

Parent/Community Survey Information

Spring 2017

- **School Finance:**

- Currently our district operates with the required state minimum \$2.75 operating levy. (Missouri funding formula assumes each district is at \$3.43)
- Based on information from DESE's (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) website the Pierce City district is 1 of only 6 districts of similar size in Southwest Missouri (out of 27) with the minimum operating levy of \$2.75. The average levy of those 27 districts is \$3.27
- The state funding formula for education is currently underfunded by approximately \$45 million.
- The state mandated transportation formula is now only funded at a 17% rate due to more recent transportation cuts from the state and will be lower in 2017-18.
- The following is a partial listing of things that an increase in our operating levy could help pay for:
 - Replace older textbooks
 - Continue increasing and updating classroom technology for students and the infrastructure to support the additional technology
 - Help reduce class sizes and improve our teacher to student ratio
 - Reduce fundraising by student organizations
 - Improve current facility needs and updates (roofs,HVAC units, parking lot repaving/replacement, general upkeep, etc)
 - Update security measures for increased safety of our students
 - Help to recruit and retain high quality teachers and staff within the district
- In an effort to be as financially responsible as possible, the district has decreased operating expenses from \$6,297,234 in 2013/14 to \$6,030,553 in 2016/17 (Reduction of \$266,681 or 4.2%) according to DESE's Annual Secretary to the Board Report.
- Based on the annual DESE per pupil expenditure report we reduced our expenditure per pupil from \$8,961.57 in 2014 to \$8,037.31 in 2016 which currently places us as the 58th lowest in the state of Missouri as compared to the 246th lowest in 2014.
- The district had to take out a Lease Purchase to replace the roof in the high school and high school cafeteria in the summer of 2015. This was necessary financially due to the cost and the immediate need of the project. The old roof was outdated and had many leaks requiring several buckets to catch water in the hallways and classrooms.
- In an effort to be more frugal and protect classroom expenditures the district eliminated two bus routes for the 2016/17 school year.
- To help with future expenditures the district recently added LED lighting, solar panels and an energy control system. However, these projects are currently

budget neutral (the savings pay the payments) and will not generate significant districts savings for at least 7-8 years.

- **Building/Facility Improvements:**

- The district has refinanced current bond issues saving taxpayers several thousand dollars in interest on current bonded debt (debt service levy)
- The current debt service levy is \$0.79 (used to pay bonded debt for previous bond issues)
- The refinancing and current assessed valuation has put our district in a position for a potential no tax increase bond issue to meet current and future building/facility needs
- The current district Master Plan for facilities and grounds, which was created in 2007, is currently being amended to meet updated needs of the district. For example, the current master plan called for the addition of a new competition gym, however, the focus has now turned to an activities center that would represent more of a need than a want.

- **Academic Improvements:**

- The district's Annual Performance Report (APR) per DESE has been:
 - 93.6 % in 2014
 - 92.1 % in 2015
 - 96.8 % in 2016
- 11th grade ACT results *New testing measurement for the APR
 - 2015-18.4%
 - 2016-19.1%
- The district currently has a 1:1 ratio of Chromebook laptops for students in grades 6th-12th
- The district has close to a 1:2 ratio of iPads to students in grades K-5.
- According to schooldigger.com, the Pierce City district performed better than 84.5% of the districts in the state of Missouri in 2016

- **The Mission of our district:**

- The current Mission Statement of the district is: "The mission of the Pierce City R-VI School District is to provide an excellent academic, physical, social/moral, and vocational experience for every student in a safe orderly environment."
- During the CSIP update we will look at developing a new mission statement, one that is representative of what the community desires for our school and one that can easily be remembered and advertised (simple but accurate)