

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2023

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The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio held a Special Meeting on the 29th of November, 2023 in the Catherine D. Milligan Community Room at Fairfield High School.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Begley, Ms. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark & Mrs. Gundrum
Absent: Mrs. Shorter

Also present: Mr. Smith, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Hauer, Dr. Rice, Mrs. Aug, Mr. Perry & Mr. Clemmons

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Scott Clark

COMMUNICATION - None

This is the portion of the meeting where you, the residents of the Fairfield City School District, are invited to share your thoughts with the Board. In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of thirty (30) minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Please know that this time has been set aside for the Board to listen to you. Your comments are valued and will be taken into careful consideration. The Board will not engage in dialogue at this time. Presentations are limited to five (5) minutes each.

A. Items for Board Discussion

1. Discussion of District Finances and Possible Ballot Issue

Mr. Smith read a statement from the Auditor of State's Office regarding best practices for discussion of levies.

Mrs. Lane presented an overview of the financial status of the District including:

- Financial Summary
- Addressing the Deficit
- Operating Levy History
- How much of a levy is needed?
- Estimated cash balances based on passage of 6.9 mill levy
- Election dates for 2024

Mr. Smith shared the following;

According to the Ohio Auditor of State, the district is allowed to use district resources to inform the public of likely consequences the Board of Education expects to take following the passage or defeat of a tax levy. For example, the district may inform the public of the Board of Education's anticipated use of levy funds to support a particular program, or if the defeat of a tax levy will result in the inability to fund a particular program. In our case, if the levy passes, the district intends to use those funds to maintain, as much as possible, the current services being offered. If the levy fails, the Board of Education will be forced to cut some of the current programs or services being offered. If the Board decides to move forward with a ballot issue in March, the leadership team will come back

to the Board of Education on December 14 with a list of potential cuts or reductions that would occur if the levy fails in March. The Ohio Auditor of State recommends that the Board of Education adopt a statement at a board meeting well in advance of the levy vote, detailing the likely cost-saving steps the district would take if the levy failed. Our team would plan on bringing that statement to you for your consideration at the December 14 meeting.

The Board had discussion regarding the possible levy including the difference between mills and millions and a definition of the 20 mill floor.

23-101 APPROVAL TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY OF LEVYING A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSED 6.9 MILL TAX LEVY

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Begley to approve the following

B. Items for Board Action

1. Amend the agenda to include a resolution of necessity of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and requesting the county auditor to certify matters in connection with a proposed 6.9 mill tax levy as Item B #2 under items for Board Action.

SECOND: Seconded by Mr. Clark

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark & Mrs. Gundrum

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

23-102 APPROVAL FOR A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Begley to approve the following

2. **RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.**

WHEREAS, this Board of Education anticipates levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation as described herein;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, this Board of Education is required to certify to the County Auditor a resolution requesting the County Auditor to certify certain matters in connection with such an additional tax levy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District (the “School District”), County of Butler, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 5705.21 of the Ohio Revised Code, it is necessary that an additional tax be levied in excess of the ten mill limitation for the benefit of this School District, for a continuing period of time, for the purpose of current operating expenses, at a rate not exceeding six and nine-tenths (6.9) mills for each one dollar (\$1) of taxable value.

SECTION 2. That the question of the passage of said additional tax levy shall be submitted to the electors of the School District at an election to be held on March 19, 2024. If approved by the electors, said tax levy shall first be placed upon the 2024 tax list and duplicate, for first collection in calendar year 2025 for a continuing period of time. The additional tax shall be levied upon the entire territory of the School District and the ballot measure shall be submitted to the entire territory of the School District. The School District is located in Butler County, Ohio.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, the applicable County Auditor is hereby requested to certify to this Board of Education the total current tax valuation (or taxable value) of the School District and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the number of mills specified in Section 1 hereof, and the treasurer of this Board of Education be and is hereby directed to certify forthwith a copy of this resolution to the County Auditor at the earliest possible time so that said County Auditor may certify such matters in accordance with such Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of Education concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board of Education, and that all deliberations of this Board of Education, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and the rules of this Board of Education adopted in accordance therewith.

SECOND: Seconded by Mrs. Berding-Miller

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark & Mrs. Gundrum

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

23-103

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Clark to adjourn the meeting

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Gundrum

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Ms. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark & Mrs. Gundrum

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm by the President, Mr. Begley.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer