



Dover City Schools

219 West Sixth Street

Dover, Ohio 44622

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2019

Dover City Schools Board Pulls Issue 3 Off November Ballot

*COUNTY AUDITOR ESTIMATES PROPERTY VALUE INCREASE UNLIKE ANY IN
20 YEARS – WILL AFFECT ANNUAL SCHOOL REVENUE*

(DOVER, OH) At the October 14 meeting, the Dover City Schools Board of Education decided to remove the upcoming ballot issue, Issue 3, from the November 2019, ballot. This decision was based on the County Auditor's recent property value updates that indicate increased revenue to the school district.

The County Auditor's projections, once finalized, expect to yield an additional \$800,000 in annual revenue for Dover City Schools. These unexpected funds will enable the school district to delay the need for additional funds through an operating levy right now and consider all options moving forward. The need for additional revenue doesn't go away, as this will only cover a third of what the district was seeking through the operating levy.

"Asking our community for additional funds is not something we take lightly. When something unexpected like this happens, we need to be responsible stewards of public money and reevaluate all options," stated Board President Jeannine Kennedy. "Pulling the issue off the ballot is the right decision for our schools and community at this time."

District officials noted that the additional revenue will certainly help stabilize the district's immediate financial forecast, but more time is needed to analyze the long-term effect on our budget.

"We welcome this news but also recognize that additional funding is going to be needed at some point to balance our budget for the long-term," added Kennedy. "We will continue to have meaningful conversations with our stakeholders about the future. Our priority is that we offer an excellent education to students at a good value for taxpayers."

Earlier this month, Tuscarawas County homeowners received an updated appraisal estimate from the county auditor. According to the auditor, the new estimates are showing increases in values that have not occurred in more than 20 years in the Dover community.

"According to Tuscarawas County Auditor Larry Lindberg, the main factors that contributed to the increases are the improved economy and the corresponding increase in home sale amounts," said Treasurer Andrew Bache. "The increase in revenue to the school district is due to non-emergency operating levies passed many years ago that no

A Distinguished History and a Dynamic Future

DISTRICT STAFF

SUPERINTENDENT
Carla Birney
330-364-1906

TREASURER
Andrew Bache
330-364-7106

ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
Karie McCrate
330-364-1906

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT
SERVICES**

Gina Franks
330-364-7124

CURRICULUM
COORDINATOR
Marina Colombo
330-364-1906

MAINTENANCE/
SUPERVISOR
Colin Eichel
330-364-7109

District Fax 330-343-7070

SCHOOLS

DOVER HIGH SCHOOL
520 North Walnut Street
PRINCIPAL
Brooke Grafe
330-364-7148

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Scott Ayers
330-364-7147

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
Tim McCrate
Athletic Director
330-364-7143

DOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
2131 North Wooster Ave
PRINCIPAL
Jack Edwards
330-364-7121

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Kurt Reveal
330-364-7121

**DOVER AVENUE
ELEMENTARY**
125 West 13th Street
PRINCIPAL
Reneé Sattler
330-364-7117

EAST ELEMENTARY
325 Betscher Avenue
PRINCIPAL
Zach Zesiger
330-364-7114

SOUTH ELEMENTARY
280 East Shafer Avenue
PRINCIPAL
Tracie Murphy
330-364-7111

longer receive a reduction in millage. Schools are required by Ohio law to have at least 20 mills of local tax. Dover Schools is at that minimum.”

Dover City Schools has no control over the triennial update process. Changes in these assessed values come from the State Department of Taxation.

“Many revenue sources are out of Dover City Schools’ control,” said Superintendent Carla Birney. “Whether we are talking about funding from the state or through local property taxes, we must make decisions based on the information we have at a given time. When factors change, the district must take time to step back and consider the impact of the additional revenue.”

Since early voting has started, Issue 3 will still appear on the printed ballot. The district will work with the Tuscarawas County Board of Elections to communicate the Board of Education’s desire to remove Issue 3 from the ballot. In addition, the district plans to send a letter to residents to ensure voters have this important information.

“If by some chance we can’t officially remove the issue, we would authorize the County Auditor to not collect the tax,” added Kennedy.

District officials also thanked County Auditor Larry Lindberg for his assistance in helping communicate this issue to Dover residents.

“We appreciate Mr. Lindberg’s willingness to work with us in helping get the word out,” added Bache. “We will continue to have conversations with his office as the revenue projections are finalized in December.”

Dover City Schools