. The scholarship award winners are as follows:

Scholarship	Amount	Winner(s)
The Working Student Scholarship	\$500	Lauren Humphries
Madison County Democratic Party Howard Foust Citizenship Award	\$300	Tyler Buescher
Madison County Arts Council	\$500	Hannah Messer
Judith Eckleberry Scholarship	\$300	Tyler Buescher
Class of 2020 Pay It Forward Scholarship	2 @ \$500 each	Ethan Miller Olivia Foreman
Madison County Retired Teachers	\$500	Tyler Buescher
Music Boosters Scholarship	2 @ \$500	Graham Gardner - Band Hannah Messer - Choir
Brenneman Family Volunteer Scholarship	2 @ \$500	Lauren Humphries Spencer Postle
Krazy Glue Scholarship	2 @ \$2000	Madelyn Gaus AJ Keyt
West Jefferson Community Scholarship	2 @ \$2000	Maggie Bumgardner AJ Keyt
WJEA Education Scholarship	\$500	Josephine Boucher
The Shane Brintlinger Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Aimee Cordle Aiden Clerico
The Dave Holland Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Ethan Miller
The Rudy Denes Memorial Scholarship	\$500	Tyler Buescher
VFW Post 7005 Scholarship	\$1,000	Jacob Collins Spencer Postle
VFW Post 7005 Auxiliary Scholarship	\$1,000	Jacob Collins Schneider Sydney Slone Canyon Bryce Keckley
Jefferson Industries Corp. Scholarship	\$1,000	Aimee Cordle
American Legion Scholarship Post #201	\$1,000	Abbie Arteaga
Voiture 477 40/8 Nursing Scholarship	\$500	Daisy Green
The Engle Scholarship	\$500	Grace Kitchen
West Jefferson Alumni Association	2 @ \$2000	Jacob Collins Yates Aliyah

Timmons Family Scholarship	\$2,000	Graham Gardner
The Vernon Hildinger Scholarship	\$1958.33 Each	Maggie Bumgardner Madelyn Gaus Mikayla Ridder
The Alice Woods Scholarship	\$2500 each	Graham Gardner Canyon Schneider Jessica Fling Sydney Slone Bryce Keckley Aiden Clerico
The Alice Woods Scholarship	\$1247.13 each	MJ Book Hannah Messer Josephine Boucher
William Lentz Jr/Sr Scholarship	2 @ \$10,000	Tyler Buescher Mason Cordetti

The following students were recognized as the valedictorian and salutatorian as well as the outstanding Tolles student for 2022:

Valedictorians		Salutatorian
Aiden Clerico	Emily Miller	Jessica Fling
Tennessee Jennings	Annabel Phipps	
Bryce Keckley	Canyon Schneider	Outstanding Tolles Student
Riley Marshall	Sydney Slone	Aliyanna Soloha

Congratulations to every member of the Class of 2022!



Norwood Elementary and Professional Learning



Our staff has been involved with professional development this spring, and continuing over the summer, to enhance learning for our students. The Ohio Legislature recently passed a law that require school districts to follow best practices for dyslexia support. There is a guidebook developed by the Ohio Department of Education that requires universal screening, interventions, and remediation for children that show signs of dyslexia

Staff in all Kindergarten through 3rd grade classrooms have completed extensive training using Wilson Foundation which meets the needs for a multi-sensory program. Additional staff has been completing training with Wilson for a program called “Just Words” which are Tier II interventions for students in grades 4 – 12. In addition, the usage of iReady for Reading (and Math) provides a universal screening and provides us data to identify needed interventions to support all students.

Norwood is adding for the 2022-23 school year additional members to our Care Team which is now called Multi-Tiered System of Support Team (MTSS). We will be including our building Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, trained Orton Gillingham teacher, Social Worker. The team currently includes the School Psychologist, Elementary Curriculum Director, and Principal. Our Special Education Director is also involved as needed.

It is our goal to follow Stephen Covey’s “7 Habits” in our daily lives and being proactive with learning is a critical component. Thank you for a great school year and we will continue grow as professionals to support all of our students.

Susan Barte
Norwood Principal



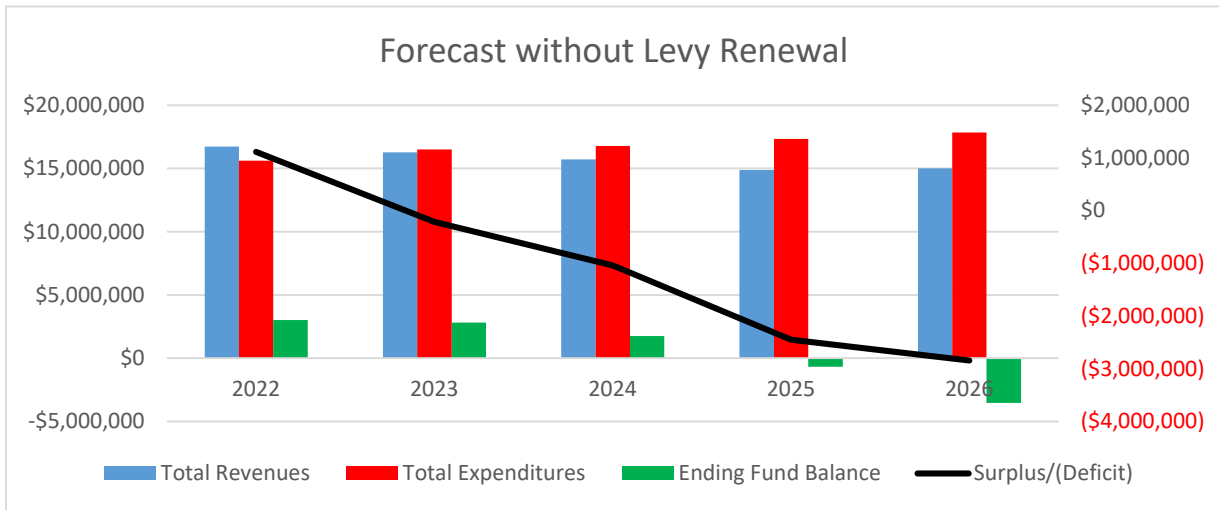
The Bottom Line

By: Mark Ingles, Treasurer/CFO

Last month the Board of Education adopted the required update to the District's five-year financial forecast. Under Ohio law school districts are required to pass a five-year forecast of its General Fund in November with an update in May. The Ohio Department of Education and Auditor of State use the submitted forecasts to identify school districts showing signs of fiscal distress. The forecast is also used to drive the District's budget, with appropriations matching forecasted expenditures for the current fiscal year.



The chart below shows the District's forecasted revenues, expenditures, and fund balances over the course of the approved forecast.



Revenue are forecasted to exceed expenditures in the current fiscal year (FY), ending June 30, 2022. The District has a long-standing emergency levy expiring on December 31, 2023. By law, I cannot assume passage of a levy, for either new money or renewal. As a result, that revenue is taken out of the forecast. The emergency levy accounts for nearly 10% of the District's total revenues in FY 2022. Due to taking out this revenue from the forecast the District is forecasting operational deficits starting in FY 2023 and progressively worsening, leading to negative fund balances in FY 2025 and 2026. Including that revenue the forecast improves dramatically, with operational surpluses forecasted in FY 2023 and 2024 and positive ending fund balances throughout the forecast. By law a school district cannot end a fiscal year with a negative General Fund balance. To prevent that the District will either need to increase revenue or decrease expenditures, or a combination of both.

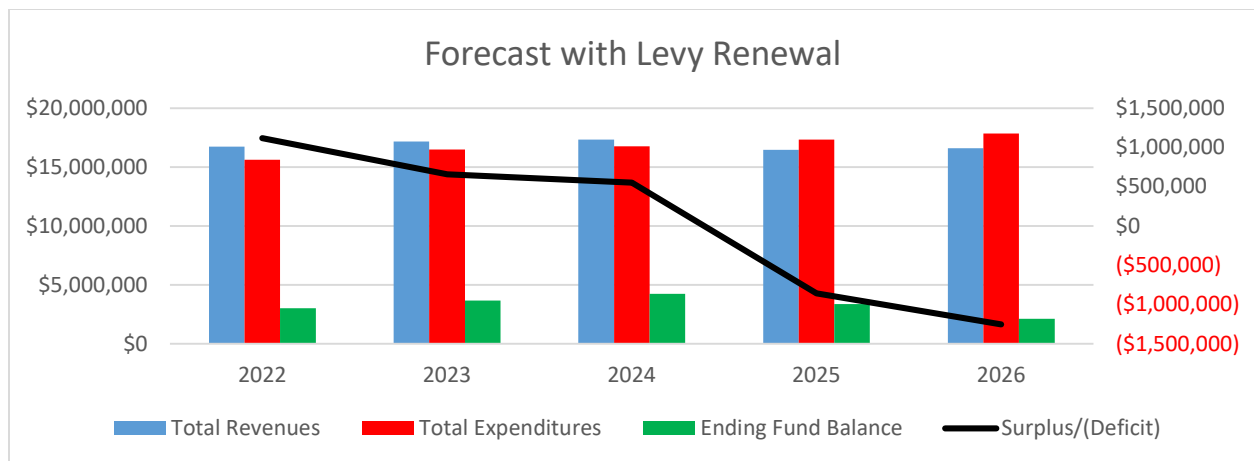
The full forecast can be found online [here](#). The District will always strive to be good stewards of public funds. If there are any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at mingles@westjeff.org or call at 614-801-2172.

Substitute Levy: What is it?

On November 8, 2022, the District will have a substitute levy request on the ballot. This is a new type of levy for the District, but one that should not be too unfamiliar in practice. For the past several decades, the District has had an emergency levy in place that raises \$1,452,338 annually for District operations. The money raised from this emergency levy goes toward staff salaries, benefits, utilities, buses, coaches, and all other expenses that it takes to run a school district. Due to prudent fiscal stewardship, the District is **not** asking for a tax increase at this time. Instead, it is proposing a different type of levy that will function as a renewal for existing taxpayers but realize revenue growth due to new construction.

A substitute levy allows a school district to continue collecting the same amount of revenue that is collected by an existing emergency levy. However, it can collect additional revenue on property that is classified by the county auditor as **new construction**. Examples of new construction includes newly constructed residential or commercial property, new additions to existing property, and properties that are coming off of tax abatements. Essentially, it is any property that has not been taxed before. Therefore, existing taxpayers will not see a change in their taxes because of the substitute levy. However, the District will still realize revenue growth due to the new construction being taxed at the same effective tax rate as existing tax payers.

As you know, the Village of West Jefferson and Jefferson Township are seeing major growth, especially industrial growth. In Tax Year 2021 alone there was just under \$8 million worth of new construction valuation net of demolition. Additionally, several properties will be losing their tax abatement status in the next several years. Being able to capitalize on this growth will provide the District with a new and stable revenue stream going forward. Local sources of revenue accounts for 65% of the District’s revenues, highlighting the importance of this levy for the District’s finances. As shown below, including the renewal revenue improves the District’s five-year forecast, resulting in positive ending fund balances throughout the forecast.



If there are any questions regarding the levy, you may contact Superintendent William Mullett or Treasurer Mark Ingles anytime at 614-879-7654.

HAPPY SUMMER

On behalf of the entire staff, administration, and Board of Education at Jefferson Local School District would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

See you in August!

