

# POINTS OF PRIDE

## Ontario Local Schools

Spring 2015

### ONTARIO SCHOOL TAXPAYERS ARE UNDER ATTACK BY THE STATE OF OHIO



#### *A Message from Superintendent Lisa Carmichael*

As of April 17, 2015, House Bill 64 is in the House Finance and Appropriations Committee. Once voted out of committee, it will go to the vote of the full House and then move to the Senate for their deliberations. The State's own School Funding Formula calculates that Ontario Schools should receive 3 million additional dollars – but the State refuses to give it to the school and our children!

**WHY IS THE STATE OF OHIO DOING THIS?** They say that the Ontario School taxpayer is rich because of our property values and our median income; therefore, we have the "capacity" to pay more property taxes. **The State is sending less money to districts whose homeowners have the financial ability to pay more for their schools through higher property taxes.** The State's answer to lower funding for Ontario is to **PASS A LEVY!**

When I came to the Ontario School District as your new Superintendent in August 2011, our district had endured two failed levy attempts. I immediately requested a staffing analysis to be done by the Ohio Department of Education, to determine if we were grossly overstaffed. A detailed staffing analysis was conducted by officials at the Ohio Department of Education and resulted in a report indicating that **our schools are operating at a minimum level of staff.** Our class sizes are currently larger than any school in Richland County. Our teaching staff is at bare bones. I could not implement a reduction in force if I wanted, as I doubt that our parents would find it acceptable if their son/daughter attended classes with 45-50 students per classroom.

As a result of two failed levy attempts in 2010 and 2011, open enrollment and pay-to-participate in extracurricular activity fees were implemented. **I am simply trying to convey to you that our school system has very little left to give up.** Our Board of Education and our Administration listened to our taxpayers when they made the statement – keep the levies away from us! We do not want to have to ask our taxpayers to pass an additional levy. If HB 64 is enacted, it will force us to the ballot box much sooner than anyone would like.

Based on the current State budget (House Bill 64) that was unveiled by the House on April 14, 2015, **Ontario Schools is the ONLY SCHOOL IN RICHLAND COUNTY that would receive less funding from the State.** Ontario Schools will begin to lose money we have previously received for years as reimbursement for discontinued "tangible personal property (TPP) tax." **Under HB 64, our State funding will DECREASE by \$127,432 over the next two years (The News Journal's number of \$80,059 was incorrect).**

#### **BELOW ARE THE STATE SCHOOL FUNDING CHANGES FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT HOUSE BILL 64 PROPOSED BUDGET:**

##### **REDUCTION TO OUR SCHOOL:**

**ONTARIO - \$47,373**

##### **INCREASES TO ALL OTHER RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS:**

CLEAR FORK	\$418,707	CRESTVIEW	\$512,005
LEXINGTON	\$697,538	LUCAS	\$150,322
MADISON	\$869,893	MANSFIELD	\$2,040,379
PLYMOUTH	\$362,782	SHELBY	\$453,429

#### **Ontario Local Schools**

457 Shelby-Ontario Road  
Ontario, OH 44906  
419-747-4311

#### **Stingel Elementary**

419-529-4955

#### **Ontario Middle School**

419-529-5507

#### **Ontario High School**

419-529-3969

(WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.)



# POINTS OF PRIDE

## YOUR RESPONSE IS CRITICAL

(CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE)

For every dollar of taxes that Ontario School taxpayers send to the State, our school receives only pennies back. **We need to tell the State to STOP STEALING our tax dollars and giving them to other schools!**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?** Contact our elected officials in Columbus immediately and express your displeasure with the current State funding proposal and how it gives more money to other schools at our expense. Your voice will make a difference. These are the people who represent us at the State and who I am urging you to contact, preferably by e-mail:

**Representative Mark Romanchuk** at [repromanchuk@gmail.com](mailto:repromanchuk@gmail.com)

**Senator Larry Obhof** at [obhof@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:obhof@ohiosenate.gov)

**I URGE YOU TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THE PROPOSED STATE BUDGET IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND THAT YOU, AS AN ONTARIO TAXPAYER, ARE TIRED OF THEM STEALING YOUR TAX DOLLARS AND GIVING THEM TO OTHER SCHOOLS.** Once the Tangible Personal Property (TPP) Tax dollars are gone, we cannot get them back. This budget process goes through June 2015. For us to be successful, we need to keep focused, engaged and committed to what needs to be done ~ please join me in letting our legislators know that TPP funding matters to Ontario Schools, our students and our community.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to those who have already sent messages to our legislators. I believe that every effort will make an impact. I will do my very best to keep you informed, and get you involved, as the budget process continues.

Yours in Education,

*Lisa Carmichael*  
Superintendent

### PHYSICALS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

All student athletes are required to have a current physical on file in the office. Please plan to attend the Physical Night on May 20<sup>th</sup> of 2015. All physicals are valid for one calendar year. It is convenient when students have their physicals done at the school because personnel can copy it and file it right away. This will guarantee a hassle-free start to the season. Please remember that physicals, emergency medical information, pay-to-participate and drug-testing fees are all due prior to student athletes practicing with the team.

### PURSE BINGO A SUCCESS FOR ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

**T**HE ONTARIO BOOSTER CLUB HELD ITS ANNUAL Purse Bingo event on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Fairhaven Hall. Five hundred women played Bingo for designer purses. There were 50 raffle baskets, 150 door prizes

and 29 designer purses given away to the winners. Tickets for next year's event will go on sale in December. Be sure to get a ticket early. The event was sold-out in five weeks. It was a huge success, earning money for Ontario athletes. Money earned has been used to replace the 25-year-old softball and baseball scoreboards.

