



## SUMMARY OF HOWLAND LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Special Meeting – July 18, 2011  
Regular Meeting – July 25, 2011

### ***Board Briefings/ Discussion Items:***

- State Budget Funding Decrease
- Tax Levy Discussion
- Back to School Information and Office Openings – August Calendar

### ***Approved the following miscellaneous Treasurer resolution items:***

- Approved the minutes of the June 1, June 13 and June 15 special and June 27, 2011 regular meetings and financial reports for June.
- Approved change funds for various school departments for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Accepted the following donations:
  - \$5,000.00 from an anonymous donor to Jim Restuccio Scholarship Fund
  - 500 "Scholarship dollars" from Scholastic Book Fair to North Road Library

### ***Approved the following personnel resolution items:***

- Employed the following persons as permanent substitute teachers for the 2011-2012 school year, at a rate of \$90 per day, beginning September 19, 2011, pending satisfactory completion of all requirements:

<b><i>Christine Froats</i></b>	<b><i>William Massucci</i></b>	<b><i>Melinda Mock</i></b>
<b><i>Susan Spore</i></b>	<b><i>Dennis Kiliany</i></b>	<b><i>Ludmila Minot</i></b>
<b><i>Michael O'Hara</i></b>		
- Issued a One-year Limited contract to ***Eric Jones*** for the supplemental position of Assistant Varsity Football Coach – 9th, pending satisfactory completion of all requirements, effective for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Approved a change in assignment for ***Robert Clark Sr.*** from Head Night Custodian to Dayturn Custodian at the High School, effective July 18, 2011.
- Approved persons as substitutes in various classified positions for the 2011-2012 school year.

### ***Approved the following miscellaneous items for Board action:***

- Approved the High School, Middle School and Elementary building handbooks as presented for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Approved offering "Parental Contracts" to parents/guardians of students who reside in Howland and attend non-public schools in situations where it is impractical and uneconomical to transport these students within our regular transportation program.
- Revised the 2011-2012 school year calendar to include Friday, September 30, 2011 and Friday, March 02, 2012 as one hour early release days for students for the purpose of professional development for staff.
- Adopted a calamity day alternative makeup plan that allows students to access and complete classroom lesson(s) in order to complete up to three days of instruction in excess of the number of days permitted under O.R.C. 3313.48. Furthermore, authorized the Superintendent of schools to develop the plan and submit to the Ohio Department of Education by September 01.
- Approved a resolution determining the necessity to submit to voters the question of levying an additional tax (operating – 5 years) pursuant to Sections 5705.194 to 5705.197 of the Revised Code.
- Proposed the revision, replacement and addition of various Board of Education policies/bylaws.

## **Howland Schools seek tax levy to maintain Excellent Schools and to avoid projected deficit**

**From:** John Sheets, Superintendent and Board of Education

**Date:** July 25, 2011

Howland Schools is expecting a total loss of 2.5 million dollars in state aid over the next two years and beyond. Howland Schools, like other school systems, cannot sustain programs and services with these types of huge losses of revenue. Many school districts like Howland were disproportionately impacted with far less future state funding in this state budget cycle.

At its July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Howland Board of Education voted to submit to the voters of the school district a levy of an additional tax for five years in the amount of \$2,781,764 a year to provide for the emergency operation requirements of the school district. The adopted resolution will be sent to the county auditor to certify the millage which will be needed to collect that dollar amount.

"The Board realizes that there is never a good time to ask for additional tax dollars," said Barbara Wright, school board president. "Our school district will have to have more revenue. Without more revenue, the district will continue on the fast track to a huge operating deficit. Our district simply can't cut its way to solvency and be the same Excellent district, eventually there will need to be new revenue."

Howland Schools have not asked voters for additional operating tax dollars since 2003.

"The Board made the last levy request extend well over the promised five years," Wright said. "But with the huge losses of state and federal aid and increased costs of day-to-day operations, the Board has decided to let the voters decide whether we should operate the same level of programs and services that make our district Excellent or continue to scale back programs and services. Clearly, our projected operating deficit indicates immediate changes will have to be made regarding how we operate without additional dollars."

If a tax levy is approved in November 2011, collection of the new revenue will begin in January 2012. It is critical for the district to start collecting new revenue no later than 2012 to avert a huge future deficit. Without an additional tax levy, it is expected that more than 1.8 million more in program and staff reductions by 2014 will be necessary.

Scaling back on programs and services is already part of the plan. Money saving measures expected to save the district \$1,160,000 have been enacted during the past year. The district has reduced 13 teaching positions, 15 support staff positions and one special educational supervisor have been reduced. All staff have taken base salary wage freezes for two years and are contributing more towards their healthcare.