

THE PIRATE



We care.
We communicate.
We continuously improve.

West Carrollton School District



We are stronger together than we are apart.

6th-8th Graders visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame

West Carrollton Schools make three year 3.25-Mill Operating Levy Request

At the January 6th WC School Board Meeting, Superintendent Rusty Clifford announced a three year 3.25-mill operating levy request, the lowest new operating levy millage amount in the district's history.

The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$99.53 more in taxes a year. WCSD also announced a renewal request of the 6.5-mill operating levy passed in May of 2007. A renewal equals a zero increase in taxes. Both issues will be on the ballot on Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

The WCSD has made budget cuts in three of the last four years, totaling 3.3 million dollars. "It's uncommon for a district to make cuts after passing a levy," said WCSD Treasurer, Ryan Slone. "This effort combined with strong community support of our schools has put us in a beneficial position for our students, school community, and our tax payers."

Clifford added that eighty to 85% of every school district's budget goes toward salaries and health insurance. "In WCSD that percentage is 82%. We are in a people business. This operating levy is needed to attract, develop, support, retain, and provide resources for our highly qualified faculty and staff. This levy will allow us to continue to provide, support, and create educational and co-

curricular programs and activities that meet and exceed the needs of all of our students."

WC Schools utilized House Bill 264 funds to further save the district 4.8 million dollars for building renovations, improvements, and upgrades. School Board President, Pam Gillette, said the district is mindful of the tough economy and takes pride in consistently and diligently keeping expenses down.

Continuous improvement is an institutionalized habit in the WCSD. "We look forward to being held accountable for being good fiscal stewards and that's why we are only asking for a three year levy. If we have not maintained financial stability and effective stewardship, you can reject our request for a renewal of the 3.25-mill operating levy on May 7, 2013," said Clifford.

"We are a lean organization, and this is a lean levy request which offers tremendous value to our school community. We acknowledge and understand the economic impact of this levy request. We also acknowledge and thank you for your continued support of the WCSD. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students that will last a lifetime."

3.25-mill operating levy - lowest request in district history

What's covered

Three Year 3.25-Mill Operating Levy Request

Election Day
May 4, 2010

Greater Western Ohio Conference Update

Path to Performance Excellence for WC Schools

5th Annual Greater Dayton Conference on Youth Moves to Dayton Convention Center

New School Board Member, Lee Cyr

Pirate Announcement

Join Students and Staff for The World's Greatest Fish Fry
Saturday, February 6, 2010
4-7 pm, WCHS
Adults - \$8
Children 10 and under - \$5



WCHS sophomore and student athlete, Jamie Siler

GWOC Membership reduces transportation fees for students, community

Transportation costs to and from WCSD athletic competitions are projected to decrease for both students and the community, according to WCHS Athletic Director, Rob Dement. "Because we're members of the GWOC now, our average driving distance will be cut significantly. This cost benefit directly impacts our schools, parents of student athletes in grades 7-12, and community members who attend athletic events." Driving more than 1.5 hours to compete with schools in Cincinnati will not be necessary.

The WCHS Athletic Department works closely with the District transportation team to ensure operational efficiency and savings continue by combining JV with Varsity team trips as well as using one bus to take two different teams to the same location. "The cost in transportation and labor is cut in half every time we take advantage of this kind of an opportunity," said WCSD Operations Supervisor, Jack Haag.

Competing in the GWOC is a big plus for additional reasons for WCHS sophomore, Jamie Siler. Siler is excited to prove the Pirates can compete in the league. She is looking forward to participating in the GWOC season end volleyball and swimming tournaments. Siler is aware that the competitions at each of those events will be as good as it gets at the high school level said Dement.

"I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to compete for a league championship, earn all-academic awards, or possibly earn an individual all-GWOC award," said Siler.

About Voting

Did you know a qualified Ohio voter does not have to state a reason to vote by an absentee ballot?

To save time on Election Day, you may complete an absentee ballot application by visiting www.westcarrollttonschools.com.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is already accepting absentee applications for the May 4, 2010 election. The board of elections will mail absentee ballots to applicable voters 30 days prior to Election Day. If you wish to complete an absentee ballot application or register to vote, forms are available at any WC School Building Office and at Central Office.

If you have questions about voting absentee, please call the Montgomery County Board of Elections Absentee Voting Department at (937) 225-5666.

Did you know the WCSD will include fewer precincts than in past elections?

The District will go from 32 precincts to 19 in the May 2010 election.

**Election Day
Tuesday, May 4, 2010**

Impact, Success of youth conference prompts move to Dayton Convention Center

The two-day Annual Greater Dayton Conference on Youth will have a whole new look and feel this November. This year's conference will bring adults and youth together for a one day asset building experience. This was the ultimate vision of the group of community leaders who began meeting in 2004 to bring awareness to the 40 Developmental Assets here in the Miami Valley. The group is Project 40 and its mission is to develop, promote, and sustain intentional, community-wide asset building. On November 2, 2010 the GDCOY will draw students and adults to downtown Dayton to rally for a change in our schools and our community through individual empowerment.

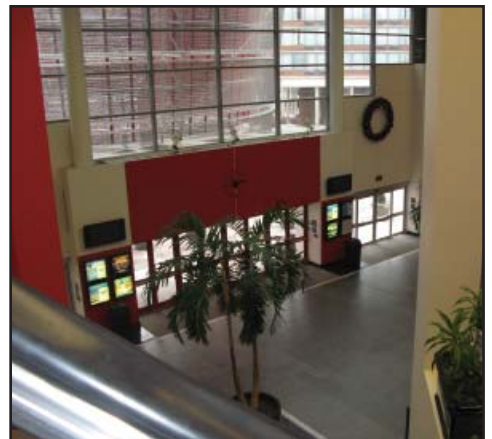
The 40 Developmental Assets were identified by The Search Institute as strengths necessary for the healthy development of today's youths. The framework for the Assets was embraced by the WCSD in 2004. Harold Schnell Elementary Principal and Project 40 Member, Barb Gardecki, said, "We started out on this journey, and it was all about hope. Hope for all youth. Can you imagine an environment like that? That's what we've been building upon for the last five years. This was more than a school service project. It was a community-wide commitment that became a mission. The

mission was to get everyone immersed in the assets. Asset building is about all kids. And, it has become a huge part of our school culture. It's become a way of life."

"It's amazing how far we've come, and it's exciting to see what the future holds for the Greater Dayton Conference on Youth," she added.

What is certain is that the 2010 GDCOY will move to the Dayton Convention Center. The change in venue will make it more accessible for youth and adults all over the Miami Valley. For more information on the conference, please check www.daytonyouthconference.org.

Photo of Dayton Convention Center lobby





WC Schools continue on path to Performance Excellence

One of the things that make WCSD unique is its desire to continuously improve. Reflecting on district results and the path to achieving those results has become a part of WCSD culture. This practice permeates all areas of operation from classroom instruction, to food service delivery to transportation to financial management and long-term visioning. One of the ways WCSD achieves this is through its involvement in the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA) process.

The MBNQA recognizes U.S. organizations in the business, health care, education and nonprofit sectors for performance excellence. Award recipients must have a role-model organizational management system that ensures continuous improvement in service delivery, efficient and effective operations and stakeholder engagement.

In 2004 WCSD applied for and received the Ohio Award for Excellence, the state level Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award. Using feedback from this application process, the district implemented systems and processes that positioned it to apply for the National Award in the spring of 2009. From this latest application has come a 54 page feedback report that will lay the framework for continued performance improvement and a starting point for the district's next national level award application, a process that has begun now and will continue over the course of the next two to three years.

There are seven Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program categories upon which applicants are judged: Leadership; Strategic Planning; Customer and Market Focus; Measurement, Analysis, and

Knowledge Management; Human Resource Focus; Process Management; and, Results.

"Our participation in this process has helped us reflect on how and why we do what do—and on ways we can become even better," said Superintendent Rusty Clifford.

The application process is rigorous and requires the collaborative effort of staff across the district. Special Education and Intervention Programs Director, Melissa Theis added, "We are compelled to participate in this process, not by state and local mandates but by our desire to meet and exceed the constantly changing needs of the WC students and community. That's why we have committed ourselves to reviewing the feedback from the 2009 application and implementing changes that will positively impact the day to day experiences of our students, staff, and community."



WC School Board welcomes new member Board reorganizes

The WC Board of Education welcomes new board member, Lee Cyr. Cyr replaced Doug Hess in January, 2010.

There were no candidates for the open board seat left by Hess this past December. The board then interviewed a pool of 10 very strong candidates with Cyr as the front runner. His first official meeting as a board member was on January 20, 2010. He is excited to start his tenure and make a positive impact on the future of WC Schools.

His primary job over the coming months will be to absorb as much knowledge about the school district as possible. Already, he has joined the Communication Advisory Board and taken on the legislative liaison role within the board.

"I've been impressed with the advances WC Schools have made over the last several years and am looking forward to learning more about what we can do to continue this success," Cyr said.

His wife, Rita and their two children, Alex and Ryan, have been active members of the Pirate School Community for many



WC School Board Member, Lee Cyr

years. Alex is a junior, and Ryan is a freshman at WCHS.

The reorganization of the WC School Board occurred at the January 6, 2010 school board meeting. Pam Gillette is the new board president, and Tom Wolf serves as vice-president. Gillette and Wolf will lead the board team in these capacities through December of this year.

OGT (Ohio Graduation Test) Testing Dates are March 15-28, 2010.

Contact Information

Board Members:	
President, Pam Gillette	436-3715
Vice President, Tom Wolf	435-2307
Deborah Bobbitt	294-3104
Lee Cyr	479-7287
Leslie Miller	268-6091
West Carrollton Schools	859-5121
Superintendent	
Rusty Clifford, Ph.D.	ext. 1117
Treasurer	
Ryan Slone	ext. 1111
Assistant Superintendent	
Larry Campbell, Ph.D.	ext. 1119
Business Manager	
Dana Green	ext. 1115
Special Education/Intervention Programs Director	
Melissa Theis	ext. 1122
Food Service Supervisor	
Shirley Behm	ext. 1121
Elementary Curriculum/Gifted Services Supervisor	
Monica Butcher	ext. 4455
Literacy Leader	
Sarah Domingus	ext. 7757
Information Management Supervisor	
Frank Groach	ext. 1135
Operations Supervisor	
Jack Haag	ext. 8901
Technology Supervisor	
Lu Ann Saunders	ext. 1144
Communication Supervisor	
Neej Shockley	ext. 1133
Transportation Coordinator	
Belinda Cox	ext. 8960

What's new at
www.westcarrolltonschools.com

On-line absentee ballot form

School levy information

E-Newsletter sign-up

Video of the week



Shade ECC Parents, 2009-2010
INCLEMENT WEATHER
TWO-HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE

AM Kindergarten & Preschool
11:00 am – 12:52 pm
PM Kindergarten & Preschool
1:45 pm – 3:37 pm
All-Day Kindergarten
11:00 am-3:37 pm

West Carrollton Schools

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