



BELLBROOK-SUGARCREEK SCHOOLS

"Soaring Toward Excellence"

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Schools Board of Education Approves Resolution To Place 5.7 mill Continuing Operating Levy on the November Ballot

[Bellbrook, July 10, 2020] After continued discussion, deliberation and input, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School Board of Education took the second of two necessary votes at the July 9 board meeting to place a 5.7 mill continuing operating levy on the November 3, 2020 ballot. The passage of this operating levy will provide a critical lifeline for the financial stability of the district to help fund the district's day-to-day operations, such as staffing, utilities, transportation and supplies.

The financial situation of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools continues to be an extremely critical issue facing our school district. Without additional funding, we simply cannot continue to make reductions without seriously impacting the quality of our students' educational experience, and unfortunately, that is where the district is at right now. Since 2018, and following the failure of the May 2019 and March 2020 ballot issues, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District Board of Education has implemented 4 phases of reductions that total over \$4.8 million. The Phase III and IV reductions that go into effect for the 2020-21 school year include 13 staff positions that the district eliminated due to the levy failure and in light of current district finances. This adds to the number of positions that have been reduced in the district since 2018 to 33, which is over 10% of district staff. Further, 85 supplemental positions had to be eliminated resulting in losses impacting sports teams, middle school play, Science Fair, high school clubs, and Pep Band.

Additionally, this spring, the state cut our budget by a 6% net reduction of \$353,127 for the school year 2019-20. We also anticipate a 10% reduction for the 2020-21 school year. This further highlights that we can not count on the state to fully fund our district. Over the years the district has seen inflationary increases that are outside its control, including unfunded and underfunded state mandates, in addition to an increase in the cost of doing business. Until the reduction this year, district funding from the state had generally flatlined, with very few increases. Only 27% of the district's budget is funded by the state.

If passed, the levy will raise just over \$3,322,000 annually and would cost taxpayers approximately \$16.63 per month or \$199.50 per year per \$100,000 appraised market value

To formally place a levy on the ballot, the Board of Education is required by the state of Ohio to pass two resolutions: a Resolution of Necessity and a Resolution to Proceed. The Resolution of Necessity was passed at the June 30 board meeting and the Resolution to Proceed was passed at the July 9 meeting. For more information about Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, visit

<http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/>.