



Superintendent
Bruce Hoover

Building a future and leaving a legacy

As I finished the State of the District address last week I began thinking about all of the work we have accomplished as a district and all of the work that lays ahead of us as a community.

While some people may find life as a series of events that happens to each of us randomly and beyond our control, the truth is that we all have a choice when it comes to shaping our attitudes and our opportunities.

We wake each morning with the ability to begin anew, make better decisions and commit ourselves to becoming more than we currently are. What happened yesterday or the day before or year before doesn't matter. What only matters is what we become from this day forward.

I look at Groveport Madison Local School District and what we are; a good school district with incredibly talented and

diverse people who, if they chose to do so, could unite and become known as the best place in Franklin county to live, work, raise a family and retire. We must build a future for everyone no matter where they live in our community.

Each parent and registered voter will have an opportunity to make a choice this May 6 that will serve notice to the rest of Franklin county about the greatness in our community, our families, and our students. The voters will determine the path we must follow to grow opportunities for students' and community's future or a pathway of uncertainty and economic decline.

Our choice begins with your choice. Let's make sure your legacy is one that people 20 years from now can say thank you for believing and investing in our community and our students.

Thank you for a wonderful year and a future we can be proud of.



May 6, 2014: Issue 4

Voters in the district will have the opportunity at the polls May 6 to help build a new high school and set district finances on solid footing. Issue 4 is a combined 6.68-mill operating levy and 2.24-mill bond issue. The operating levy is for a period of five years to fund the day-to-day operation of our schools. The 38-year bond issue allows our district to take advantage of state-matching funds from the Ohio School Facilities Commission. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. See inside for more information.



Cruiser Chronicles

Spring 2014

The Official Newsletter of Groveport Madison Schools

Mark Your Calendars

- **Thursday, April 17:** Early dismissal
- **Friday, April 18:** No School
- **Monday, April 21- Friday, April 25:** No School, Spring Break
- **Tuesday, May 6:** Election Day
- **Wednesday, May 14:** Late Start; Board of Education
- **Monday, May 26:** No School, Memorial Day
- **Friday, May 30:** Last Day of School
- **Sunday, June 1:** Commencement



New School?

GMHS bursting at seams with packed halls

Our high school is in poor condition and seriously overcrowded. Ohio School Facilities Commission minimum standards show that our existing high school needs to be larger and is in such disrepair that it needs to be replaced.

Groveport Madison High School was built to accommodate 900 students, and it currently houses more than 1400 students – with the addition of 14 detached, temporary modular units. Rusting plumbing lines, a leaking roof, and outdated infrastructure present safety issues, are costly to repair, and cannot support the teaching, programs, and technology needed to prepare students for college and good jobs.

Election Day Details

When: Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Time: 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.



Where: You can find your polling location by visiting vote.franklincountyohio.gov/search. All voters must provide identification in order to cast a regular ballot on Election Day.

Voting Early by Absentee Ballot:

You may cast an absentee ballot in person at the Board of Elections, 280 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Or you can request a ballot online at vote.franklincountyohio.gov/absentee, which must be received by the Board of Elections by noon, May 3, 2014. Call 614-525-3100 for more information.

Issue 4 would relieve overcrowding and bring stability to district finances

Groveport Madison residents will have the chance to set a strong course for the district for the foreseeable future with a vote at the polls May 6.

Issue 4 is a combined 6.68-mill operating levy and 2.24-mill bond issue. The operating levy is for a period of five years to fund the day-to-day operation of our schools. The 38-year bond issue allows our district to take advantage of state-matching funds from the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

What happens if Issue 4 passes?

If Issue 4 passes, Groveport Madison Schools will:

- Restore student busing for Groveport Madison High School
- Reinstate busing within 2-mile radius for K-8 students
- Phase in college and career readiness programs with emphasis in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math courses (grades 5-12)
- Increase Advance Placement course options
- Reinstate all athletics and extra-curricular programs
- Fund integration of educational technology plan at all grade levels
- Allocate \$1 million for GMHS (immediate needs only) and other building repairs
- Maintain a carryover of \$3 million
- Begin planning and construction of new high school with Ohio School Facility Commission matching funds
- Establish an independent citizen task force to review and communicate the use of taxpayer investment

What happens if Issue 4 fails?

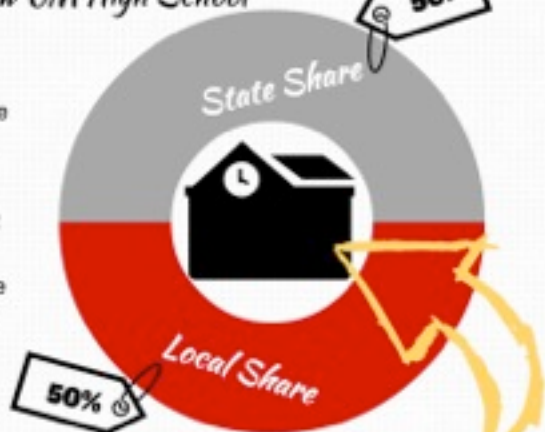
Failure of Issue 4 will result in the following:

- Continue without busing services for Groveport Madison High School students
- Maintain state minimum busing for K-8 students (No busing within 2-mile radius)
- Eliminate all athletic and extra-curricular programs at all grade levels
- Reduce art and music programs at all grade levels (No K-8 programs. One high school fine art credit to remain.)
- Staff reductions of:
 - 27 teachers
 - 2 guidance counselors
 - 2 administrators
 - 1 clerical position
- Evaluate the possibility of closing a school and consolidating middle schools
- Additional staff and program reductions as necessary to meet budget



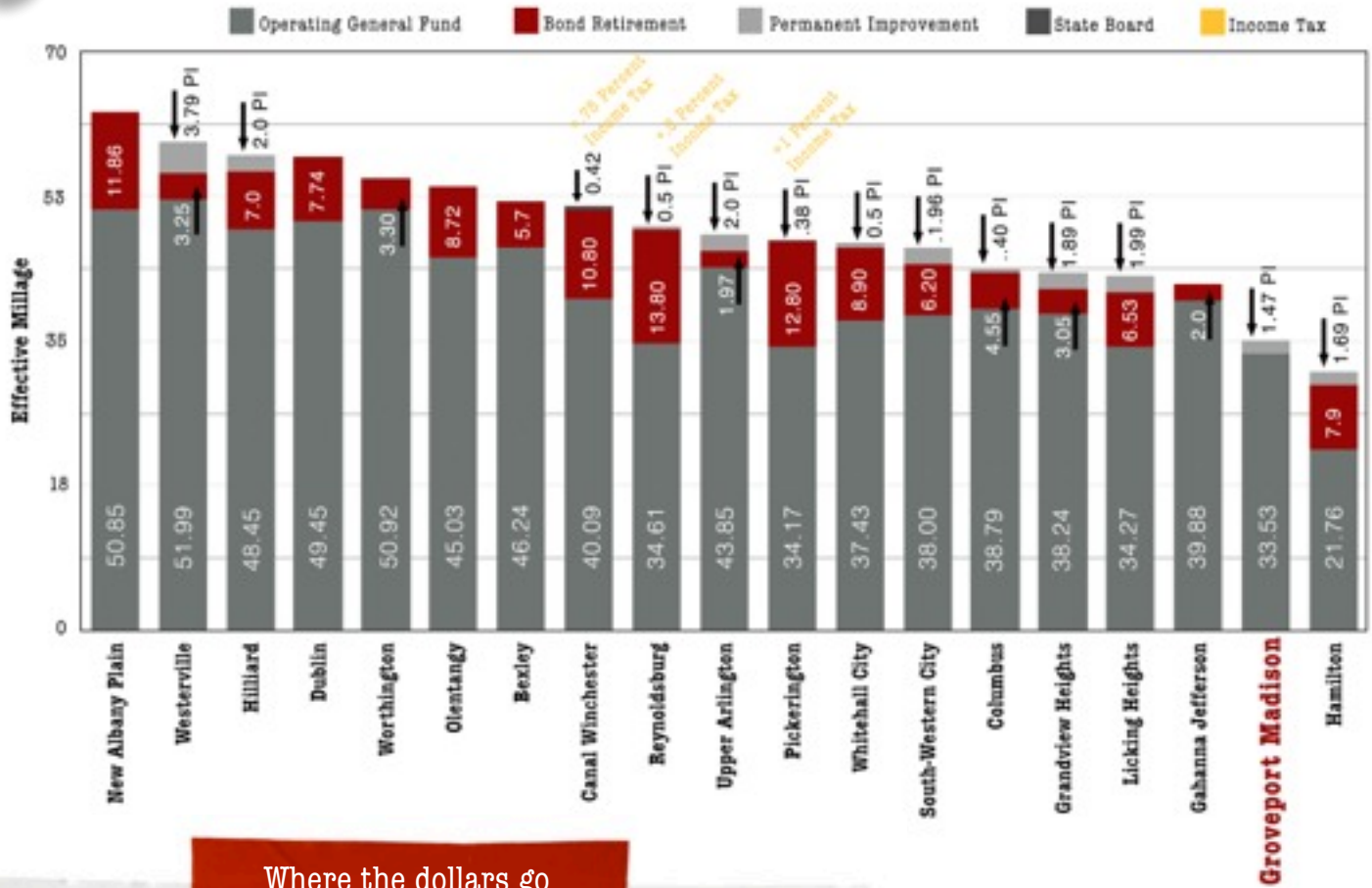
State would Pay for 50 Percent of New GM High School

If voters in the district pass Issue 4, the Ohio School Facilities Commission would pick up nearly 50 percent of the tab. The ballot measure has to pass at the local level, however, for the funds to be eligible for matching.



Overcrowding is relieved in a school built to fit!

⇒ GMLS: Tax rate among county's lowest



Where the dollars go

Issue 4: Levy revenue breakdown

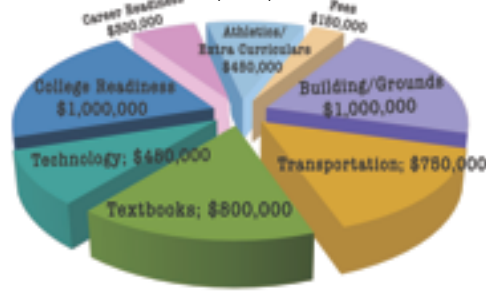
2014-15: 1/2 Year Collection

\$2,279,000



2015-19: Full Year Collection

\$4,900,000



Ballot Facts

Here is brief look at Groveport Madison's history at the polls:

- 53 levy or bond issue requests have been made since 1969
- 35 attempts have failed.
- 18 have been passed.
- 1 bond issue passed in March 1974
- 12 were passed as no new tax renewals or emergency.
- 5 were passed with new tax increases: 1977, 1982, 1983, 1991, 2009.
- 18 of these issues were requested in the '70s.
- 8 in the '80s
- 14 in the '90s
- 13 since 2000

⇒ One make-up day will do it!

The end of the year is near and, as it stands, the district will be required to add just one day to the calendar. The last day of school will be Friday, May 30.

Thanks to the efforts of our staff and students with the Blizzard Bag assignments -- the prep and completion -- we were able to make up three days of school. The state legislature also gave leeway for districts, such as ours, that called off school 10 or more times: make up four of the days beyond the five allotted each year, plus four more and the state will waive four additional days on top of that. Groveport Madison's one make-up day, plus the three Blizzard Bags meets those requirements.

Lawmakers included a provision that exempts graduating seniors from the extra day (though not the Blizzard Bags). The legislation also covers the extra day that was called off at Middle School North due to electrical issues.

Let's hope the snow is well behind us as we forge ahead into spring... where plenty of activity awaits.





Communication is key!

Are you Following?



Communication is critical to success, from friendships to families and businesses to school districts. Being open, honest and willing to share information is vital to anyone's livelihood.

It even helps kids do better in school.

A number of studies show the more informed parents are, the more involved they will be; the more involved they are in school and district activities, the more likely their child will succeed and show strong academic growth.

That's why we've gone social, created own tools and continue with our longstanding efforts, such as mailing newsletters like this one.

Our newest initiative is our monthly **Board Bits** eNews dispatch. In each email, we highlight recent action taken by the Board of Education in short nuggets. We offer links to more information and promise updates when warranted. All Board Bits are archived at gocruisers.org/communications.aspx, where you can also sign up for the distribution list.

We are also avid social media fans. The district is on **Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest**. Go to any of the social sites and search for Groveport Madison, or follow the links right from any of the district's pages on our website, gocruisers.org.

Are you following?

We have not abandoned traditional newsletters, as evidenced by this piece, and the editions we publish about every other month in the Southeast Messenger. We send electronic newsletters every month, too, which are stored on the Communications page noted above.

We have invested in a mobile version of our website, though, so we can put the district's news, events and most-frequently used information in the palm of everyone's hands. Recent data show that more than 50 percent of adults have smartphones and that in 2014 the web will be accessed more often from a handheld device than an actual desktop computer. The mobile site also comes with a free app available from our website provider, eSchoolView; search for "KnowItAll" in the Mac App Store or Google Play.

Our students rock!



Testing scores help teachers, administrators measure progress

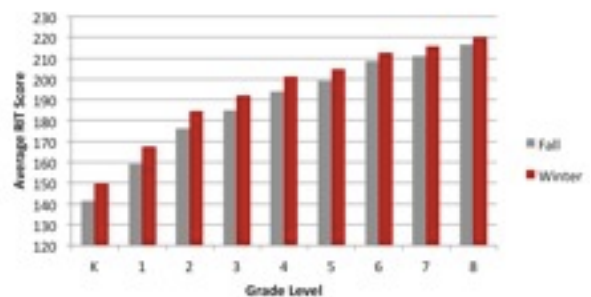
Groveport Madison uses a computer-based test called the MAP – Measure of Academic Progress – three times a year to monitor student growth.

The results help teachers and administrators ensure the lessons they are giving and the courses of study they have written are meeting the needs of the district's students. If progress stagnates, falters or dips, staff are able to study the data to intervene where needed.

The questions adapt to student responses as they take the test, increasing in difficulty. The scores measures achievement at a single point, so the three scores show growth over time and progress toward academic goals.

Based upon the results from the fall 2013 and winter 2014 MAP Reading results, students in grades K-8 have shown on average 6.3 points of growth. Likewise, students in math have shown on average 6.4 points of growth on the MAP assessments for mathematics. This is news to be proud of!

Reading Growth 2013-14



Math Growth 2013-14

