

# Our SCHOOL REPORT



Olmsted Falls School District

August 2016

## WHY THE ZERO ADDITIONAL TAXES BOND ISSUE IS NEEDED

*By Superintendent Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.*

Olmsted Falls City Schools has placed a **Zero Additional Taxes** bond issue on the November 8, 2016 ballot. This is a critical issue for our schools and our community. It is important for our community to understand what this issue is and what it is not.

First, this issue will **NOT** increase taxes to residents. Due to the strategic manner in which Olmsted Falls City Schools is able to structure this issue, the district will get money to help with vital repairs but taxes will not increase for residents. This is because 5.5 mills of bond and permanent improvement money is expiring by the end of 2017. To ensure that the November bond issue does not raise taxes to residents, the district is only asking for 3.2 mills of bond and permanent improvement funds this fall. This results in **zero additional taxes to taxpayers**.

Second, by law the money from this issue can only be spent on facilities and building repairs. None of it can be used for school salaries or administration. So this issue is about creating better learning environments for students, not raises for staff members.

Third, this zero additional taxes bond issue will bring Olmsted Falls Schools' technology and classrooms into the 21st century and help to maintain the current excellent quality of education. This is important as Olmsted Falls City Schools provides a great value to the community. We offer a top-rated quality of education and the third lowest expenditure per pupil in the county.

Fourth, the money from this issue will be used to upgrade mechanical systems and school renovations, so that money will not have to be diverted from the classroom teaching and instructional budget to make vital repairs. This ensures a suitable environment

for learning for students and also means the district won't have to cut teachers, staff and programs to pay for needed repairs and construction.

Finally, this issue will eliminate the need to hold classes in trailers. These trailers cause multiple problems for our schools. They require doors to remain unlocked so students can go back and forth to the main building, which makes both susceptible to unauthorized entry and security problems. In addition most of them have been in use so long that they will need to be replaced very soon with new ones that are now more expensive to purchase.

This November is important for our entire community. The results of this issue will have a lasting and significant impact on the quality of education our students receive. Please stay informed about what's happening and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 440-427-6000.



*Superintendent Dr. Jim Lloyd congratulates a group of OFHS Scholar Athletes and 1st Team All Conference Athletes recently honored by the Board of Education for their outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments.*

Please visit [OFCS.NET](http://OFCS.NET) for answers to

Frequently Asked Questions about the November 2016 Bond Issue

## PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS CONTINUE TO BENEFIT DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY IN FIFTH, FINAL YEAR

The summer months are busy ones throughout Olmsted Falls School District. Each year, the empty buildings and quiet grounds provide the perfect opportunity to tackle larger maintenance projects that help keep our facilities in good repair. This summer, a number of facilities projects were underway including an additional phase of roof replacement at Olmsted Falls High School. Over the course of the last four summers, Permanent Improvement (P.I.) funds have paid for the replacement of the vast majority of the high school roof. The roof replacement occurred in phases with this summer's replacement of the western portions of the building being the fourth phase towards the project's completion.



*Portion of latest roof replacement completed at OFHS this summer.*



*During last school year, Olmsted Falls School District's fleet of buses traveled a total of 319,992.3 miles.*

Planning ahead for transportation services is another critical summer task. This year Permanent Improvement funds were used to purchase an additional school bus for our fleet, allowing us to retire one of our older buses. The district will take delivery of a Blue Bird All American this December thanks to the dedicated Permanent Improvement funds which can only be used for projects and purchases with a useful life of five years or more. P.I. funds cannot be used to pay for salaries or benefits. Olmsted Falls Schools meticulously maintains our bus fleet in top condition, allowing us to get on average more than 20 years out of each bus purchased.

The PI funds expire in December and the district will no longer have this kind of a dedicated source of funds to keep up with needed repairs. The continuation of dedicated funds like these are part of the Zero Additional Taxes bond issue on the November 8 ballot.

## O.F. TEACHERS ENGAGE STUDENTS AT CAMP INVENTION



Seven Falls-Lenox Primary School teachers kept learning alive this summer with the week-long Camp Invention program for boys and girls in grades one to six. More than 100 students participated in hands-on exploratory activities focused on science, technology, engineering and innovation under the guidance of Falls-Lenox teachers Amanda Balewski, Elizabeth Hassert, Brianna Smith, Michelle LaGruth, Shannon Chichester, Lauren Payne and Rochelle Sanfilippo.

“Our students really had an opportunity to dig in and explore,” said Third Grade Teacher and Camp Invention Director Michelle LaGruth. “I can’t say enough great things about the experience.”

Camp Invention participants joined Falls-Lenox teachers for six hours each day. Fourteen Olmsted Falls High school students also assisted as interns.

“This is the second year of Camp Invention at Falls-Lenox and, as teachers, we’re excited to be involved,” added Mrs. LaGruth. “In addition to working directly with the students participating in camp, we can also bring back some of these engaging and educational experiences to our classrooms this fall.”





## TREASURER'S UPDATE: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE NOVEMBER 8 BOND ISSUE FAILS

By OFCS Treasurer Emily Dales



The November 8 ballot issue for our schools is an important one for our residents. If approved, it will allow us to protect the investment in our school buildings by allowing us to keep up with vital repairs and maintenance.

Still, many people have asked what happens if the zero additional taxes bond issue on the November 8 ballot does not pass?

It's simple. If it does not pass then we lose vital funds that are dedicated to facility repairs. What happens is that we would have to dip into the day-to-day operating budget. That is the same budget that is dedicated directly to our classroom and instruction needs. That means decisions like whether to replace or make emergency repairs to things like a leaky roof, a parking lot with potholes or even plumbing would take away funds and even take precedence at times over what is needed in the classroom and opportunities for our students.

It is the equivalent of making cuts to the classroom and instruction budget.

In 2011, Olmsted Falls Schools' voters approved dedicated building repair funds, known as the permanent improvement (PI) budget. We are grateful for these funds as they allow us to protect the investment in our school buildings by keeping up with vital projects such as repairing roofs, enhancing security systems, replacing outdated lighting systems and other necessary repairs. However, that issue expires this year and without those funds, the district will be forced to use money that is currently designated for the classroom to keep up with necessary repairs.

It is important to note that by law, the money from this zero additional taxes bond issue can only be spent on facilities and building repairs, and none of it can be used for school salaries or administration. In addition, the district is spreading the facility repair and improvement costs out over more time, so the amount of taxes homeowners have to pay each year will not increase. The bonds will be paid off over 35 years so that as new families move into the community, over time, they will contribute to paying them off.

This zero additional taxes bond issue is about ensuring that Olmsted Falls City Schools has the funds to pay for upgrades to mechanical systems and school renovations so that money will not have to be diverted from the classroom teaching and instructional budget. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact my office at 440-427-6040.



*Portion of OFHS Roof **BEFORE** Phase 1 Repairs*



*Portion of OFHS Roof **AFTER** Phase 1 Repairs*

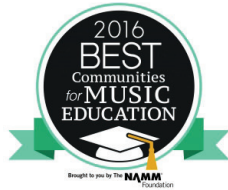


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# Our SCHOOL REPORT



10th Consecutive Year!

IS PUBLISHED TO MAINTAIN A REGULAR LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

## What's Inside?

- Why The November Bond Issue Is Needed
- Current P.I. Funds At Work
- Bulldog Teachers Engage Students with Innovative Summer Camp

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## OLMSTED FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**President:** Joseph T. Bertrand **Vice President:** Greg Surtman  
**Members:** Holly Neumann, Linda Parkowski, Cynthia Tomasch

## \*\*\* REGISTER TO VOTE \*\*\*

On November 8, Olmsted Falls City Schools' residents will have the opportunity to vote on many important issues, including the **zero additional taxes bond issue**. To make sure your voice is heard, be sure to register to vote. This is a quick yet necessary step in the voting process, especially for residents who may not vote in every election.

You are qualified to register if:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the election.
- You have been a resident of Ohio at least 30 days before the election.

Registering is easy, simply:

- Pick Up a Card -- Pick up a voter registration card from the administration office. Fill it out and return it. All voter registration cards will be delivered to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.
- Register by Mail -- View and print a voter registration form from the Ohio Secretary of State at: [http://nova-ohio.org/Ohio\\_Voter\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://nova-ohio.org/Ohio_Voter_Registration_Form.pdf)
- Return Form To:  
Cuyahoga County Board of Elections  
Registration Department  
2925 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115

You can find more important information on how to register to vote online at  
[www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/register.aspx](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/register.aspx)

The Olmsted Falls City School District hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in the educational programs and activities operated by the district.