



# The Roughrider- September 2021

Welcome to the first edition of The Roughrider! This is a new, quarterly newsletter designed to provide regular updates to the going-ons of the Jefferson Local School District. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for your continued support of the District, its staff, and most importantly its students.

## From the desk of Superintendent Mullett

The 2021-2022 school year has ushered in the return of all students PreK-12 for in-person instruction. We have seen a noticeable improvement in the overall social/emotional health of our students with this return to a normal school experience. Our strategy this year in our return to school plan was a combination of safety and keeping our students in school. To date those objectives are being met with a high degree of success.

The ongoing pandemic is certainly a great challenge for all of us. We will continue to assess our plan and look at data to determine if we would benefit from adjusting our current plan. Certainly we understand there are different opinions on the best course of action. This is evident throughout the country and our State and applies to our local community as well.

What we learned from last year's COVID experience has helped shape our current plan. The two main takeaways were that of the numerous numbers of students who were quarantined because of contact tracing or being a close contact, they rarely developed symptoms. Thus healthy students missed extended amounts of school. This was not only detrimental to their education but had a serious impact on their mental health. The mental health was very real and became a health issue that we needed to try to help. Our experience this year supports what we saw last year. Students now attending school that would have been quarantined have rarely developed symptoms.

Of course when we see increased numbers of COVID in our community the school will also reflect that. While we are experiencing additional cases, all previous positive cases have returned to school. To date all of the students that have tested positive for COVID have been unvaccinated. Schools have not been shown to be the primary spreader of the virus. Thus our entire community can help us by being cognizant of best practices. We urge everyone to follow one basic rule. If you are ill, do not come to school. This will help us keep kids safe.

The 2021-2022 school year will continue to present great challenges for us. We will continue to do what we believe is in the best interests of our staff and students. We appreciate all of the support so many of you have extended to us. Thanks so much. Go Riders!



# The Bottom Line

By: Mark Ingles, Treasurer/CFO

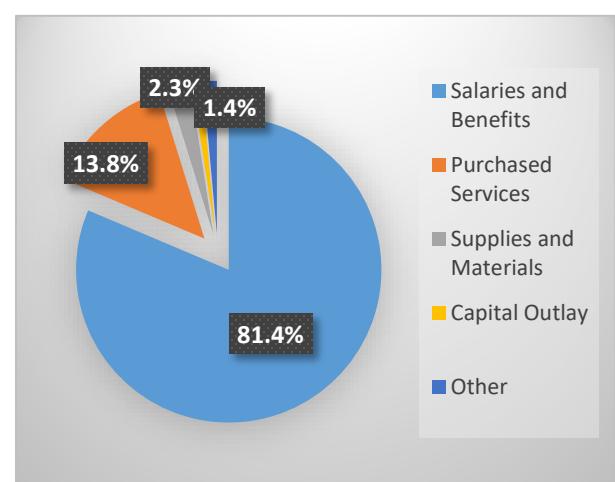
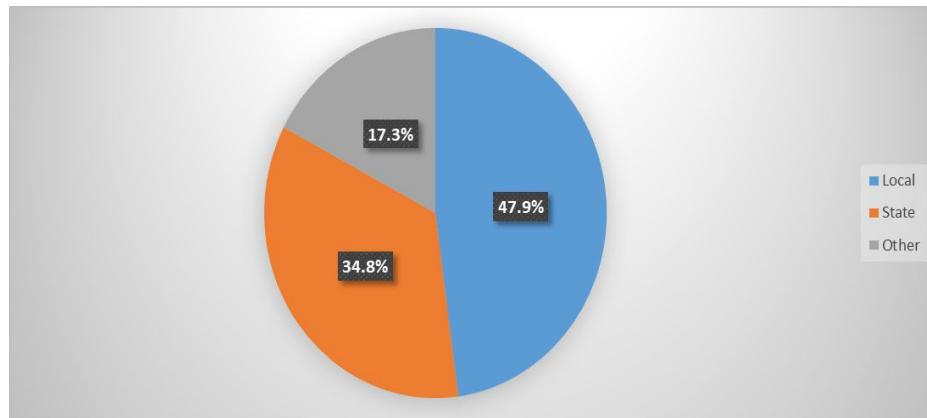
I want to spend some time looking back on the past fiscal year and where the District currently stands financially. I will be focusing on the General Fund, which is the main source of revenues and expenditures for the District. It is also the fund represented on the biannual five-year forecast, submitted each November with an update in May. I am happy to report that the District is now on a better financial footing. This is due to the District making its practices more efficient, instituting the budget reduction plan, realizing stronger revenue, and making effective use of federal COVID relief funds.

The District's revenue picture from the past fiscal year is shown to the right. As usual, the District received most of its revenue from local sources, aka you the taxpayers. This includes property taxes and income tax. The "other" category increased substantially compared to past years due to rebates received from the state for worker's compensation premiums and an increase in village income tax collection associated with the business park.

The District's expenditures remained largely the same year over year. Personnel costs are going to remain the largest expense due to the nature of the school business. We are a service organization, and as such need people to perform the services. This is largely true for all school districts in the state. Thanks to the budget reduction plan passed by the School Board in April we are expecting a decrease in overall personnel costs. Likewise, by outsourcing food service operations the General Fund may no longer be needed to support the Food Service Fund for a potential cost saving.

Looking ahead, while the District's financial picture is stronger than it has been, much risk remains. For instance, the District has an emergency levy expiring in 2023. That levy is crucial in maintaining the District's level of service as it raises nearly \$1.5 million a year for the General Fund. It is critical for the long-term financial health of the District that the levy is renewed.

Thank you for your continued support of Jefferson Local Schools. Go Roughriders!



# School Happenings



## Welcome New Faces!

Becky Krall- Special Education Director  
Shelby King- Middle School Guidance  
Sherrie Beane- Human Resources/Payroll  
Amanda Rose-Hobbs- MS/HS Music  
Kirklen Shedlock- Middle School English  
Dawn Klein- Fifth Grade Teacher  
Shemelia Presley-Peyton- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Benjamin Hillyard- Norwood Intervention  
Wanda Morgan- Elementary Learning Loss Tutor  
Jessica Phelps- Bus Driver  
Candace O'Bryant- Paraprofessional Aide

## Happy Retirement!

Debbie Omen- MS Principal  
Sandy Boucher- Payroll  
Jeff Mere- MS English  
Bonnie Ward- Bus Driver  
Carol Grice- Food Service  
Lydia McCall- Food Service  
Pat Owens- Food Service  
Joe Palazzo- HS Guidance  
Tami Hill- Title 1  
Delores Skaggs-Cafeteria  
Kevin Ball- MS Teacher  
Cynthia Niles- Bus Driver

## **Chartwells is Now Managing Food Service**

As of July 1 the District's food service operations are being managed by Chartwells, an industry leader in providing healthy, delicious meals to schools all across the country. We are excited to welcome them to the District. There has already been extremely positive feedback towards the food and level of service being provided. [Menus](#) are available online to help parents and children plan for the weeks ahead. We look forward to working with them to improve the food service experience for every student.

