

2012 Anthony Wayne State of the Schools Meeting

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with the Anthony Wayne staff and board of education during the annual State of the Schools Meeting. I would like to share highlights of this conversation with you and the Anthony Wayne community. While we face many challenges in 2012, we have many reasons to celebrate where we are as a district.

On January 12th, 2012, Education Week ranked the educational program in the state of Ohio 10th in the nation. The areas listed as concerns were low preschool enrollments and adult residents having low attainment levels of 2-year or 4-year college degrees. The areas listed as strengths were tough academic standards, student testing and accountability system, and rewarding those that do well and assisting those that don't do well.

The Anthony Wayne community can once again celebrate the excellent academic performance of the school district on the 2011 District Report Card from the Ohio Department of Education. The tradition of academic excellence here at Anthony Wayne is the result of the hard work of our students and the Anthony Wayne staff. In addition, the commitment of our parents and the community to support the district mission facilitates the accomplishment of such an outstanding recognition. During the meeting, I presented to the staff of each school building and the school board of education their respective report card banner.

During the meeting I recognized our board members for their service to our school district. School board members are people like you and I who have an extraordinary dedication to our public schools. The school board works closely with us and the community to create the educational vision we want for our students. The school

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board is a strong advocate for public schools and communicates the needs of our district to the public and the public's expectations to the district.

Together, as a school district and community, we must understand where we are today, the future challenges we face together, and the need to maintain the optimism necessary to provide the highest level of educational opportunities for our students. During my presentation, we discussed the Anthony Wayne tradition of excellence, the local economy, the district finances, student demographic data, the creation of the district communication and community engagement plan, district academics, the challenges we face as a school district, and the new district employee wellness program.

As all of us know, Ohio, along with the nation, is on a slow path to economic recovery. The good news is that state and local unemployment levels are going down and other economic indicators are showing positive gains. With that being said, we know we still have families in our area with members who have lost jobs and are still unemployed and struggling to survive. In the fall, the US Route 24 realignment and expansion will be accessible for traffic from Interstate 75 to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Local governmental agencies are still in the process of planning for growth based on this completion date. In addition, there has been some growth in the local housing market. We will continue to monitor the local economic indicators and their effects on the school district.

I've been asked on several occasions about the low level of state funding for the Anthony Wayne Local Schools. I typically respond by saying that it is due to our wealth as a district. Anthony Waynes's current assessed property valuation is approximately \$873 million, up from \$867 million in 2011. While we are still lower than in 2009, in 2001 our property valuation was approximately \$561 million. Thus, in the last ten years

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are district valuation has increased by \$312 million. That is a significant increase, and, thus, a significant amount of growth.

Of the \$873 million dollars of assessed property in the district, 85% is residential and agricultural property, 10% is commercial property, and 2% is industrial. If you travel throughout our 76 square mile district there is a large amount of agricultural property. We continue to monitor the potential development of land and the effects on the school district.

I would like to show you the district's general revenues and expenditures. So, where is the revenue from the district coming from? As I explain this information, please remember the difference between a fiscal year and a tax year. A fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th of the next year, and, as we all know, a tax year runs during a calendar year.

In fiscal year 2011, the revenue for the district was approximately \$35 million dollars. The expenditures were approximately \$33 million dollars. We ended fiscal year 2011 with a carry-over balance of approximately \$8 million dollars. I would like to give you a better understanding of what comprises these numbers.

For fiscal year 2011 the revenue was approximately \$35 million dollars. Of this amount approximately \$21.5 million came from local tax money, approximately \$6 million came from state funding, approximately \$500 thousand came from federal funding, and approximately \$7 million in other funding.

Were will we be this fiscal year? In fiscal year 2012, which we are currently in, the projected revenue is approximately \$33 million dollars, down \$2 million dollars from last year. The \$2 million dollar reduction in revenue is the result of funding reduction by

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the state and federal government. The expenditures are projected to be \$33 million dollars. These numbers are really close so we continue to monitor them and make necessary adjustments with expenditures to make sure that we are not deficit spending. If I were you or a community or staff member, I would be asking, "Why should we be so concerned with deficit spending if we have \$8 million dollars in carryover balance?" Let me answer that question.

The simple answer is that we experienced a major loss of revenue this school year. The loss of federal and state funding was approximately \$2 million dollars per year. Thus, we have approximately \$2 million dollars less money this year and approximately \$2 million dollars less next year. The state legislators are considering the potential of a mid-budget change in funding for schools. If this happens, based on the recent past, I wouldn't expect this to be more money for schools. In addition, based on political conversations in Columbus, we understand that future increases in state funding are very unlikely. With every year, the cost to educate our student increases. Thus, if expenditures exceed our revenue, our carryover balance will go down.

In August of last year, I explained to you that we spent approximately \$90 thousand dollars per day to operate the district. Today, we spend approximately the same amount per day to operate the district. This number, when compared to the carryover balance, equates to running the district for 88 days. For next school year, we are currently projecting our expenditures to be approximately \$34 million dollars. With the likelihood that revenue will not increase, we will have to make adjustments in expenditures to offset the potential for deficit spending. School districts should operate with a carry-over balance that would allow for between 60 and 90 days of operation. My goal, along with

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the board of education, is to maintain a balance that allows us to withstand reductions in revenue without making major reductions in expenditures.

In 2003, our district placed a 5 year, 4.85 mill emergency operating levy on the ballot in an effort to collect \$3 million dollars for operational expenditures. In 2008, it was renewed as a 5 year, 3.3 mill emergency operating levy to collect the same amount of money. Collections for this emergency levy will end in December of 2013. The earliest we can renew this levy would be in the fall of this year. The administration will work with the board of education to determine when to place this renewal levy on the ballot.

I wanted to take a moment to share with you the student demographic data that was reported on the 2011 District local report card from the Ohio Department of Education. The students that we are serving in the school district are changing.

Today, our current student enrollment is 4,379. From 2000 – 2007 we increased 970 students (Thus, an average yearly increase of 138 students). From 2007 to 2010 we fluctuated between 4400 and 4500 students. This year we are down 75 students from last year and 101 from 2 years ago. When you review the numbers, the majority of the enrollment loss is in Kindergarten through 4th grade and specifically in Monclova and Whitehouse Primary. Obviously, the recent economic conditions have played a factor in these numbers. The question remains: What will happen when the economy picks back up?

As part of the District Continuous Improvement Plan, I have been in the process of collecting data to create the district communication and community engagement plan. The Anthony Wayne staff were asked in December to complete a communication survey

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for this plan. The next step in this process will be to survey our parents and community members in February.

Effective communication is essential to our district mission. With this idea in mind, we will critically analyze the data from the surveys and implement the most effective communication mechanisms. One important communication device is our district website. School district websites have essential elements that optimize effective communication. We have taken these elements and intertwined them into the new website. The website will have the same internet address as the old one. Please take time to view the new website.

Tradition of Excellence.

The Anthony Wayne Local Schools continues to be a leader in Northwest Ohio and the state for our performance on the State of Ohio local report card. Our students are recognized in the state and throughout the nation for their academic and extracurricular backgrounds. We are preparing our students for their future; whatever path they may chose after high school.

With this success, we can't lose sight that we must continue to adapt to meet the needs of our students and community. The Anthony Wayne community is widely diverse in it's values, beliefs, and economic backgrounds. Our professional development learning experiences must focus on the individual needs of each of our students. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment must be individualized to the student and aligned to the state standards to maximize the opportunities for their academic growth. Every facet of our daily work intertwines with everyone else in our organization to provide a service to our students, families, and community members. Thus, our professional

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development learning experiences for our staff must be focused on maximizing student achievement and providing the highest quality of service to our community.

The one thing we know for certain is that “change’ is constant in education. New state standards, new assessments, new accountability system; those are just a few of the changes we will see in the next couple of years. So why is the state changing these items? We are moving away from making sure that all students are “proficient” in core areas to making sure they are ready, upon graduation, for a career or college. Thus, there is a shift in focus. The shift in focus will require us to provide educational opportunities for all of our graduates to be competitive in the job market and for college entrance.

The new expectation, starting in the 2014-15 school year, will be that our students fulfill new requirements that focus on success in a career or college upon high school graduation. The state has recently updated the standards for Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and other content areas. For the new state assessments, the Ohio Department of Education is working with a consortium of states through an organization called PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). This group will create the new assessments for Language Arts and Math that will be administered to students in the 2014-15 school year. ODE is currently working with the American Institute of Research, the same company they work with now for the Ohio Graduation Test and Ohio Achievement Assessment’s, to create the social studies and science tests for the 2014-15 school year.

On January 16th, we celebrated the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One of his famous quotes is “Life’s most urgent question is: what are you doing for others?” We, as educator’s, are constantly working to provide the highest quality of education for

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our students and our community. Thus, with all of these changes comes opportunity. The opportunity in front of our staff is to work together to analyze the new standards, adjust our curriculum, instruction, and assessment to maximize student achievement outcomes for our students. Through our professional development program we will work to align our curriculum, instruction, and assessment to the new state standards and assessment, thus maximizing the learning opportunities for our students.

Reform initiatives, including curriculum standards, achievement benchmarks, new assessments, the application of technology to learning and teaching, and new program requirements, policies, and mandates, are changing the landscape of our schools. Together, we, as a community, must work toward achievement of our district mission. The Anthony Wayne Local Schools are committed to providing the best educational opportunities for the children of this Community.

I am excited to announce the creation of the Anthony Wayne General Wellness Committee. This newly formed committee will provide every avenue possible to help each and every employee have all the tools and information necessary to obtain optimal health! You may be asking yourself Why? Why have an employee wellness program? Our employees are important to us!! We want to make sure they have the information and opportunities available to you to maximize their personal health. You may be asking yourself- Who will pay for this program? As part of our utilization of Paramount for medical insurance, they are providing the funding for this program.

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The picture of the challenges we face together are becoming clearer. I look forward to facing these challenges together with you. We, as an Anthony Wayne community, “must” continue to work together to meet the challenges before us. Thank you.