



YOUR MONEY MATTERS\$

Published quarterly by the Financial Advisory Panel

EXCELLENCE and VALUE

Members of the Financial Advisory Panel:

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- Richard Pace

Hinckley Township

- Diane Dermody
- Rob Smykal

Montville Township

- John Gresock
- Christopher Schaefer

Sharon Township

- Dan Fousek
- Paul Kelly
- John Leach

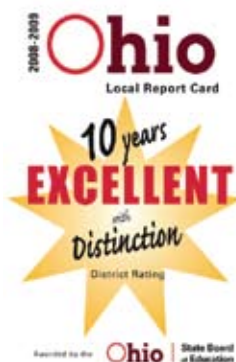
Administration

- Catherine Aukerman
Superintendent
- Mary Markle
Treasurer

Since 1999, the Financial Advisory Panel has been actively involved in reviewing District revenues and expenses, State Audits and recommending appropriate funding methods to insure financial solvency. We have researched comparable school district data, such as salaries and benefits, number of staff in similar districts, prioritized capital expenditures and in every study found that the Highland Local School District continues to provide an excellent educational value to its students at a reasonable cost for residents. Therefore, we made a recommendation in May 2009 to the Board of Education to place an operating levy on the November ballot. Prior to making the recommendation we considered the following:

HIGHEST STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Highland has been rated Excellent by the State Department of Education for the past 10 years and Excellent with Distinction for the past two. Highland is one of only 22 Ohio school districts that has been rated Excellent for 10 consecutive years.



Highland students' test scores are consistently among the highest in the State of Ohio.

Highland's average teaching salary remains at the state average and less than similar districts of our size.

Highland: \$54,990
State: \$54,210
Similar Districts: \$56,468

HIGHER PROPERTY VALUES FOR RESIDENTS

Every Highland resident has a stake in the quality of our public schools. An investment in our public schools is an investment in the value of our homes. According to the National Association of Realtors, "Of all the local neighborhood amenities



that can influence a buyer's decision to purchase a home, proximity to quality schools is one of the most influential." Strong schools draw families to Highland. Quality schools positively affect the quality of life in our communities.

Online

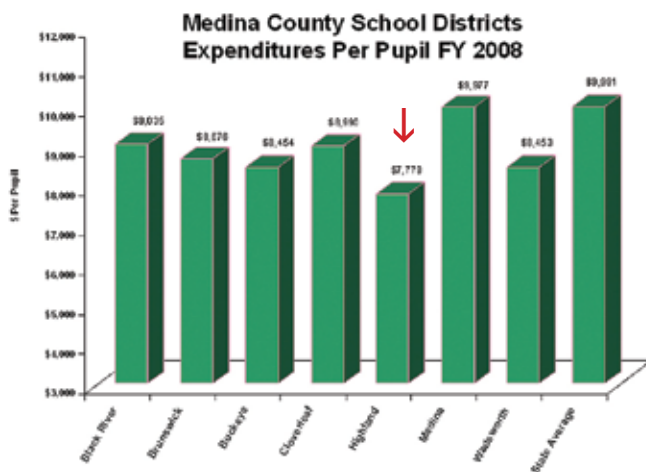
Each issue of "Your Money Matter\$" is posted on our District web site at highlandschools.org, click on the "Administration" link then click on the "Treasurer" tab.

Feedback

If you have comments to share, questions about Highland's finances or inquiries about District operations, please contact Dawn Marzano, Director of Communications, via email at marzano@highlandschools.org, or 330-239-1901, ext. 1261. You can also contact any Financial Advisory Panel member. We will try to address all questions in the next edition.

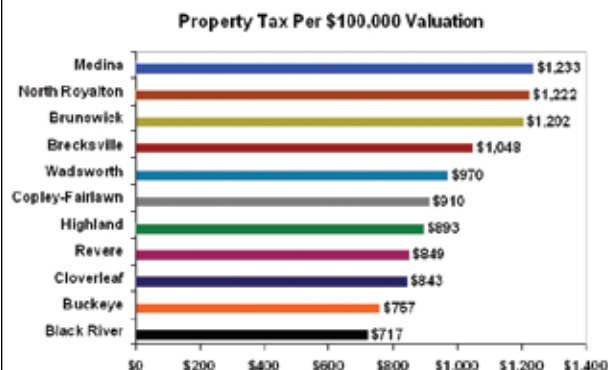
LOWEST PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES

Highland remains committed to tightly controlling expenditures, thereby providing taxpayers the maximum return on their investment. As a result, Highland currently operates on the lowest costs per pupil in Medina County.



LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

Residents in Highland pay among the lowest in property taxes compared to surrounding areas. Highland has worked hard to maintain an excellent education at a low cost to every taxpayer.



TO VIEW MORE INFORMATION REGARDING FINANCES, PLEASE VISIT WWW.HIGHLANDSCHOOLS.ORG