

MILTON-UNION EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
West Milton Village Office

Unofficial
Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Milton-Union Exempted Village Board of Education was called to order by President Dehus, on July 23, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Dehus, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Long

Absent: Mrs. Minneman, and Mrs. Swigart

Visitors: Ohio Representative Dick Adams

NEW BUSINESS

Team Management

A motion was presented by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Huffman to enter into Team Management Work Session

Vote: Yeas: Mr. Dehus, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Long

Nays: None

President Dehus declared the motion passed by a vote of 3 for and 0 against.

President Dehus thanked Representative Adams for attending and presented the following Board of Education concerns about the new state biennium budget and how it will affect the future of Milton-Union Schools.

We need to provide you with our financial history over the past five years.

A) Local Revenues - We have asked for no new operating funds since 2001.
As you know, HB920 prohibits us from receiving more than the amount raised by the original millage. Our current renewing levies are:

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| 1) 10.9 operating levy | current effective millage 9.47 |
| 2) 17.9 operating levy | current effective millage 8.63 |
| 3) 3.0 permanent improvement levy | current effective millage 1.97 |

B) State Revenues - Our State revenues have decreased by 1,069,506 dollars per year or a 9% decrease over the past five years. This has been due to the elimination or reduction of tangible personal property taxes, bus subsidies, utility taxes, and the level of State Foundation reimbursement.

C) We have taken many steps to cut our expenditures over the last five years.

1) We have gone from 189 positions to 150 positions.

Our current expenditures are \$110,000.00 less than they were in 2008 and our salary payroll is \$743,000.00 less than what it was in 2008.

2) Salary and step increases have been frozen for three years.

3) We have the lowest per pupil expenditure in the county at \$8,474.00 compared to the State average of \$10,600.00.

D) We can't cut any further without doing serious damage to the quality of education in our district. We are continuing to see cost increases in many areas such as health insurance (up 43%), utilities, supplies and buses. We will have to negotiate new employee contracts for the next school year. Then add to all of that the unfounded mandates imposed by State government such as the 3rd grade guarantee, new testing requirements and the infrastructure for those requirements, the bullying mandate, and home schoolers in extra curricular activities without reimbursement.

E) Expansion of the voucher system. We currently lose approximately \$230,000.00 as a result of the voucher programs. This has obviously been expanded in HB59.

Then we get hit by the shock of the HB59 Budget Bill. Poor and rural schools like Milton-Union get little or no increase in State funding while Oakwood, Kettering, Troy, and Centerville get the maximum (10.25%). You then include provisions in HB59 to make it nearly impossible for us to pass new local levies to obtain additional funding.

Capping the Homestead Exemption at \$30,000.00 and eliminating the 12.5% rollback will penalize homeowners and seniors and will reduce support for local levies. Yes, property evaluations on farm land in our township have increased dramatically over the past few years. Can you imagine how farmers will respond to new levy requests?

Funding Formula Discussion: Representative Adams reported that the House did not like the formula introduced by the governor and had changed the governor's formula and increased funding. He also reported the legislature was doing the best it could with the revenue it had.

Treasurer Klein observed that there would be more revenue available if the income tax had not been reduced again. He also observed that current funding is not at the level that was received prior to the cuts made in the previous biennium.

Mr. Huffman commented that he felt the formula was poorly designed when small rural school districts receive no or small increases in funding when better off districts receive 10% increases in funding. Mr. Huffman indicated that the support for large urban districts who are not doing a good job educating and spending much more per child, while the lack of support for districts like Milton-Union is hard to understand.

Superintendent Rammel said that local Superintendents were not happy with the funding provided. Dr. Adams said it is true that some districts are not happy, but several districts, such as Covington, received good funding increases. Treasurer Klein reported that small town and rural districts between 6.4% and 8.1% increases from FY13 to FY15, while Urban, suburban and wealthy districts received between 11.3% to 15.3% increases over the same period.

Representative Adams suggested that there was very little lobbying for small town and rural districts. He suggested the board members should create a coalition in OSBA. There are coalitions for urban districts and they lobby effectively. Mr. Long and M. Huffman indicated they would pursue this idea.

Voucher Expansion Discussion: Representative Adams reported that many members feel that competition is good for school districts. He also reported than many members feel that public schools do not a good job that the state funding should follow students wherever they go to school.

Treasurer Klein indicated that vouchers and community schools were introduced to solve Cleveland and then urban problems. Now they are being expanded to all districts. We have 42 students attending community schools.

Representative Adams reported that we have advocated for funding community schools directly, not through the district of residents.

Rollback Elimination for New or Replacement Levies: President Dehus asked Representative Adams what he could do to change this provision of HB59. Representative Adams reported it only effected new money not renewals or current levies.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was presented by Mr. Huffman and seconded by Mr. Long to adjourn. President Dehus declared the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.