

ROSS

Reflections

Ross Local School District
www.rossrams.com

Winter
2022
Edition



A MESSAGE from the Superintendent CHAD KONKLE



Greetings, and Happy New Year! On behalf of the students and staff of Ross Local Schools, we sincerely hope you had a wonderful holiday season.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of our district's top accomplishments during this past year. Not only are we achieving at high levels, but we are doing so during some of the most difficult seasons of education, largely in part due to Covid and the challenges it brings to our staff, students and families.

In reviewing the Ohio State Testing results for 2021, all of our schools were represented in the "Top 10" of **all** Butler County Schools. Our high school and middle school were the only ones (buildings) to make it in the top sixteen and Morgan Elementary came in at #1! Ross High School finished #1 among all high schools in Butler County, outperforming the #2 school by almost 10 performance index points. Ross Middle School finished #1 among all middle/junior high schools in Butler County. Our elementary schools finished at #1 (Morgan) and #5 (Elda) among all elementary schools in the county. These are remarkable rankings! We are academically thriving.

This speaks volumes about our staff, students, and families who work so hard every day. Our goal is to continue on this trajectory.

We have accomplished all of this while at the same time dealing with financial stresses. In December 2021, we received a letter from the Ohio Department of Education stating that "the potential for deficit exists. The department considers your district to be in a precautionary financial state." The letter, in its entirety, can be found on our website, www.rossrams.com under "Financial Update." This webpage will continue to be used as a platform for District Financial Information.

The following pages of this newsletter will provide you with more details regarding the state of our budget. Additionally, bi-monthly podcasts will commence on Sunday, February 6th at 6:00 p.m. to further articulate the current state of affairs. Our podcasts can be found on our Financial Update page on our website. It is our hope that this information provides detailed information and transparency.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

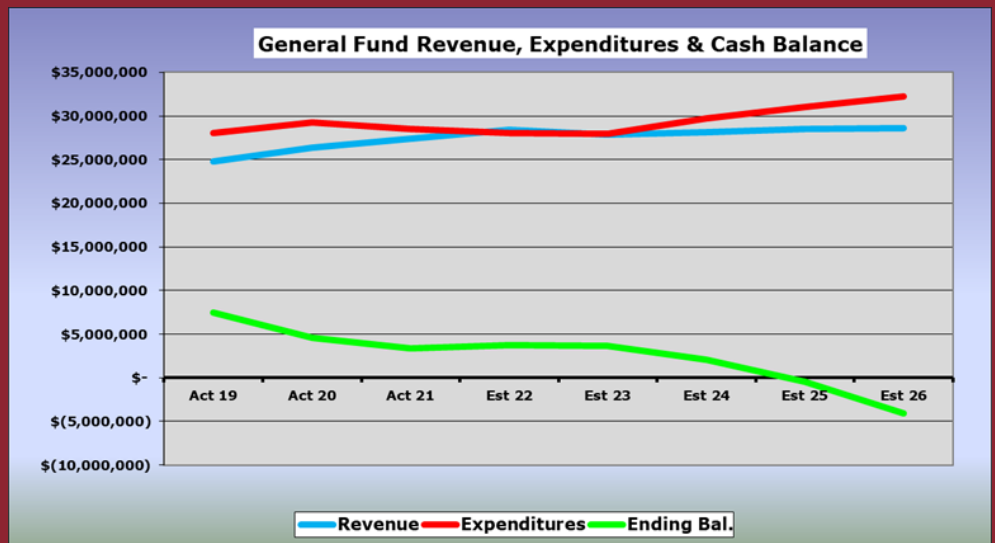
- Five Year Forecast
Page 2
- Financial Update
Page 3



A MESSAGE from the *Treasurer* JEREMY FRAZIER

WHAT IS THE FIVE YEAR *Forecast*

The Five Year Forecast is a calculated estimate of a school district's general fund for the next five years. It portrays the future financial well-being of a district with all the information available at that particular snapshot in time. That snapshot will be adjusted over time as new information becomes available; and to that end, the further into the future the forecast extends, the more likely the projection will deviate from the original forecast. There are a variety of factors that impact the forecast, such as State budgets (adopted every two years), property valuation changes, and inflation. The Five Year Forecast is used as the school district's primary financial management tool, and is updated twice a year to keep current with new information.



There are three main objectives of the the Five Year Forecast:

- 1.** To engage the local board of education and the community in long range planning and discussions of financial issues facing the school district.
- 2.** To serve as a basis for determining the school district's ability to certify we have enough money to cover current year expenses.
- 3.** To provide a method for the Ohio Department of Education and the Auditor of State to identify school districts with potential financial problems.

FINANCIAL WINS/LOSSES

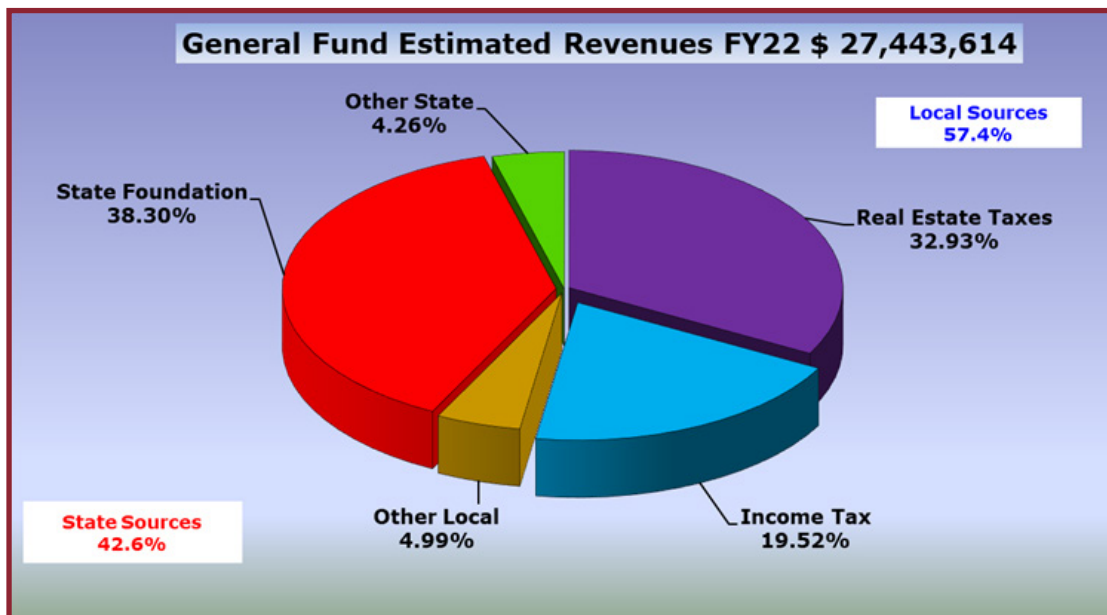
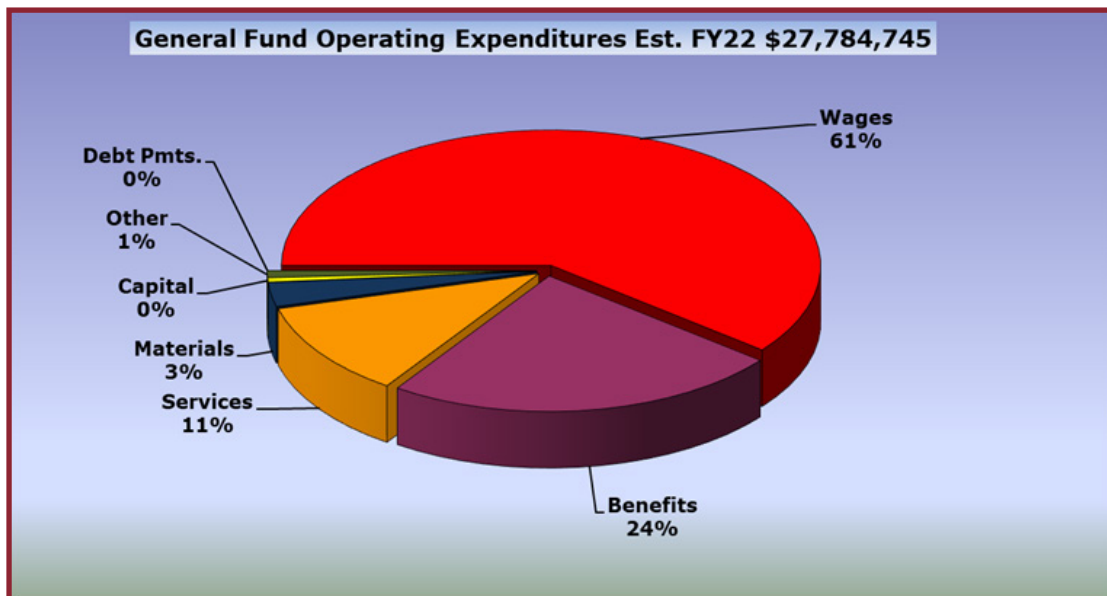
Wins: Ross has been awarded a substantial amount of grants to cover items such as special education, safety and wellness, and Covid related expenses such as keeping schools open when others went remote.

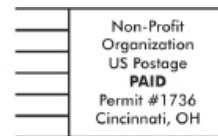
Losses: Ohio's new education funding formula provides less money than the previous formula. Ross will receive about \$1M less over the next two years than we would have under the previous formula.

Financial Trends and Projections

FINANCIAL TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

- Expenditures began to outpace revenues starting in the 2018-2019 school year.
- State Revenues have been stagnant which accounts for almost 43% of our general fund revenue stream.
- Revenue received from property taxes is the second lowest in Butler County when evaluated on an apples to apples comparison.
- Operating deficits are projected to continue, and increase over the forecast period. As a result, General Fund Cash will continue to be depleted.
- At this time, a \$1.15M cash balance deficit is projected for the 2023-2024 school year.





ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Five Year Forecast
Page 2
- Financial Update
Page 3

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