

**GENEVA AREA CITY SCHOOLS  
FIVE YEAR FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS  
FORECASTED FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2016 THROUGH 2020  
Board Approved 10/21/15**

**REVENUES**

**Property Taxes (1.010 & 1.020)**

Property tax revenue estimates are based on historical growth patterns, including scheduled updates and reappraisals, and normally substantiated by information provided for the current fiscal year from the county auditor (the county auditor's information is supplied by calendar year).

Ashtabula County sexennial reappraisal schedule: 2008, 2014, 2020  
Ashtabula County triennial update schedule: 2005, 2011, 2017

2008 valuation \$353,225,683	increased \$28,026,483 or 8.62%, mostly due to reappraisal.
2009 valuation \$357,957,955	increased \$4,732,272 or 1.34%
2010 valuation \$361,867,310	increased \$3,909,355 or 1.09%
2011 valuation \$340,642,150	decreased \$21,225,160 or 5.87%, due to triennial update
2012 valuation \$344,510,750	increased \$3,868,600 or 1.14%
2013 valuation \$337,329,580	decreased \$7,181,170 or 2.08% (\$12,068,830 increase offset by removal of SPIRE Institute value at \$19,250,000)
2014 valuation \$340,394,740	increased \$3,065,160 or .90%

Increases in actual collections are kept down by HB920 reduction factors, which offset the effects of reappraisals and updates on previously existing property.

The District's real estate collections dropped \$66,343 in FY2012 and \$32,330 in FY2013, mostly from the District's three inside mills. Collections dropped an additional \$39,063 in FY2014. For FY2015, real estate collections increased \$193,512, basically from the Commercial/Industrial component.

All District current operating levies are continuing.

The District was at the 20-mill floor until tax year 2010, when devaluation took us to a 21.176 effective rate on Residential/Agricultural and a 21.405 effective rate on Commercial/Industrial for 2011. The County Auditor showed the District at 21.188 Res/Ag and 21.483 Com/Ind. in 2012, 21.197 Res/Ag and 21.491 Com/Ind. in 2013, and currently shows the District at 21.659 and 22.230 in 2014.

House Bill 66 phased out the tax on the tangible personal property of telephone and telecommunications companies, eliminating it by 2011. The county auditor distributed collections on public utility personal property through the real estate settlements, so the phase out also affected our real estate revenues.

Conditions in the housing market resulted in decreasing valuations, slowing down growth in real estate collections. The Ohio Department of Taxation predicted that the problems in the housing market would haunt us at least through 2014. Their recommendation to counties was to show negative or no growth in residential property values. In Geneva's case, FY2012 showed a 1.00% decrease, FY2013 showed a .5% decrease and FY2014 ended with a .6% decrease, before FY2015 ended with a 2.98% increase. The previous three fiscal years (FY2011, FY2010, FY2009) after the 2008 reappraisal showed 4.44%, 4.35% and 2.65% increases over the previous year real estate collections. Compare this to FY2007 and FY2006 which showed 8.61% and 2.35% increases after the 2005 update. This forecast projects increases of .5% for FY2016, .5% for FY2017, 1% for FY2018, 1% for FY2019, and .5% for FY2020.

The Board voted to put an emergency operating levy on the ballot in November 2011, which failed 62% to 38%. The Board put another emergency operating levy on the ballot in August 2012, which failed 60.5% to 39.5%. The Board has made no

further plans to be on the ballot for operating funds, but discussions have begun to determine when additional funds will be needed.

House Bill 66 phased out the tax on tangible personal property of general businesses and railroads over the period from 2006 to 2010. The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) released information establishing tax year 2004 as the base year and showing the tax value losses, by tax year, throughout the phase-out period. Using tables provided by ODT for Geneva Area City Schools, our forecasts began applying the tangible personal property revenue losses on a fiscal year basis beginning with FY2007. Calendar year 2011 was the final year of the phase out. Any revenue showing on this line since FY2012 is from delinquent collections.

House Bill 66 replaced the revenue lost due to phasing out the tangible personal property tax. Through FY07, these payments consisted of direct payments that were simply portions of the losses, spread out in three payments during the fiscal year. For FY08, the calculations of the reimbursements involved the calculation of an offset in the SF-3 and took into account the increases in the tax losses from year to year because the tax reduction was being phased in and increased each year. The offset was needed first in FY08, because that was the first fiscal year in which the reduced tax year 2006 valuations were used in SF-3 calculations, and thus affected the amount of SF-3 funds the district received. Unfortunately for school districts, Governor Kasich's proposal to do away with the reimbursements was included in HB153 (the FY2012-FY2013 biennial budget legislation), phasing them out completely in two years for most districts.

## Income Tax (1.030)

No income tax is currently on the books, and the District does not anticipate any new income tax levies during this period.

## Unrestricted & Restricted Grants-In-Aid (1.035 & 1.040)

### DeRolph Note

On March 24, 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court rendered a decision declaring certain portions of the Ohio school funding plan unconstitutional. The Court stayed the effect of its ruling for one year to allow the Ohio General Assembly to design a plan to remedy the perceived defects in the system. Declared unconstitutional was the State's "School Foundation Program," which provides significant amounts of monetary support to the School District.

After the first Supreme Court ruling, numerous pieces of legislation were passed by the Ohio General Assembly in an attempt to address the issues identified by the Court. The Court of Common Pleas in Perry County reviewed the new laws and, in a decision issued on February 26, 1999, determined they were not sufficiently responsive to the constitutional issues raised under the "thorough and efficient" clause of the Ohio Constitution. The State appealed the decision made by the Court of Common Pleas to the Ohio Supreme Court, which again upheld the lower court ruling. The Ohio General Assembly had a new deadline of June 15, 2001. Amended Substitute HB94 was the State's reply to DeRolph, and after being reviewed by the Ohio Supreme Court, it too was found to be lacking. Nonetheless, the Ohio Supreme Court gave the Ohio General Assembly and Governor Taft credit for trying, and decided to put the case to rest as long as the General Assembly tweaked their response with a few changes. The State defendants waffled on the changes, and instead requested a review. The Ohio Supreme Court requested the parties work with a mediator in an attempt to see if the school funding case could be settled. A master commissioner was appointed to preside over the Court-ordered settlement conference on November 16, 2001. On March 21, 2002, the mediator issued his final report indicating that the conference was unable to produce a settlement, so the case was sent back to the Court for reconsideration.

In DeRolph IV, issued December 11, 2002, the Supreme Court directed the General Assembly to enact a school-funding scheme that is thorough and efficient, as explained in DeRolph I and II, and the accompanying concurrences. The Supreme Court did not retain jurisdiction, but sent the matter to the Court of Common Pleas for Perry County to carry the Judgment into execution. Nothing was done to remedy the problem.

On May 16, 2003, the Ohio Supreme Court denied Plaintiffs the right to pursue a remedy in the Perry County Court of Common Pleas. Paragraph 33 of that decision states “The duty now lies with the General Assembly to remedy an educational system that has been found by the majority in DeRolph IV to still be unconstitutional.”

Assumption: The governor and legislature will continue to ignore the four Ohio Supreme Court DeRolph decisions.

### Changes in State Funding Method

Through FY2009: SF3, a per pupil funding method, with categorical funding, guarantees, and residual funding. Geneva’s funding was flat for FY2008 and FY2009.

FY2010-FY2011: PASS Report, based on the Ohio Evidenced-Based Model (OEBM), with guarantees. First time a funding method used actual methodology rather than the residual method. Provided resources for defined areas, but some categories were phased in and not fully funded. Transitional aid guaranteed a reduction of no more than 1% for FY2010 from FY2009 funding and no more than 2% for FY2011 from FY2010. Federal Stimulus was used to temporarily replace some state funding due to a state budget shortfall. This was done through State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (SFSF), which accounted for 6.3% of state funding in FY2010 and 7.8% in FY2011.

FY2012-FY2013: The Bridge Formula, a transitional approach used because a new funding mechanism was not formulated by the new governor, was a return to residual budgeting. A permanent formula was not expected until FY2014. This method did not replace the loss of federal stimulus dollars used the previous two years. The Federal Education Jobs bill partially replaced the loss of federal stimulus for FY2012. This plan also phased out tangible personal property reimbursements completely by FY2013 for most districts.

Problem: Total state aid package reductions of \$1,443,161 forced the District to look for ways to reduce already lean expenditures. The new state budget also eliminated additional EMIS, Career Tech, and Gifted Testing funding, but required that these things still be done even with reduced state funding.

FY2014-FY2015: Governor Kasich’s much-heralded budget proposal released as HB59 presented a completely new school funding formula that included several components meant to target funds to districts/students to meet various needs. It was based on an arbitrary amount of funds (Core Opportunity Aid) that could be raised on \$250,000 valuation per pupil, which equated to \$5,000 per pupil, \$732 per pupil less than the previous base funding. The “Achievement Everywhere” funding formula would have put 316 districts, including Geneva, on a guarantee for FY2014, and 398 districts on a guarantee for FY2015. After the House and Senate passed altered forms of the budget bill, a conference committee approved its final recommendations on the bill on June 25, 2013. The bill was then approved by the House and Senate on June 27, 2013. The final bill used per pupil funding of \$5,745 for FY2014 and \$5,800 for FY2015 to establish the Opportunity Aid and made other changes to funding levels for other targeted funds.

FY2016-FY2017: Governor Kasich’s budget proposal, introduced as HB 64, supposedly directed state support to the districts with less capacity to meet their own needs, but somehow poorer districts like Geneva saw decreases in funding while wealthy districts and charter schools saw the increases. While the per-pupil amounts would increase to \$5,900 in FY2016 and \$6,000 in FY2017, Geneva would receive \$195,635 less the first year and an additional \$193,679 less the second year as Governor Kasich began phasing out the transitional aid guarantee. The House made positive structural changes to the school-funding formula with a hold-harmless provision, so that no district loses foundation formula aid when comparing FY15 to FY17. After moving through the Senate, the conference committee, and the Governor’s line-item veto, the final version of the bill gave Geneva no increased funding, but gave charter schools an additional \$100 per pupil each year.

### State Aid Assumptions

- State Resources for Foundation are taken from the October No. 1 Foundation Settlement Report and School Finance Payment Report (SFPR) Worksheet for FY2016. Subsequent years anticipate no increase, but that could be optimistic.
- Preschool Special Education Unit funding reflects the October No. 1 SFPR amount for all years of the forecast. The District expects to maintain the same number of units throughout and anticipates this will continue to be funded. HB59

provided for state funding of preschool special education programs to be based on a per-pupil calculation as opposed to the unit based methodology that was in place prior to FY2014. This increased the amount funded, beginning in February 2014, and is separate from the guarantee.

- Special Education Transportation funding also reflects the October No. 1 SFPR throughout. While cuts have been made to the transportation of regular students, the District expects to maintain the same level of service for its special education population and anticipates the continuance of this funding.
- HB59 discontinued the special education home instruction reimbursement.
- A Career Technical amount is shown as restricted aid after being deducted from regular Foundation funding. The state continued to show this as an amount equal to the FY2011 allocation through FY2013, even though it was originally thought that the amount would decrease because the Career-Based Intervention (CBI) program was cut in half as part of expenditure reductions. The October No. 1 SFPR shows \$22,695, which will be used throughout the forecast.
- Beginning with the end of November 2013, ODE changed the coding for Economic Disadvantaged Funding from Unrestricted to Restricted. This move took over \$360,000 out of State Resources for Foundation. As unrestricted funding, this money was used to meet basic operating costs, but with this change, the fear is that it may eventually require the money to be spent for a specific purpose. The \$463,802 showing on the October No. 1 SFPR will be used throughout the forecast.
- Catastrophic aid is provided to districts that document the need for additional state aid for school age special education students whose cost of education exceeds a certain amount set by the State. The amounts recorded reflect partial reimbursement because this program has never been fully funded. The actual amount received had been between 15% and 20% of the eligible amount. The total filed for FY2013 was delayed as a new online filing system was developed by ODE, but the funding level was substantially increased. The District received \$119,080.88 at the beginning of FY2015, which represented 56.5% of the eligible amount. The District had previously received \$31,221.69 for FY2012 and \$36,852.05 for FY2011. Reimbursement for FY2014, received in June 2015, was \$76,468.82, or 44.9% of the eligible amount. Because the amount received fluctuates according to the number of eligible claims filed and the appropriation by the state, this forecast is going to project reimbursement at \$75,000 per year.

Any substantial change in the way public schools are funded could have a material effect on this forecast. For instance, Governor Kasich is still targeting the Transitional Aid Guarantee for phase out. FY2014 had 191 districts on this guarantee, with 177 in FY2015. **Geneva’s Transitional Aid Guarantee amount is currently \$1,698,370 for FY2016, which would create a huge funding gap if it was phased out.** The assumption here is that the guarantee won’t be phased out during the life of this forecast.

ADM is inconsequential to this forecast. As long as the District is on the guarantee, changes in ADM won’t have any effect on total funding amounts. The formula ADM is shown flat throughout the forecast.

**A note on casino revenue:** A portion of the taxes paid by casinos is to be allocated to school districts as enumerated in a constitutional amendment to be used to support primary and secondary education. Casino revenue payments were distributed on January 31, 2013 to all public school districts based on the schools’ student enrollment data as uploaded into EMIS on December 26, 2012. Geneva received \$55,662. This was the only distribution for FY2013. Starting in FY2014, there were two distributions per fiscal year on August 31<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>. Casino revenue is to be posted to the general fund as “Other Unrestricted Grants in Aid” and included on line 1.035 of the five-year forecast. The District received \$66,967 on 8/30/13, \$68,054 on 1/31/14, \$65,205 on 8/29/14, and \$65,874 on 1/30/15. Originally it was thought that overall distributions would decrease each year as the casino novelty wears off and competition from other gambling venues increases. The first payment received for FY2015 was \$66,647 on 8/31/15. This forecast will project stable payments.

The table below shows projected numbers based on the October No. 1 School Finance Payment Report (SFPR) Worksheet:

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Formula ADM	2,417.55	2,417.55	2,417.55	2,417.55	2,417.55

State Resources for Foundation	10,886,167	10,886,167	10,886,167	10,886,167	10,886,167
Preschool Unit Funding	141,655	141,655	141,655	141,655	141,655
Special Ed. Transportation	64,582	64,582	64,582	64,582	64,582
Special Ed. Home Instruct. Adj.					
High Performing Subsidy					
Casino Tax Revenue	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000
Prior Year SFPR Adj. & Other	3,000				
<b>Total Unrestricted Aid (1.035)</b>	<b>11,227,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>
<b>Total Restricted Federal Aid (1.045)</b>					
<b>Total "Foundation Support"</b>	<b>11,227,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>	<b>11,224,404</b>
Economic Disadvantaged Funding	463,802	463,802	463,802	463,802	463,802
Career Tech/Adult Ed.	22,695	22,695	22,695	22,695	22,695
Catastrophic Cost	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
<b>Total Restricted Aid (1.040)</b>	<b>561,497</b>	<b>561,497</b>	<b>561,497</b>	<b>561,497</b>	<b>561,497</b>

## Restricted Federal Grants-in-Aid (1.045)

In 2009, Ohio was allocated \$845 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) to help stabilize state and local budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in education and other essential services. SFSF was awarded for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. Geneva's share was \$775,947 in FY2010 and \$941,573 in FY2011. This money was simply used to supplant state aid. SFSF funds were received through the Foundation Settlements during the fiscal year. The funds were used to retain teaching jobs and expended through the subsequent fiscal year as teacher contracts were paid off.

Congress passed and the President signed legislation that provided \$10 billion in resources to assist local school districts in saving or creating education jobs during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. The Education Jobs grant could be used only for compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services, necessary to retain existing employees, to recall or rehire former employees, and to hire new employees, in order to provide early childhood, elementary, or secondary educational and related services. Geneva used these funds, \$693,655, in FY2012 to help make up some of the loss of SFSF dollars. While the SFSF dollars were received in total within each fiscal year through the Foundation program, but expended between September and August, the Education Jobs money was received by Project Cash Request through the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) Application only as it was spent. Since this money was used to supplant teacher salaries and fringe benefits that would normally be paid from the General Fund, it was received as it was expended from September 2011 through August 2012. The forecast history showed \$551,621 being received during FY2012 and \$142,034 during FY2013, after which there is no more Federal Aid forecasted.

## Property Tax Allocation (1.050)

The property tax allocation, better known as Rollback and Homestead, is reimbursement from the state of Ohio for tax credits given owner-occupied residences equaling 12.5% of the gross property taxes charged residential taxpayers and up to 10% for commercial and industrial taxpayers. For property owners over age 65, a Homestead reimbursement is available. For the purpose of this forecast, the District's property tax allocation is calculated as a percentage of the general property tax projection. This percentage was 13.58% for FY2012, 13.72% for FY2013 and 13.91% for FY2014. FY2015 finished at \$918,919, or 13.74%. The last three years average 13.79%, which will be used for this forecast.

Fixed Rate Levy Loss Reimbursements for TPP were to be received beginning with FY2006 through FY2013 for each qualifying fixed rate levy, and the payments were to be made beginning in May 2006, and then every August, October and

May through May 2013. These payments were direct payments only. Gains in the SF-3 (offsets) started in FY08 when Tax Year 06 data was used in the SF-3 calculation. These changes were already included in Formula Aid. Our District received \$26,943 in FY06, \$206,227 during FY07, \$352,496 during FY08, \$503,086 in FY09, \$701,633 in FY10, and \$734,036 in FY2011. The phase-out period would have started in August of 2013 and would have continued for the following six years, with the final payment in May of 2019. The Governor's proposal in HB153 began and accelerated the phase-out starting in FY2012, so the District only received \$331,821 during FY2012 and nothing thereafter. By 2013, the TPP reimbursement was completely phased out for Geneva.

## All Other Revenues (1.060)

These amounts are estimated based on past trends and researching activity over the past two years in detail, and include such items as manufactured homes tax, open enrollment, tuition from parents or other districts, other student fees, investment interest income, pay to participate fees and other miscellaneous.

Changes were made to the manufactured homes tax that reduced the amount collected compared to previous years. The county auditor's office revealed that a number of mobile home owners had been putting permanent foundations on their dwellings, which pushed them to real estate. This tax was also reduced by the increase in the Homestead reimbursement. FY2011 showed \$42,134 and \$40,259 was received in FY2012, but only \$34,001 was received in FY2013. FY2014 rebounded a little with \$38,781, while FY2015 dropped slightly to \$38,733. Projections show collections continuing to decrease each year.

An agreement was reached with the Ashtabula County Commissioners to replace revenue lost after the County's takeover of the water company. The agreement required that the County reimburse the District \$69,365 for ten years, beginning with 2004, which was receipted into the General Fund as a payment in lieu of taxes. A similar agreement was reached with the city of Geneva that required payments of \$45,330.60 for ten years, beginning with FY2006 and ending in FY2015. An additional "Tax Incentive Donation Agreement" was entered into with Nordic Air for five years, which began with a half payment of \$13,204 in FY2006 and full payments of \$26,407 from FY2007 through FY2011.

The number of students coming into the District via open enrollment had been increasing each year. The Board's Inter-District Open Enrollment policy has caps limiting the number of students entering the junior high and high school. FY2012 figures were \$1,524,608 for 267.28 funded full-time equivalent students, but FY2013 dropped to 250.18 students funded for \$1,427,038 and FY2014 had only 243.83 students funded for \$1,387,923. The numbers increased for FY2015 to \$1,482,403 for 258.01. The funded FTE from the October No. 1 SFPR is used throughout the forecast. Per-pupil amounts are \$5,900 for FY2016 and \$6,000 for FY2017.

FY2013 and FY2014 saw the largest amounts ever received as tuition from other districts, \$285,728 and \$279,979. The previous year saw only \$161,110. Since this category has fluctuated over the past three years, the amount of reimbursement expected is reduced to \$213,000 per year on the forecast, similar to the amount received in FY2015.

Interest income is dependent on available cash flows and market conditions affecting interest rates. Cash flows in this forecast are projected to decrease, and interest rates are at record lows. It is difficult to tell when the economy will improve and when interest rates might begin to rise. This forecast doesn't expect conditions to improve until after 2015. Funds are predominantly invested in a good balance of CDs and federal agencies, with some liquid funds in a money market account. Security is the top priority of the investment philosophy of the District. The District received only \$25,913 for FY2013, but the income increased to \$49,152 in FY2014 and possibly \$70,116 in FY2015. This forecast shows interest frozen at \$70,116 for the remainder of the forecast as cash balances decline.

Miscellaneous includes property rentals, donations, administrative fees for Auxiliary Services and gas tanks, and insurance proceeds. An agreement with the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency for a Head Start unit at Cork Elementary pays \$600 per month during the school year beginning in FY2014. Insurance proceeds of \$27,397 were received in FY2015. The closure of Assumption School will decrease the administrative fees for Auxiliary Services. After the \$36,854 received in FY2015, this forecast will show \$15,000 beginning with FY2016.

Geneva Area City Schools entered into a lease agreement with the Geneva area Recreation, Education, and Athletic Trust (GaREAT) for GaREAT's SPIRE Academy to use portions of Geneva High School at times when it was not needed for

School District purposes. The Agreement was to pay the School District \$400,000 per year for five years beginning in July 2012, with an option for GaREAT to extend the Agreement for two additional five-year terms. Quarterly payments were to be received. The first payment of \$100,000 was received within ten days after the signing of the Agreement, so the next payment wasn't expected until October 1, 2012. The District was informed before then that since SPIRE entered into an agreement with Andrews Osborne Academy for the small group of students attending SPIRE's academy, they wouldn't be using the high school until their academy numbers grew, so they wouldn't be making any further payments. The SPIRE agreement was terminated by the Board and the money forecasted previously has been removed.

The Geneva Area City Schools Board of Education implemented a Pay to Participate Policy at their 4/18/12 Board meeting. The amount collected for FY2013 was \$76,055, with \$77,970 collected in FY2014, and \$78,926 collected in FY2015. It is estimated that \$79,000 will be collected each year to help offset the cost of salaries and fringe benefits charged to the General Fund for coaches and student activity advisors at the high school and middle school. Any further reduction in sports or activities could greatly impact this dollar amount.

The following is a summary of All Other Revenues:

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Other Local Taxes	38,733	38,500	38,300	38,100	37,900	37,700
Payment In Lieu of Taxes	45,331	0	0	0	0	0
Open Enrollment In Funded FTE	1,482,403 258.01	1,506,989 257.46	1,532,735 257.46	1,532,735 257.46	1,532,735 257.46	1,532,735 257.46
Tuition from Parents	3,620	12,292	0	0	0	0
Tuition from Other Districts	212,906	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000
Student Fees	2,388	2,388	2,388	2,388	2,388	2,388
Interest Income	70,116	70,116	70,116	70,116	70,116	70,116
Miscellaneous	36,854	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
SPIRE Rental Agreement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pay to Participate	78,926	79,000	79,000	79,000	79,000	79,000
<b>Total (1.060)</b>	<b>1,971,277</b>	<b>1,937,285</b>	<b>1,950,539</b>	<b>1,950,339</b>	<b>1,950,139</b>	<b>1,949,939</b>

## Transfers & Advances-In (2.040 & 2.050)

All advances over year-end are planned to be returned in the succeeding fiscal year. The last time the District had a need to advance was in FY2007. The hope is that no more advances will be necessary in the future.

## All Other Financing Sources (2.060)

This line item includes the sale of real and non-real property and refunds of prior-year expenditures.

The former Geneva Elementary property was sold by the Board to the city of Geneva for \$161,593 after closing. The first payment of \$40,093 was received in FY2012 at closing. Subsequent payments of \$40,500 will be received for three years. The Board approved the sale of the Board office property to the city of Geneva on 1/16/13 at a price of \$103,000, payable in installments of \$20,600 over four years, after the closing installment of 19,851.75 during FY2013.

FY2012 included \$23,935 from auctions at Austinburg and Cork Elementary schools. With all the new buildings open and no further auctions expected, only \$3,500 per year will be projected for non-real property sales, except for FY2014 when the District sold three buses to Brookfield Local Schools for \$6,500 and FY2015 when two more buses went to Brookfield for \$10,900.

Refunds of prior-year expenditures fluctuate from year to year. FY2008 to FY2012 showed a range from \$20,200 to \$82,549. However, in FY2013, the District began receiving vendor E-rate reimbursements in the form of a check after the prior fiscal year was complete, as opposed to previous years when they came off invoice. After next year, they should go

back to expenditure reductions. Also, SERS refunds of \$30,677 in FY2013 and \$84,936 in FY2014 were received, but after a \$106,460 refund in FY2015, no more refunds are expected in future years. A BWC rebate in the amount of \$51,731 was received at the beginning of FY2014, and another BWC rebate in the amount of \$50,184 was received in FY2015. After receipting \$161,538 in this category in FY2014 and \$216,480 during FY2015, projections are for \$35,000 per year for the remainder of the forecast.

## EXPENDITURES

### Personal Services and Benefits (3.010 & 3.020)

The amounts for salaries and benefits are based on existing negotiated agreements as well as historical patterns. Percentage increases in the base amount are usually accompanied by additional increases because of step or class advances. Savings gained by the replacement of experienced personnel through retirements or resignations are often offset by retirement/severance payouts. In order to help keep the District out of the red in FY2012, a full wage freeze was negotiated with both unions.

The District applied for and received a waiver to delay the implementation of all-day, every-day Kindergarten for FY2011, and then again for FY2012 and FY2013. The District had planned to implement all-day, every-day Kindergarten for 2012-2013 once construction of the final two elementary schools was complete. Although the District recognizes the need for all-day, every-day Kindergarten, it was not implemented in order to prevent further staff reductions. This kept the additional cost of \$230,776 per year out of the forecast. The additional cost for FY2015 would have been \$261,413. For FY2016, a change will be made from all-day, every-other day Kindergarten to half-day, every-day Kindergarten at an additional cost of \$25,000 for salaries and \$4,000 for fringe benefits for the additional mid-day bus routes.

A reduction in force of 3.5 teachers for FY2012 reduced \$213,116 in salaries and \$51,596 in fringes for FY2012, and an additional \$40,492 in salaries and \$7,426 in fringes in FY2013.

In order to avoid a low cash balance in FY2012 and a deficit in FY2013, mid-year classified reductions were instituted. Cuts made included bus driver, phone operator, library aides, in-school suspension and custodians for a savings of \$44,900 in salaries and \$36,949 in fringes for FY2012. Reinstatement of a half-time library aide at the High School reduced FY2013 savings to \$148,484 in salaries and \$88,966 in fringes.

Decreased state aid forced further cuts. Eliminated were 15.5 teaching positions and 26 coaches and student activity advisors, along with additional classified reductions at savings of \$820,875 in salaries and \$259,600 in fringes for FY2013 and \$972,968 in salaries and \$304,929 in fringes for FY2014. At the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, a decision was made to put back three elementary teachers, one CBI teacher, and one PE teacher. Also, it was discovered that it was difficult to provide supervision for both the varsity and JV golf teams with one coach, so the girls and boys assistant golf coaches were reinstated. These actions reduced the savings in FY2013 by \$195,072 in salaries and \$66,168 in fringes and for FY2014 by \$223,198 in salaries and \$74,079 in fringes.

For FY2013, a wage freeze was again negotiated with both unions, with the exception of the educational credit for teachers, which added an additional \$60,000 in salaries. In January and February of 2014, negotiations were concluded for FY14, FY15 and FY16. Teachers received a 1% base increase for each year with ½ step in FY14 and ¾ step in FY15 and FY16. Classified staff received a 1% base increase for each year retroactive to 1/20/14. As a result of the step increases offset by savings in class-size bonus payments, an additional cost of \$43,700 was shown for FY14, \$68,700 for FY15 and \$68,700 for FY16.

For FY2015, some personnel changes were made in order to maintain the new HVAC and technology in our new school buildings. These changes added \$92,219 in salaries and \$45,237 in fringes, with a plan to bring outside operations contracts in-house to realize operational savings. For FY2016, a teacher will return from a leave of absence replacing a lower-paid substitute and the Board plans to bring back Industrial Arts, add a study hall aide, pick up the full cost of cross country, and make a few other changes at a net cost of \$88,675 in salaries and \$72,532 in fringe benefits. A modest increase of 1% will be used to cover any changes in personal services for FY2016, in addition to the changes noted. The final four years of the forecast will show general increases of 2%.

Retirement, Workers Comp, and Medicare increase at the same rate as personal services. The only exception would be if the Workers' Comp rate increased or decreased. The District has worked hard to keep insurance costs down by changing insurance companies and negotiating changes in coverage.

FY2011 to FY2016 showed huge increases in medical claims expense. The District faced a situation where medical claims expense exceeded premiums paid, shrinking the required reserve. In order to continue to meet medical claims costs, a 15% increase (\$369,456) was put in place effective 10/1/12, fully paid by the Board. The District also increased the medical premium 10% in FY2014 (+\$236,350) and anticipated increasing 10% in FY2015 (+\$259,984), but had to raise that to 15% (+\$454,903) effective 10/1/14. It is hoped that these increases will bring medical premiums and claims expense in line with each other. To avoid large premium increases in the future, it may be necessary to increase premiums 5% each year.

Negotiations also changed the employee contribution to insurance premiums to a percentage with a hard dollar cap, 8% for FY14 and FY15 and 10% for FY16. The caps were reached in FY2016. Insurance premium savings offset by increases in payroll-related fringes as a result of the step increases allows a decrease of \$12,783 in FY14, \$39,808 in FY15 and \$97,608 in FY16. After the wage freeze shown in FY2013, an increase of 4% is projected to cover the multitude of fringe benefits throughout the rest of the forecast, with the adjustments mentioned.

Any increase in the number of personnel employed by the District beyond what is noted in the forecast could have a material effect on both the personal service and fringe benefit amounts.

### Purchased Services (3.030)

Anticipated expenditures in this area are based on historical patterns. There are quite a few expenses the District doesn't control. Open enrollment was added to this category effective with FY1999. A community school deduction cost the District \$497,749 in FY2013, \$689,137 in FY2014, and \$529,855 for FY2015. Deductions for excess costs, post secondary enrollment option, education choice scholarships, and court-placed students are included here. Districts throughout Ohio face the constant threat of losing students to an increasing number of for-profit charter schools and private school vouchers. The following chart shows the number of students projected to leave the district via open enrollment and the community school deduction and the money that will leave with them according to the October No. 1 2015 Foundation Settlement.

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Charter School Deduct	529,855	535,188	546,495	546,495	546,495	546,495
Total Student FTE	70.37	69.27	70	70	70	70
Open Enrollment Out	530,763	535,622	552,000	552,000	552,000	552,000
Funded FTE Out	92.15	91.53	92	92	92	92

Expenditure increases in this category have fluctuated over the years due to changes in the weather, utility costs and school repairs. Purchased services increased 5.86% in FY2013, 5.64% in FY2014, but only .73% in FY2015. A big part of the increase for FY2014 was the need for HVAC work to get all building systems working properly. With the completion of that work, this forecast projects a 1% increase for subsequent years. The District will be in compliance with the percentage requirements for set asides established by HB412 or SB345

### Supplies and Materials (3.040)

This category includes textbooks, software, supplies for classrooms and teachers, office supplies/materials, library supplies/periodicals/magazines, maintenance supplies, gasoline/diesel and parts/tires for buses. The average over the last four years has been \$775,829, with \$845,294 being spent in FY2015. This projection shows supplies at \$845,000 for FY2016 and increasing slightly each year. HB153 eliminated the set-aside for textbooks and materials, but this won't change the expenditure in this category.

## Capital Outlay (3.050)

Capital outlay expenditures are based on historical patterns. Included in capital outlay are expenditures for equipment, vehicles, building and land improvements, and construction.

The District had a bus replacement program in place that normally involved replacing three buses every year. Only two buses have been purchased in each of the last four years. Bus purchases in the future will depend on the financial outlook at the time and the use of PI funds to keep it out of the general fund.

The forecast will call for \$175,000 in capital expenditures each year. The District spent only \$53,643 in FY2012 and that was mostly through a donation. An effort will be made to keep technology up to date. The District will be in compliance with the percentage expenditure requirement for the capital and maintenance set aside established by HB412 or SB345. Necessary expenditures to meet the set-aside requirement are offset by proceeds from the District's .85 mill permanent improvement levy and the .5 mill OSFC maintenance levy.

## Other Objects (4.300)

This expense group includes county auditor and treasurer fees, fees on delinquent taxes paid, election expenses, bank charges, annual single audit, professional dues/fees/memberships, and student activity miscellaneous. Auditor and treasurer fees normally increase with additional revenue from property taxes. HB119 allowed the county auditors to increase these costs. Additional legislation allowing county auditors to recoup more costs led to an increase from \$211,855 in FY2010 to \$237,934 in FY2011. Additional increases will occur as the County Treasurer adds a fee for a county land bank to purge dilapidated properties.

A change in state law during FY2012 made it mandatory for all public school districts to align themselves with an educational service center and send the ESC \$6.50 per pupil and an additional amount for supervisory services. The total ESC deduction for FY2013 was \$81,125.37. A large portion of this charge was used to reduce an administrator's salary expense. The supervisory portion of this deduction was eliminated in HB59, leaving just the \$6.50 per pupil, or about \$16,665.

## Other Financing Uses, Advances/Transfers-Out (5.010, 5.020 & 5.030)

Anticipated expenditures in these areas are based on historical patterns. This expense group primarily accounts for Board transfers to Lunchroom, Athletics, Band, and EMIS. This forecast does not project any advances to any funds per the note under Advances-In.

Lunchroom has made an outstanding effort to adjust staffing needs by attrition, mainly because of decreased enrollment and fewer lunches served, and made great progress in decreasing the transfer. In FY2012, for the first time ever, no transfer was needed to Lunchroom, mainly because of no calamity days. Insurance premium increases drive the transfer up.

Transfers for FY2014 were \$26,753 to Lunchroom, \$32,493 to Athletics, and \$2,870 to Band for a total of \$62,116. An additional one-time transfer of \$22,000 was required to the Underground Storage Tank Fund as authorized by Board resolution 71-12 and to satisfy Ohio's financial responsibility requirements. Transfers increased to \$97,467 for FY2015 and are projected to rise because of additional needs in Lunchroom and Athletics.

## Encumbrances (8.010)

These are outstanding purchase orders that have not been approved for payment as goods were not received in the fiscal year in which they were ordered. Encumbrances were \$197,676 in FY2012 and \$125,145 in FY2013, but increased to \$261,687 for FY2014 before dropping slightly to \$252,571 in FY2015. The number used for the forecast will be \$250,000.

## HB412 Reserve Balance (9.010-9.030)

Beginning with FY1999, each public school district in Ohio was required to spend or set-aside 2% for instructional materials; 2% for capital improvements; and 1% for budget reserve. For subsequent years, 3% was to be expended or set-aside for instructional materials and capital improvements; and 1% was to be set-aside in a budget reserve fund each year in which a district's revenue increased by 3% until said fund reached 5%.

With SB345, the requirement for school districts to maintain a budget reserve was eliminated. The funds that had been previously placed in the budget reserve may, at the discretion of the Board, be returned to the District's general fund or left in the account. However, the Workers' Compensation rebate that was put into the budget reserve can only be used for one of the following purposes: to offset a budget deficit, for school facility construction or repair, for textbooks and instructional materials, for purchase of school buses, or for professional development of teachers. With the adoption of this forecast, the Board resolves that the current balance will remain in the budget reserve until the Board decides its disposition.

This financial forecast includes the requirements of SB345. Governor Kasich's first budget did away with the requirement for a textbook and instructional materials set aside. It is anticipated that qualifying expenditures for capital improvements will be made each year leaving a zero balance at the end of each year.

## REVENUE FROM NEW LEVIES (13.010 & 13.020)

Previous forecasts addressed state funding cuts by cutting needed programs and staff. The trend of excess expenditures over revenues (line 6.010) had been downward, with eight out of nine years showing deficit spending until reversing that trend in FY2012 with budget cuts. It is very difficult to project five years given what is known today.

The current biennium budget is far from adequate and represented a big change from previous funding formulas, for the fourth time in eight years. The governor and the legislature have continually failed to address any of the DeRolph decisions. The nation experienced an economic downturn in 2008 and state government faced budget deficits. A previous governor addressed these deficits by further reducing school funding. After several years of state income tax reductions (instead of addressing the school funding issue), Ohio announced cuts late in the year in the education budget, always leaving the possibility of more cuts in the future after the budget is supposedly set. The previous governor had given us a biennium budget with flat funding for two years and a second biennium budget with one percent and two percent decreases in funding each year. The current governor has reduced funding to create a better business climate and wants to increase the number of vouchers and charter schools, further eroding funding to public schools.

Because of decreased state funding and the loss of federal money when fiscal stabilization and Ed Jobs ran out, it was necessary to make additional expenditure cuts. These changes could have a severe impact on the education delivery system and make it difficult to continue the educational gains this district has achieved. The cuts also affect after-school opportunities for students. The District ranked 126 of 614 districts in the state of Ohio in lowest expenditure per pupil, according to the FY2010 district profile reports on the ODE website, and 94 of 612 districts for FY2012. This information has not yet been posted on the ODE website for FY2013, FY2014, or FY2015.

After the defeat of a proposed emergency levy in November 2011 and August 2012, the Board made no plans to be on the ballot again. The focus will be on living with the cuts made and possibly making more cuts if needed. No new levies are shown on this forecast. It will be up to the Board to decide if a new levy will be planned for the future.