A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

WHAT IS AT STAKE ON MAY 3

May 3 is such an important date for the Parma City School District that I would like to use this issue of the Monitor to review what is at stake for our children and community.

WITH ISSUE 7

- We have enough funds to appropriately educate children for today’s jobs.
- We keep the programs kids need to succeed and that colleges and employers seek.
- Students have access to current technology and textbooks.
- Our schools retain local control meaning that the state doesn’t dictate what our kids can have.
- Families and businesses can continue to invest in our community.

WITHOUT ISSUE 7

- We face a $44 million deficit in the next three years.
- We lose any programs and classes that are not required by the State including advanced courses, clubs, performing arts and sports that students need for college and scholarships.
- Learning materials like textbooks and technology will become embarrassingly out of date.
- Our schools run out of funds in July 2011, triggering state takeover.
- Our community continues to decline and no one will want to invest here.

We have made $18 million in major reductions:

- We eliminated 300 teachers, support staff and administrators, froze pay across the board and cut benefits.
- We are consolidating our school buildings to save millions.
- State budget as introduced would cut $6.3 million from the district in the next 2 years.
  That’s 22% of all annual state funding.
- Issue 7 is a 6.9 mill 10 year levy for Parma, Parma Hts and Seven Hills and is an additional $18 a month for $100,000 of home value.

www.parmacityschools.org
Issue 7 is critical to our communities, our children and our futures.

After six years without a new levy, continuing defeats hurt our ability to properly prepare our students for college and careers. They damage our image, our home values, our local economy and our pride. The delivery of an excellent and efficient education to the children of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills positively impacts each of these factors.

Without a levy, our excellent state rating and local control are threatened.

If the levy does not pass, the district will face a $44 million deficit within the next three years. Staff and programs will be reduced to state minimums and our students will have fewer choices and opportunities. State takeover and loss of our ability as citizens to control local school decisions is certain.

A 6.9 mill levy will keep our schools strong.

The district will continue to economize while essential teachers, technology, textbooks and educational opportunities can be maintained so that we can properly prepare our students for college and careers.

The district will reduce operating costs by consolidating facilities.

With continued public input, the professional management team will save millions by consolidating and closing schools over the next several years. The bottom line is a more affordable levy, continued cost controls, and excellent schools.

We must provide our children with sound educational opportunities. Anything less will damage our communities as our ability to attract families is diminished. They will choose cities with more stable schools districts. We will also be in danger of losing our educational excellence.

Our community’s future is worth it. We cannot let our three cities fail.

If the district slides downhill, our neighborhoods will fail as well. We must invest now to have strong schools when the economy rebounds. The money raised by Issue 7 stays here locally to help our children.

This levy is a critical necessity and it’s worth it.

Our district has stretched every dollar and cut costs while producing excellent results. Without additional revenue, we are at the end of that road. On May 3, please remember Issue 7.
It’s Critical. It’s Worth It. Remember To Vote May 3rd!

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Our schools have cut costs and strengthened accountability.

The district has slashed $18 million from its budget by cutting a total of 200 teachers, support staff and administrators, freezing pay districtwide, increasing employee health care contributions, and closing three elementary schools. The Board of Education has cut administration deeply and hired a new professional management team that continues to tighten the belt.

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CONSOLIDATION TOWN HALL MEETING
The Parma City School District Board of Education will hold a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, May 10 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Parma High School Auditorium. This Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled to hear the questions and concerns of residents regarding the "Building Consolidation Recommendation" presented to the Board on April 14 by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeffrey Graham.

SPRING BREAK ENDS
Students return to classes on Monday, May 2 following spring break.

PRIMARY ELECTION
Primary Election day is Tuesday, May 3. The school district’s levy is Issue 7 on the ballot. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please remember to vote.

OPEN DOOR
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeffrey Graham will hold “Open Door” sessions on Wednesday, May 4 and 11 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the superintendent’s office at the administration offices at 5311 Longwood, Drive, Parma, Ohio. This is an opportunity for residents to meet personally with the superintendent to discuss educational concerns. Adequate handicapped parking is available.

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 30 is Memorial Day. Schools will be closed. The Normandy High School Band is scheduled to march in the annual Seven Hills Memorial Day Parade.

SENIOR PROMS
Parma High School’s Prom will be on Friday, May 27. Normandy and Valley Forge High Schools will hold their 2011 Senior Proms on Saturday, May 28.

GRADUATION
Normandy and Valley Forge High Schools will graduate from the Lakewood Civic Auditorium on Saturday, June 4. Parma High will celebrate graduation on Monday, June 6 in the PHS auditorium.

SUMMER RECESS
The 2010-2011 school year ends for students on Tuesday, June 7.

SUMMER SCHOOL
Elementary K-3 Summer School will begin on Monday, June 21 and end on Friday, July 29. Middle and High School Summer School will begin on Tuesday, June 21 and end on Friday, July 29.

For additional information please visit our website at www.parmcityschools.org.
On these two pages are the “Faces of Excellence.” They are representative of an outstanding staff of professionals. Every one of them has a strong connection and great respect for the students, parents, and staff of the Parma City Schools. They are the people who help to make our district excellent, because of their knowledge, expertise, and experience. They all have a passion for education and feel great pride in their students. In the coming months the Monitor will feature each of these staff members plus many more with the story of how they are working with students to build bright futures.

"It is rewarding to see that ‘Ah Ha’ moment when a child gets the concept. That is my biggest reward in this job. I like to think that students are not just learning how to read in my class but are also learning something about themselves."

Laura Corwon, Reading Teacher at Shiloh Middle School

"I am very proud of the community service efforts my students and staff make every year. We live in a caring and giving community and our students are learning to give back through a variety of programs."

Dr. Gayle Clapp, Principal at Dentzler Elementary

"My wish is that the community has faith in what we are doing. The children of this community are what is important. They are depending on us."

Casey Lehky, Career/Tech-Cosmetology Teacher at Normandy High School

"I am glad that we are able to offer benefits to the citizens in the cities we serve by helping people to get jobs, register to vote, and get involved in community service."

Susan Sheehan, Supervisor of Adult Education

"We have a lot of people doing a lot of wonderful things in the district. We always pull together to make things work for the kids."

Susan Rueger, Principal at Pleasant Valley Elementary

"Businesses in the Parma City Schools District care about kids. They demonstrate this over and over again through their support of school programs like the Greenbriar Cafe."

Stacey Gepperth, Greenbriar Cafe Director (after school program)

"Throughout my teaching career in the Parma City Schools I have been given opportunities to be creative, to design some of my own programs, and I have been supported by staff and parents. This is home for me."

Cindy Koenig, First Grade Teacher at John Muir Elementary School

"I want my students to have the best. They need the resources to get a good education so that they can compete with students from other schools."

Bill Van Jura, History Teacher at Valley Forge High School

"The teachers, students, and parents of Parma Senior High stay focused on high quality instruction. Where ever I go throughout the United States, I meet alumni that take pride in such quality!"

Cassandra Johnson, Principal of Parma Senior High

"I have had the luxury of teaching art at every level in this district over the past 35 years. When students return to visit, it is a pleasure knowing that I have had an impact on their lives."

Jerry Devis, Art Teacher at Green Valley Elementary

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