

openlines

DISTRICT SEEKS SOLUTION TO FACILITY CHALLENGES

Board of Education Votes Unanimously to Place Bond Issue 21 on November 5 Ballot

On June 17, 2019, the Chardon Board of Education voted unanimously to place a 5.3-mill bond issue on the November 5 ballot. Bond Issue 21 would build a new grade 6–12 school building constructed as two separate spaces with age appropriate divisions.

Chardon Faculty Hosts Community School Supply Drive

Chardon Education Association gathered at El Patron on August 29 to host a school supply drive for WomenSafe, Inc., an emergency shelter and resources provider for domestic violence survivors. In all, the teachers collected 50 brand new backpacks along with a variety of additional brand new school supplies.



“Children will often arrive to the WomenSafe shelter in the middle of the night with only the clothes on their backs and maybe a stuffed animal,” said Chardon Middle School teacher Shalyn Swick who is also President of CEA.

Swick explained that, as a result, a child may go to school the next day carrying his/her few school supplies in a plastic grocery bag.

CEA’s efforts to collect new backpacks and school supplies help to ensure these children, in the midst of a family crisis, can feel a little more comfortable among their peers and feel more prepared for school.

FAQ: Why does Chardon Local Schools need a new school building?

The average age of the District’s buildings is 70 years old, surpassing the normal life expectancy of school buildings in Ohio. Our aging, inefficient buildings disrupt and distract from the productive learning environment educators strive to provide.

Challenges in the District’s buildings include:

- Leaking roofs that require buckets in hallways to catch water
- Outdated fire, safety and security measures
- Less than full ADA accessibility for all students and visitors
- Deteriorating pipes/systems located under concrete flooring or behind walls
- Limited electrical capacity preventing teachers from using technology our students need for the jobs of today and tomorrow
- Classrooms large enough for enrollment but too small to accommodate today’s teaching methods

“Chardon High School’s intervention, enrichment, Circuit of Success curriculum and the Freshman Mentoring Program are well-noted across our region and state,” said Principal Doug Murray. “However, we are implementing these programs in spaces that restrict further opportunities for students when we have disruptions in the day with leaks, extreme temperatures inside of the building, inadequate lab space, and small classrooms. Our maintenance and custodial staff are spending resources each week to maintain and repair our building to keep us safe.”

FAQ: Can’t the District just repair or renovate the schools?

The State of Ohio reviewed our buildings and concluded they are beyond repair and no longer suited for today’s education. At no cost to the District, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission thoroughly reviewed our buildings and determined the cost just to renovate our buildings to minimum standards would be nearly equal to the cost of building new schools that meet today’s standards.

The District spends thousands of dollars each year as part of its capital improvement plan to maintain its aging facilities.

In addition to the more noticeable issues throughout the high-traffic areas of Chardon High School, there are also the less visible challenges such as aging and deterioration of underground systems, including wastewater lines.

“These lines are falling apart and rusting,” said Chris May, Lead Maintenance during a recent tour of the tunnel below the building. “One of these lines feeds one of the main bathrooms. These lines are starting to plug up. They are difficult to get to, and they’re splitting.” Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs Steven Kofol further explained that the five inch cast-iron waste line has already been repaired three times.

“It’s been sleeved and sleeved and sleeved because it goes underneath the floors of the classroom,” said Kofol. “It disappears into the floor and into the wall. To fix it, you would have to open the floor in the classroom to truly get to it.

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Chardon High School’s waste lines, only partially accessible via the tunnels under the building, are rusted, splitting, and leaking; have been sleeved numerous times; and would be exorbitant to replace.



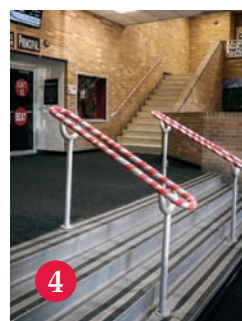
FAQ: When and where can I vote?

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday November 5, 2019
6:30AM–7:30PM
Polling location information:
<https://boelections.co.geauga.oh.us/Polling-Locations> or call the Geauga County Board of Elections 440-279-2030

EARLY VOTING

(in-person & by mail)
October 8–November 5, 2019
Gauga County Board of Elections
470 Center Street, Building 6A
Chardon, OH 44024
440-279-2030
boelections.co.geauga.oh.us/



1) While CHS classrooms can accommodate enrollment, the size and layout are inadequate to provide for today's collaborative learning environment. 2) Major roof leaks in recent years include this one in March, which led to water pouring through the ceiling, requiring garbage cans to collect the water. 3) The windows are about 50 years old and have further deteriorated as a result of the building's settling process. 4) With stairways at every turn, including at the main entrance, CHS as a facility is not a welcoming structure to those requiring ADA accessibility.

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So if that thing rots out—to find five-inch pipe to replace it with—it would be astronomically expensive. It's usually four or six inch but we can't transition up or down because then you're compromising the amount of flow it was designed for. We'd have to continue with temporary patch repairs."

FAQ: Why are the facilities in disrepair—did the District neglect them?

School buildings do not reach the age of the District's buildings without careful attention to proper maintenance and upkeep. The District's maintenance staff continues to do their best to keep the buildings safe and in the best shape possible.

"Every time we get a good rain from the parking lot—the wall that faces where the buses are—water comes down through the wall and gets into some of the steam lines—runs across the electrical," said May. "We try our best on the outside to keep the water out. You can see the damage on the ceilings from water. Old steam lines go under classrooms on the outside walls. They've been sleeved twice already as the pipes went bad."

FAQ: Would students be displaced during new construction, leading to further costs associated with trailers?

No. Bond Issue 21 provides for the athletic track to be moved to the stadium, freeing up space so the District can build on that site. This plan does not displace any students during construction, thereby avoiding unnecessary costs for temporary classroom trailers.

FAQ: Why does the stadium need renovations?

The 20-year old stadium is in need of select renovations, which include making our bleachers ADA accessible; adding a facility to house restrooms and locker rooms, neither of which the current stadium has; and replacement of the turf and scoreboard. The current artificial turf, which was last replaced in 2010, generally lasts 8–10 years per industry estimates. The current scoreboard is original to the stadium, and technology has outpaced maintenance, making replacement components no longer available.

FAQ: What is the cost for the plan outlined by Bond Issue 21?

The cost for the plan outlined by Bond Issue 21 is approximately \$76 million. The OFCC has a formula to determine the cost of construction projects on a per square foot basis in our region and considers inflationary increases and enrollment data. From this, the District can make a reasonable estimate of project cost without an actual design.

Services of the OFCC are free to the District for building assessment and cost modeling. After the passage of the Bond Issue, the District would follow the mandated Qualifications-Based Selection (QPS) process to identify an architect, and many different community stakeholders would be engaged in the design process.

FAQ: What would be the estimated timeline for completion?

- Fall 2021 completion of Grade 6–12 school building design phase, transportation facility design phase, football stadium renovation, and demolition of existing athletic track
- Fall 2023 completion of new grade 6–12 building with 700-seat auditorium and new transportation facility
- Fall 2023 completion of abatement and demolition of former Chardon High School, Munson Elementary and transportation buildings
- Chardon Middle School would house grades 2–5
- Park Elementary would house grades K–1
- Maple School would continue to operate as the District's Pre-K site

FAQ: How much will Bond Issue 21 cost taxpayers, and has the District considered more than one facility plan?

Bond Issue 21 would cost \$15.45 per month per \$100,000 of home value. The District considered nine different master plan scenarios and chose the most cost-effective solution to address the District's greatest needs while keeping costs down.

FAQ: What is the difference between a bond issue and an operating levy?

By law, funding for school buildings and other capital improvements is separate from funds used for general operating expenses. A property tax-based bond issue is the most common way for a school district to pay for building projects. An operating levy is also a property tax, but it can only be used to pay for day-to-day operations of schools, including educational resources, utilities, salaries and benefits, etc.

FAQ: Has the District considered seeking out funding from the private sector or through fundraisers?

The District has approached numerous community partners in search of supplemental sources of facility funding. However, the opportunities simply are not there for the District as it is not feasible for those partners, in their current respective strategic plans, to provide full or even partial funding to the District for new facilities.

Monies raised via a fundraiser(s) would not be a sufficient source of funding for the magnitude of this project.

FAQ: Why can't the District use money from the permanent improvement levy for a new building?

Our permanent improvement levy currently generates \$1.3 million per year, which is not at all sufficient to meet the full scope of our building needs.

FAQ: Is Chardon Local School District fiscally responsible?

Yes, Chardon Schools is in a solid financial position and will remain so even if a bond issue is passed. The District has been diligent in implementing cost-saving measures and maximizing its budget to meet the educational needs of its students. In addition, the District is grateful for the community's support of an operating levy that passed in May 2018. See page 3 for more information on the District's fiscal accountability.

FAQ: What happens if Bond Issue 21 does not pass?

If Bond Issue 21 does not pass, the District will continue to feel the strain of educational and financial challenges caused by its aging and inefficient buildings. The District would still require a plan to address its aging infrastructure.

"The plan outlined by Bond Issue 21 would address our problem of out-of-date infrastructure," said Board Vice President Karen Blankenship.

FAQ: Whom can I contact regarding additional questions I have about Bond Issue 21?

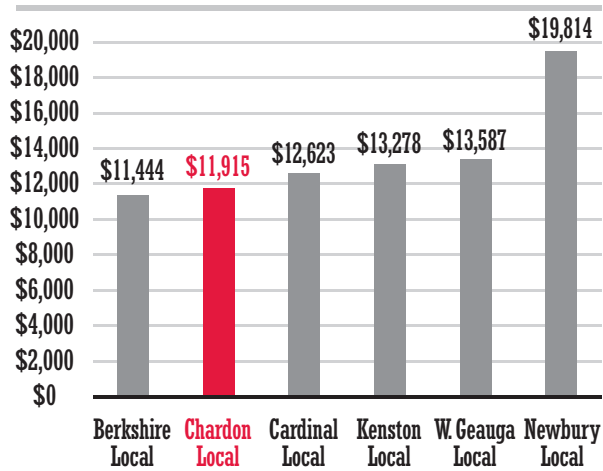
The District welcomes community members to learn more about Bond Issue 21 and the District's Facilities Master Plan. Information can be found at www.chardonschools.org.

The District also offers after-hours public tours of Chardon High School and welcomes Bond Issue 21 and Facilities Master Plan questions at 440-285-4052 or facilities@chardonschools.org. Fiscal-related inquiries can be directed to Treasurer Deb Armbruster at the above phone number or at deb.armbruster@chardonschools.org.

Fiscal Stewardship

The District is committed to providing transparency of its expenditures and remaining responsible with its available resources.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL—2018



OHIO ONLINE CHECKBOOK

Chardon Local Schools participates in the Ohio Online Checkbook Program, OhioCheckbook.com, which is the first-of-its-kind government transparency website. The program is designed to show taxpayers exactly how their tax money is being spent. The public can view Chardon Local Schools' expenditures data at chardonlocalschools.ohiocheckbook.com.

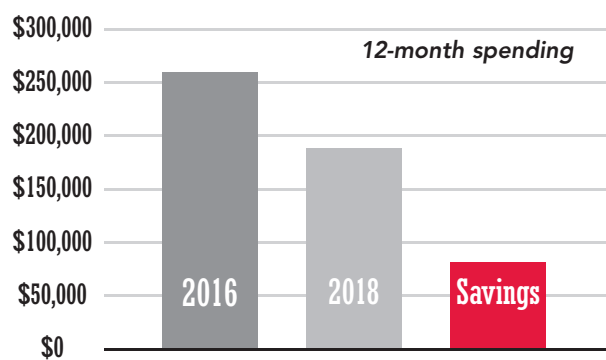
CHARDON RANKS SECOND LOWEST IN PER PUPIL SPENDING IN GEAUGA COUNTY

Among all school districts in Geauga County, Chardon Schools ranks second lowest in expenditures per pupil. This ranking is based on 2018 data, the most recent data available from the Ohio Department of Education.

DISTRICTWIDE LED LIGHTING PROJECT (2016) REDUCES ENERGY AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

1. The District achieved payback in 2.5 years, well ahead of the 2.8-year timeframe.
2. Districtwide electrical savings is approximately \$80,000 per year, savings that will continue to be realized each year going forward.
3. The District achieved dramatic reductions in maintenance costs on the new LED systems—no service calls since the new lights were installed; no dedicated personnel for the last two summers to change ballast and light bulbs; and no money spent on lighting supplies.

DISTRICT YEAR OVER YEAR ENERGY SPENDING



DISTRICT PARTICIPATION IN ELECTRICITY PURCHASING AND SCHOOL BUS CONSORTIA

The District has been a participant in the Power4Schools electric program since its inception and uses this program as another measure of stretching taxpayers' dollars.

1. In September 2019, the Board of Education renewed its participation in Power4Schools, an electricity purchasing consortium of over 250 school districts.
2. The new P4S supply partner, ENGIE Resources, has joined P4S to offer a smart, Energy-Only, fixed price product for \$.03194/kWh for 24 months, beginning in January 2020 at the conclusion of the current P4S contract with FES.
3. The P4S Program has not only saved school districts millions of dollars in the past but has also leveraged the strength of over 250 school districts in representing the interests of students and taxpayers before the PUCO (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio).

Chardon Local Schools also participates in a school bus consortium (comprised of over 100 school districts) through the Ohio Schools Council to ensure that we are getting the most competitive pricing for our buses, thereby stretching our available dollars. Ninety-nine square miles of school district and harsh Geauga County winters take a toll on the District's school buses, resulting in the need to replace buses regularly.

UPGRADED TELEPHONE SYSTEM ACHIEVES COST AVOIDANCE

Chardon Local Schools upgraded its antiquated telephone system to a digital solution in 2016 to increase the availability of telephone service in the District's schools, as well as provide system features that were not previously available to our staff or parents.

1. The District achieved a cost avoidance of approximately \$30,000 per year after switching over from the outdated system. These savings are being used to fund the cost of the telephone system replacement.
2. This cost reduction will continue to directly impact the District's bottom line in a positive manner once full payback is realized in 2022.

Community Connections Build Life Skills

Chardon High School students in Mrs. Amanda Bunker's class soar in a learning environment that combines academics with the teaching of life skills. To fulfill all of these requirements, Mrs. Bunker taps into her creative side to ensure at least three life skills are included in each lesson. One way she has found to do that is through the implementation of Walking and Working Wednesdays.

"Walking and Working Wednesdays are a great way that the students can ease into the school year and also into using independent skills in their community while allowing me as a teacher to incorporate academic lessons into the field trips as well," said Mrs. Bunker.

Transition lessons that the students have or will learn this school year on their walking field trips include communication and etiquette, managing money, creating and using maps, calculating distance, following manufacturers' instructions to build an item, calculating renovation costs by computing the square footage of their bedrooms, adding a tip and splitting a restaurant bill, price comparisons, and applying learned safety skills in the community.

Walking and Working Wednesday destinations in the 2019–20 school year have included Chardon Square, Home Depot, CVS, Jersey Mike's, and Giant Eagle.

"I like walking around Chardon," said student Delaney Hagan. "I love seeing nature. What I love the most is getting to talk to people in the stores and eating in the restaurants."

Most recently, the class ventured to The Residence of Chardon to play UNO® cards with the residents. Afterwards, the students ate their healthy packed lunches at Mel Harder Park and finished up their trip with King Kone ice-cream.

"The assisted living home was the best place to visit," said student Justin Friedman. "I liked playing cards with the residents."

Student Jack Geraci agreed, "It was really nice playing UNO® with the residents. I got to know the ladies a little bit. And I had a good time."

At the time of this writing, Mrs. Bunker's class had one last Walking and Working Wednesday to look forward to before the weather turns cold.

"Our students will receive a tour of the Chardon Police Station by our very own School Resource Officer, Derek Carlson," said Mrs. Bunker. "We will also be visiting the Chardon Post Office where each student will have the opportunity to purchase a stamp and mail out a personal letter to a person of their choice."



Chardon Ranked in Top 10% of Districts State-Wide for Third Year in a Row

The Ohio Department of Education released District/School Local Report Cards on September 12, 2019. The local report card is one measure of the effectiveness of our District, and includes comprehensive data for us to evaluate the alignment of our academic programming, providing affirmation of our work towards our mission: *High achievement for all students, where learning is our most important work.*



Highlights from the 2019 District Report Card:

- For the third year in a row, Chardon is ranked in the top 10% of districts state-wide as measured by the District Performance Index Score, which was 101.8 in 2018–19.
- Chardon achieved an Overall District Grade of B (more than 30% of districts in Ohio achieved a B or better rating).
- The District attained achievement on 20 of 24 indicators.

These achievements are notable and certainly come as a direct result of our relentless pursuit of strong curricular alignment to state standards, high yield instructional strategies and assessment practices that inform student learning.

As we look to the future, we will be working to revise the District's strategic plan to identify additional strategies that will ensure even higher levels of student achievement, as well as increased preparedness for the 4 E's—Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment and Entrepreneurship.

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CLASS OF 2019

CHS graduated 230 students in May, of whom 77 earned honors diplomas, 18 were valedictorians, two were honorians, and one was a salutatorian. Six graduates earned a CHS diploma, as well as an associate's degree.

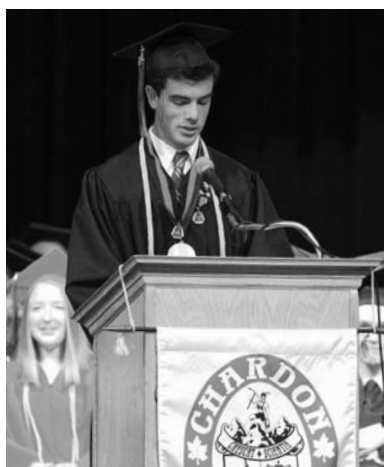
Adrianna Lakatos, who received an Associate of Arts degree from Lakeland Community College at the age of 16 in 2017, graduated this Spring with a high school diploma and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications with a minor in Marketing from Lake Erie College.

The District is immensely proud of all of its Class of '19 graduates and is confident in their preparedness as they transition to the four E's: Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment and

Entrepreneurship. "Our students—working with our outstanding staff—are exceedingly well prepared for their future endeavors," said Ed Klein, Ph.D., assistant superintendent.

At the time of graduation, 154 students had already enrolled in 53 colleges and universities, including such Ohio schools as Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Denison University, Hiram College, John Carroll University and The Ohio State University as well as such out-of-state schools as Brown University, La Roche College, Northwestern University, Pierce College and Xavier University. Additionally, five graduates enrolled in a technical institute and five enlisted in the military.

Congratulations to Chardon High School's Class of 2019 graduates!



Tiny Toppers Integrated Preschool Achieves Top Quality Rating



The Chardon School District's Tiny Toppers Integrated Preschool commenced its second year of operation on August 26, kicking off the 2019–2020 school year. The school, which has grown

in enrollment to over 70 students and is housed at Maple School (formerly Maple Elementary), is founded on an inclusion philosophy wherein typically developing children are educated together with students with special needs. Both a developmental and play-based approach to preschool education is utilized by the staff.

Following just one year of operation, Tiny Toppers earned a 5-star quality rating, the highest quality rating possible from the Ohio Department of Education and Job and Family Services. Congratulations to the District's Director of Student Services Linda Elegante, Special Education Supervisor Andrea Ryan, and all Tiny Toppers staff whose dedication led to this achievement.