



SECURE OUR FACILITIES

SECURE OUR STUDENTS
SECURE QUALITY EDUCATION

No Additional Cost!

Improve physical security! Stop the leaking!



✓ Fix Leaks

✓ Replace Damaged Doors



✓ Repair Water Damage



✓ Improve Security Cameras

VOTE YES May 7th!

Support St. Clairsville-Richland City School Levy

No Additional cost to

SECURE OUR SCHOOLS

- > State of Ohio cut 1.2 million in funding.
- > The School District has reduced its budget by over \$2,800,000 in the past 5 years.
- > Reductions include: 5 administrators, 9 teachers, and 9 non-teaching positions.
- > New operating levy of 2.75 mills would replace expiring 2.75 mill bond for **NO ADDITIONAL COST.**



On **May 7th**, please
VOTE YES to Secure Our Schools

No taxpayer dollars were used
to prepare or mail this document.
Paid for by:

Secure STC Schools Committee,
Christina Sirbaugh, Treasurer
P.O. Box 711
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

www.securestcschools.com
Visit us on Facebook at Secure St C Schools Committee



SECURE OUR FACILITIES
SECURE OUR STUDENTS
SECURE QUALITY EDUCATION
No Additional Cost!

**VOTE YES
May 7th!**
**Support
St. Clairsville-Richland
City School Levy**

- > **Securing elementary building with new roof, electrical, doors and windows for safe children**
- > **Improved protection of our youth**
- > **Maintain current quality in face of additional state cuts**
- > **Replacing expiring 2.75 mil issue with a new 2.75 mil operating levy**



Secure St. Clairsville-Richland City Schools

No Additional cost to

SECURE OUR SCHOOLS

**Vote "Yes" to Securing
St. Clairsville-Richland City Schools:**



Yes to the security of our community



Yes to the security of our children



**Yes to the security of our educational
excellence**



**On May 7th, please
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SECURE OUR STUDENTS

SECURE QUALITY EDUCATION

No Additional Cost!

**VOTE YES
May 7th!**

**Support
St. Clairsville-Richland
City School Levy**



DO THE MATH

NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU!

2.75 mill new continuous operating levy
(Minus) -2.75 mill expiring bond issue this year
0.00 mill No Additional Cost to you!



Secure St. Clairsville-Richland City Schools

No Additional cost to

SECURE OUR STUDENTS

Operating levy would pay for:

- > Repairs to elementary building
- > School resource officer
- > Upgrades to security system
- > Maintain current educational opportunities



On **May 7th**, please
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Dear Community Member,

The St. Clairsville-Richland City Board of Education passed a resolution to place a 2.75 mill operating levy on the May 7, 2013 ballot. **The amount of 2.75 mills was selected by the Board because it would not increase the amount of property taxes currently being paid.** The reason it would not increase property taxes is because of an expiring bond issue that is currently collecting 2.75 mills. The new levy will begin immediately after the bond issue expires thus continuing the current collection rates.

The Board stated that the levy is desperately needed for three main items:

- 1.) to make repairs to the Elementary School Building roof
- 2.) to make increases in security throughout the District
- 3.) to offset substantial reductions in state funding

The District is consulting with an architectural firm regarding the necessary repairs to the roof on the elementary building. Many of the classrooms and bathrooms have sustained substantial water damage over the last few years. The district has been making the necessary repairs but has concluded that a comprehensive redesign or replacement is needed. Many of the teachers have to cover their books and equipment with plastic every night in fear that it will rain and their instructional supplies will be ruined.

Another priority of the District is to ensure that the buildings are secure. The St. Clairsville-Richland City School District is one of the few districts in Belmont County that has been able to maintain a police officer on campus throughout the school year. The District wishes to maintain this level of security in addition to making improvements in doors, windows and communication systems. Due to the age of the buildings, improvements in these areas would greatly increase the effectiveness of the security measures the district has put in place.

Unfortunately, state funding to the St. Clairsville City School District has decreased dramatically. From fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2012 the District lost more than \$500,000 in state funding as reported on the five year forecast. The District is projected to lose more than \$200,000 in state funding this school year. These decreases are due to the lack of funding by the State of Ohio and bills passed which eliminated the tangible personal property (business inventory) tax reimbursements. The District has reduced its budget by \$2,800,000 over the past 5 years. These reductions have been in personnel and benefits. However, the District knows that it cannot continue to make more cuts and still maintain the excellent level of educational services that is expected by the community and the students.

The Board is very thankful for the support the community has shown in the past and the present. The community has supported the district in so many ways not to mention the new football field and elementary playground which were completely funded by private donations and funds raised by the Saints Club and the St. Clairsville Elementary School Community Playground Project Committee.

If you have any questions regarding the levy, please feel free to contact the Superintendent at 695-1624.

St. C. school levy is a replacement

May 1, 2013

ROBERT A. DEFRANK - Staff Writer , Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - As Election Day approaches, the St. Clairsville City School District continues to promote the proposed continuous 2.75-mill operating levy. It would replace the expiring 2002 operating levy.

Superintendent Walter Skaggs stresses the district's need for the levy and the administration's efforts to remain fiscally sound in the face of mounting needs and government cuts.

Skaggs said the levy would impose no additional taxes. It would replace the expiring 2002 operating levy. He noted the timing of the decision to place the levy on the ballot after the repayment this year of a 2.95 bond for the construction of a connector building.

"We held off as long as we possibly could because the bond would be paid in full," he said, adding that this would mean no increase in expenses to the taxpayer.

The 2001 bond passed by only three votes. This was after the public decisively voted down two levies in 1999 and 2000 to construct a new complex.

Administrators have pointed out water damage in the classrooms. The schools have resorted to measures such as covering computers and placing buckets out to catch rain during storms.

"The elementary roof is priority No. 1," Skaggs said, adding that the roof is well past its 20-year projected duration. "It's beyond its life's expectancy, and we need to replace that."

After the roof is repaired, focus would move to the doors and windows. The doors offer poor security and are a source of heat loss.

"Those are the big three things we need to get done," Skaggs said. "Those are our priorities."

He added that the staff has taken pay freezes in the past three years as well as concessions in insurance, retirement and staffing. More than 30 positions were eliminated or changed in the last five years. A total of 22 were eliminated with 13 reduced or replaced with entry level posts.

The district also has seen a \$653,000 per year decrease in state collections from 2002 to 2013. Overall, Skaggs reported a \$1.2 million reduction in state funding.

At the same time, the student population during past seven years has increased by 100 children. The student body is approximately 1,650. Skaggs noted the district's administrative expenditures per pupil are the lowest in the county.

St. Clairsville has consistently met most of the indicators on the state report card. About 80 percent of graduates then go on to two- or four-year programs.

The five years of staff cuts and adjustments resulted in a cumulative savings of \$2.8 million, or 21 percent of the current budget.

Skaggs said the levy would bring necessary upgrades.

"It's by no means a cure-all," he said.

In addition, thanks go to community organizations and volunteers for assisting in projects to upgrade the elementary playground and the middle school auditorium, completed at no cost to the taxpayers. The district security plan was funded through a Homeland Security grant.

"I ask for the support of the community and the citizens of our district. We feel we've been fiscally responsible, and we will continue to be fiscally responsible and spend taxpayer money wisely," he said.

DeFrank can be reached at rdefrank@timesleaderonline.com.