

# POINTS OF PRIDE

## Ontario Local Schools

457 SHELBY-ONTARIO RD

ONTARIO, OHIO 44906

LISA CARMICHAEL, SUPERINTENDENT

419-747-4311

## A NEW FUNDING PLAN PROPOSED

### *A Message From Superintendent Lisa Carmichael*

**O**VER THE PAST FIFTEEN MONTHS, A WORKGROUP OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND TREASURERS, THOSE WHO KNOW school funding best, was convened by Representative Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Representative John Patterson (D-Jefferson). Although this group of dedicated educators are from differing types of school districts (i.e., rural, urban, suburban, and in between), they shared a common goal: they are committed to helping create a modern, comprehensive, and fair plan for all of Ohio's school children. The end result was the creation of the **Ohio Fair School Funding Plan**, a comprehensive and transparent school-funding plan for Ohio, developed collaboratively by educators and leaders in every corner of the state. The new Fair School Funding Plan bases state school-funding on what students truly need to succeed, as determined by local educators and research-based studies.

As you know, the State has underfunded us for a number of years. It is widely recognized that our current school-funding formula, forged in the last recession, is seriously flawed. Under the current formula, Ontario has been capped. This means that our district should be receiving an additional \$2.6 million annually; however, the state has capped the amount of money to Ontario, and we have not received any of those monies owed to us. The proposed Ohio Fair School Funding Plan will eliminate most of these caps over a four (4) year period.

The proposed Fair School Funding Plan would be **INCREDIBLE NEWS** for our schools! **In Richland County, Ontario Schools would see the largest increase from the State under the new proposed Fair School Funding Plan.** If the plan were to pass, in its current form, we will see an increase of \$1.6 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and an **ADDITIONAL** \$1.4 million increase in FY 2021, for a total increase of over \$4.6 million (\$1.6 million year one, \$3 million year two) over the next two years from the state of Ohio.

The reason for the larger increase for Ontario is due to the loss of tangible personal property taxes and General Motors that our district has experienced. The State formula would have automatically replaced the lost funds, but the formula was suspended and the monies were never given to the Ontario District. The proposed Fair School Funding Plan will compensate for those losses.

Together, we can adopt a fair plan that meets the needs of Ohio's children and secures the future of our great state. If passed, the Fair School Funding Plan will ensure that Ontario's students will have the quality educational opportunities they all deserve. **Most importantly, if passed in its current form, the Fair School Funding Plan will eliminate our district's impending need to pass a new levy in calendar year 2020 or 2021.**

The Fair School Funding Plan will ensure that Ontario's students will have the quality educational opportunities they all deserve.

~Superintendent  
Lisa Carmichael

## The Time Is Now

*Our community needs you. Please contact your local legislature and let your voice be heard.*





## YOU CAN REACH OUT BY E-MAIL, MAIL, OR TELEPHONE USING THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION:

### Speaker of the House, Representative Larry Householder (R)

77 S. High Street  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Office Phone # (614) 466-2500  
Official E-Mail: [Rep72@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep72@ohiohouse.gov)

## SPEAK UP FOR ONTARIO SCHOOLS

**N**OW STARTS THE HEAVY LIFTING – we must all work hard to ensure that the Ohio Fair School Funding Plan gets passed into law. **NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!** The next few weeks are critical. Word on the street is that the Speaker of the House is reluctant to include the Ohio Fair School Funding Plan in his introduced biennium budget. We have a short window to try to influence that decision. We need every Ontario resident to reach out to Speaker of the House, Representative Larry Householder and encourage his support of this plan.

**Please take a few minutes to send a personalized message similar to the note below:**

Dear Speaker of the House Householder,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a (parent, police officer, resident, teacher, tax payer, etc.) who (lives/works) in Ontario. Representatives Cupp (R) and Patterson (D) have recently introduced their Fair School Funding Plan. That plan would make a positive difference in funding for the Ontario Local School District. The new plan begins the process of eliminating the arbitrary gain caps over time. These caps have financially hobbled our district for almost a decade. I strongly urge you to include this plan in the biennium budget, or if the Cupp/Patterson plan cannot be fully implemented in this budget cycle, to otherwise include meaningful steps to eliminate the gain caps that are impacting districts like ours.

Sincerely,  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ONTARIO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Superintendent Lisa Carmichael, Board Member Sam VanCura, and Treasurer Randy Harvey.

**O**N THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019, at the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) 2019 Central Region Spring Conference, Ontario School Board of Education Member Mr. Sam VanCura was honored and recognized for twenty (20) years of service as a school board member.

"Sam is a dedicated board member who is a true champion for children. He cares deeply for our school district and our students. Sam is committed to making our school district a great place to learn, to work, and to grow," said Superintendent Carmichael.